

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL

held on Thursday 21st November 2019 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillor	Andrew Steele (Chair)		
Councillors	Darryn Mitchell	Kirsty Smahon	Simon Peers
	Kathryn Smith	Mark Walker	

In attendance: Six residents, Ward Cllr. Anne Hook and the locum Clerk.

1 APOLOGIES: Cllr. Hopwood.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST – Cllr. Walker regarding planning application 19/02121/FUL.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Concern was expressed regarding the village bonfire night event. This had been heavily oversubscribed, similar events held locally had been cancelled and organisers of several of those events had suggested to disappointed attendees that they attend the Askham Bryan event instead. It was reported that over a thousand people had been turned away and that coaches were coming bringing people from Halifax. This had had a negative effect on those living nearby with large volumes of traffic and inconsiderate parking on verges and elsewhere to the extent that any emergency vehicles would not have been able to get through and traffic problems on the road to Askham Richard and at road junctions. There had been a confrontation between two drivers with neither willing to give way. There were concerns about the use of fireworks close to the roadside and a suggestion that more marshals were needed and comments about the use of Hughes' Field. It was noted that the college had also held an event and that a joined-up approach would have solved some of the issues. The college has space for parking which could have been made use of. The same event last year attracted about four-hundred people (this being the first time the event had been run). Those involved in this event advised that lessons had been learned and the vicar of Saint Nicholas' Church had written to all affected residents to apologise. Insurance obligations had been met, a clicker had been used to measure attendance with no one else being allowed entry after ten to seven once the maximum number had been reached and risk assessments had been carried out.

Another resident thanked the Parish Council (PC) for supporting residents' concerns regarding the planning application for the Old School House and encouraged the PC to respond in similar manner to the revised application.

Another resident raised concerns about the temporary traffic restriction on footpath 2/9/10. This restriction applies for a year from 15th November 2019. She passed round a communication from the Open Spaces Society.

4. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 3rd OCTOBER 2019

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of the PC held on 3rd October 2019 having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign.

5. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications Received

The following applications had been received since the previous meeting. The PC had **no objections** to the first four listed.

- i. 19/02260/TCA - Park Farm, 95 Main Street - Fell Cobnut, crown reduce and thin Cherry in a Conservation Area
- ii. 19/02358/TCA - 109 Main Street - Fell Damson tree in a Conservation Area
- iii. 19/02121/FUL - OS Field 5840 To West Of Westwood Lane - Erection of agricultural storage building

- iv. 19/02327/FUL - Sequoia House 4 Main Street - Single storey side extension after demolition of existing garage
- v. 19/01769/FUL - Old School House, 3 Main Street - Erection of 1no. single storey dwelling house with associated works - revised application submitted.

There were concerns about the revised application for the Old School House. The revised plans still left the extension to the property in front of the building line and there was still loss of greenbelt. There were concerns that the hedge would be removed and it was noted that the revised plans would lead to the loss of two more trees compared to the original proposals. There were still concerns about access rights in the title deeds. It was **resolved** to continue to express **considerable objections** to the proposal.

A report of all applications received by City of York Council the previous week had highlighted an application for removal of 845 metres of hedgerows from Askham Fields Junction to Buckles Inn. Ward Cllr. Hook was aware of this.

b. Planning Decision Notices Received

The following decision was noted;

57 Askham Fields Lane – approved

It was **resolved** to give the Clerk delegated authority to respond to non-contentious planning and tree works applications following advice from Parish Councillors where the deadline for comments was before the next PC meeting, proposed Cllr. Steele, seconded Cllr. Mitchell, all in favour. Meeting monthly would reduce the likelihood of this situation occurring. It was agreed that a non-contentious application be defined as one where no Councillor had any objections.

6 TO RECEIVE THE NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE CRIME REPORT

The report was received showing that there were no reported crimes in the Parish in October.

7 REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR HOOK

Ward Cllr. Hook reported on her conversations with Tim Goodall. If City of York Council are minded to approve the planning application for the Old School House, then she will call it in, in which case all objectors will receive an invitation. Ward Cllr. Hook said how much she enjoyed the event the previous Sunday. She also spoke about speed limit changes from both Councils next year where her support will be sought.

8 RECREATIONAL AREA

8.1 It was **resolved** to rebrand the Play Area and call it a Recreational Area, proposed Cllr. Smahon, seconded Cllr. Peers, all in favour. This would allow applications for grant funding to be made to organisations other than those just catering for children's play.

8.2 A quote for maintenance of the Recreational Area had been circulated to all. It was agreed in principle to change the maintenance structure from one of volunteers to one of a contractor and that further quotes be sought for formal consideration at a future meeting.

8.3 It was agreed in principle to consider to sell the ride-on mower with the church being given first refusal once an idea of its value had been established.

8.4 It was agreed in principle to change the mound to a wildflower garden to reduce maintenance costs and that an estimate of costs be sought for formal consideration at a future meeting.

8.5 It was **resolved** that a regular quiz night can raise funds solely for use on the Recreational Area, proposed Cllr. Smahon, seconded Cllr. Mitchell, all in favour.

8.6 It was **resolved** that a Recreational Area working party of interested parties lead by Cllr. Smahon and supported by Cllr. Mitchell be established for the purposes of fund-raising and management with a budget of £500 for maintenance (plus any funds raised by the working party), proposed Cllr. Steele, seconded Cllr. Peers, all in favour. The working party would report regularly to the Parish Council. Appropriate terms of reference would be drafted. They would seek approval of the Parish Council for any capital expenditure over £100.

8.7 An offer by City of York Council of a survey as part of their investment into play areas was noted. The Clerk had replied accepting their offer and further news was awaited.

9 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Having obtained three quotes, it was **resolved** to accept a quote for £450 for paving and chair, proposed Cllr. Mitchell, seconded Cllr. Smahon, all in favour.

Cllr. Mitchell reported on progress regarding the sale of land and on his latest conversations with the solicitors. There was a proposed clause which would not allow the sale of tickets on the land and agreement on this clause was needed for both parties to agree terms of sale. Cllrs. Mitchell and Mahon had met with a representative of the college to discuss this.

10 FINANCE

- 10.1 The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) reported that the bank balance as of 23rd October 2019 as £24,005.11.
- 10.2 A payment of £178.20 for Hardwood Play Chips was approved and retrospective approval was given for a payment of £162.60 for legal fees relating to the acquisition of the playing field. An invoice was awaited for Play Inspection. It was noted that Cllr. Steele was booked on two webinar training courses at £15 each and that the RFO had carried out land registry searches (£6). A budget monitor had been circulated to all.

11 CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting (items 1-10) had been circulated and the contents noted.

12 BUDGET FOR 2020/21 AND CLERK'S REMUNERATION

12.1 Budget 2020/21

Estimated expenditure for the next financial year was;
Room Hire £175, Website £60, Insurance £375, Audit Fees £75, Subscription to Yorkshire Local Councils Associations £225, Stationery £100, Postage £65, Play Area Maintenance £500, Play Area capital expenditure £22,000, Training £500, Natural Environment Group including Pond Maintenance £500, Information Commissioner £35, Recreational Area £3,300 (including £100 annual inspection fee, £500 Recreational Area working party budget and £2,800 grass cutting without collection of clippings at £200 per visit).

There were no sources of income other than the precept and associated Council Tax Support grant (£70) and fund-raising.

The need to get the signatures on the mandate was noted with a suggestion that Cllr. Peers be one of the signatories.

- 12.2 It was **resolved** to exclude members of the press and public to allow discussion of item 12.3, proposed Cllr. Steele, seconded Cllr. Mitchell, all in favour
- 12.3 It was **resolved** to increase the Clerk's contracted hours to five hours a week (subject to review) on the appropriate Spinal Column Point of the pay scales, proposed Cllr. Steele, seconded Cllr. Walker, all in favour.

The RFO would circulate a budget for the January meeting based on the above figures. The budget would allow for an overlapping period in the event that following recruitment, an inexperienced Clerk was appointed and needed a period of handover and training.

13 DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2020

The dates of PC meetings for 2020 were noted as follows; 16 January, 20 February, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May, 18 June, 16 July, 20 August, 17 September, 15 October and 19 November. Cllr. Smith gave her apologies for the January meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

Signed

Chairman, 16 January 2020