

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2011
IN BORROWBY VILLAGE HALL AT 8.00 PM

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Cllr Gareth Dadd and District Cllr Nigel Clack. Present: Cllr Rachel Craig (Chairman), Cllr David Frith (Vice Chairman), Cllr Duncan Craig, Cllr Fred Wachsberger, the Clerk, and five members of the public.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st October, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed after a small amendment in 9.2 Open Forum to read ‘..as an example of how difficult it is to get volunteers.’

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 Cllr F Wachsberger said that County Cllr Gareth Dadd had contacted him about the possibility of the Borrowby/Knayton footpath work being carried out by a ‘super school’ group (community project for a group with behavioural problems). The group has since been disbanded but it was hoped to start up another team after Christmas. Cllr Wachsberger asked if the Parish Council wanted to wait for the group to undertake the work. The Chairman had dug away about 40ft of the grass growth over the edges of the path before the suggestion had come to light but there is still a lot to do. Cllr Frith said a lot of the footpath is in Knayton’s boundary and said if the community project did not go ahead, Knayton have a caretaker who has not got too much on at the moment and may be able to do the work. Cllr Frith suggested trying the school group first. Cllr Wachsberger said he didn’t mind the voluntary digging but the evenings are short at the moment. The Chairman said there are the three alternatives and the Parish Council would see what the situation was after Christmas.
- 3.2 Referring to an earlier planning application Cllr Wachsberger said he thought the silver birch at ‘West End Farm’ should be pruned rather than felled. However, a resident said that the tree creaks in the wind and is better down.
- 3.3 Chestnut tree – A full report has been done by A whitehead & Associates and this is being circulated round the Parish Councillors. The tree surgeon suggests the only way to save it is a very severe pollarding as it has a number of diseases. The Chairman has spoken to resident Mr Crooks who is very keen on saving the tree. The Chairman proposed to have the severe pollarding done and the Parish Council pay for it. The other Parish Councillors agreed.
- 3.4 The Chairman said that the ‘Energy Day’ took place in Knayton Village Hall and quite a few people attended. She said Rural Action Yorkshire was promoting the oil syndicate. She said Nicola Chapman was a good contact for advice and support.

4. The Christmas Tree

It was suggested that the Parish Council get the Christmas tree from the usual supplier, Mr Les Clarke. The tree is normally collected the first weekend in December. Cllr D Frith said that £30 was paid last year and it was agreed to offer £35 this year. He said that volunteers would be needed to cut, transport and put up the tree. He suggested meeting at Mr Clarke’s at 9.00 am to fell the tree. Resident, Mary Peacock, said that she can organise the tractor and trailer. Cllr D Craig has the tree lights and he will use his chainsaw to cut down the tree. Resident Mary Peckitt had supplied the stakes last year and they are available again this year.

5. Correspondence

- 5.1 ‘Country Air’ magazine.
- 5.2 A Whitehead Associates Ltd. Tree report on horse chestnut tree.
- 5.3 South Cleveland Heart Fund. The charity supports the cardiothoracic unit in James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough. They are asking for a donation towards a workstation for the cardiac MRI. Cllr Frith did not feel it was right to give precept money for charitable giving in other areas. The Chairman said that the hospital was in the surrounding area but Cllr Frith felt it was not a local enough issue for charitable giving by the Parish Council.
- 5.4 ‘Furniture Work’ catalogue. To forward this to the scouts.

- 5.5 'The Clerk' magazine from the Society of Local Council Clerks.
 5.6 NYCC. Notification of the road closure of Gate Lane on 22nd till the 26th November 2011.
 5.7 Email from Amanda Madden, HDC Rural Housing /enabler, about a conference near Todmorden.

6. Planning Applications

6.1 Planning application (11/02349/CAT) for Mr and Mrs Laws for proposed works to three trees:
 1) Lawson cypress, adjacent to garage in side garden. To fell due to proximity to house and overbearing impact. No replacement proposed.
 2) Apple tree at front of garden. To remove. No replacement proposed.
 3) Plum tree at front of garden. To reduce the crown by 15%.
 The Parish Council has replied with no objections.

6.2 Planning application for the proposed installation to two windows to the front elevation of the existing dwelling at South Villa for Mr C Davidson (11/02381). The Parish Council has replied with no objections.

6.3 Planning application for the proposed alterations and extensions to existing dwelling at 'Copperfield', for Mr M Robinson (11/02380/FUL). The Parish Council have no objections. To reply.

7. Finance

AON have confirmed that the Borrowby Parish Council insurance has been renewed. The second half-yearly precept of £1496.50 has been received.

Cheques written out:

Mr Fred Wachsberger	Sheffield Conference expenses (Replacement cheque)	£29.00
Mr Frith	Duplication	£0.50
CE & CM Walker Ltd	Grass cutting on 24.10.11	£21.00
	VAT	£4.20
	TOTAL	£25.20
A Whitehead & Associates (tree surgeon – for tree report)		£96.00

Setting the Precept

The Clerk said the auditor had reported that the Parish Council financial reserves were too high. The Clerk had checked with Mr Ian Godfrey, HDC finance department, who confirmed that Parish Councils can raise or lower precepts and that there is not a future percentage limitation on any increase since Parish Councils are dealing with smaller figures and any change is likely to be a bigger percentage compared to larger Council budgets. The Parish Council thought that this would enable a reduction in precept this year yet not tie them to a lower level in future. No planned high extraordinary expenditure is planned for next year and the reserves are healthy. The Clerk suggested asking for a precept of £2000.00, which is likely to reduce the reserves a bit after the year's expenditure and meet the recommendations by the internal auditor. The precept figure has been £2993.00 for several years. Cllr Frith proposed a precept of £2000.00 and this was seconded by the Chairman.

8. Any Other Business

- Cllr Frith said that, following on from the Participatory Budgeting project, all the recipients have been contacted regarding receipts for their projects and he is following up three of the recipients; Linda Gibbon, of Knayton Parish Council, is following up the other three. He has the receipts from the following people so far: Carl Banks £510.00 for bulbs (receipts of £200.00 and £310.00); table tennis table £279.98 (bats and balls have also been purchased).
- Cllr Frith suggested opening an account with Fox's of Thirsk for photocopying, etc. and paid for by the Parish Council periodically. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

- Cllr Frith said that there is a new tenant for the charity field. The committee for the charity field have asked for a donation by Borrowby Parish Council of £160.00 towards the costs of replacement fencing as the fence is currently in a poor state. The Parish Council agreed as they felt it was justified as a charitable donation as it is for local benefit. The tenants have traditionally used income to give gifts to people of the village. A resident said that the fence for the charity field should be put in good order and kept in good order. Mr Hogg said that Sam Turners can send the bill directly to Borrowby Parish Council.
- Pot holes, Bob Lane – It was thought that Yorkshire Water were going to do some work on these. Yorkshire Water had said they would just repair the surface to the condition it was in before the works. It was said that gravel used to be left to fill in any pot holes and there hasn't been any for a while. Clerk to contact Yorkshire Water about the matter.
- Hedge – the first bit has been cut but the second n bit had not and was hanging over the road. To ask Mr Kenny Wiseman, Mowbray House, asking if this bit can be cut too.
- Resident Mr Hogg said the hedge near 'Pinfold' had had the long ends taken off but needs cutting back further as it has grown too far out near the road. Cllr Wachsberger said he would speak to Mr Goodwin of 'Pinfold'.
- The Chairman said that there is a village hall meeting on Thursday 30th November at 8.00 pm and, amongst other items, will discuss carols around the Christmas tree. She asked if anyone else would like to attend representing the Parish Council instead of her.

9. Open Forum

- Affordable Housing – A resident asked how this is progressing. The Chairman said there were some land offers put forward and are awaiting further assessments.
- Grass cutting – The Chairman said she was not keen on taking on the responsibility for grass cutting of the verges from NYCC. Following the last meeting, the Clerk is asking for a quotation from CE & CM Walker for cutting the Green as usual and also an additional quotation for the verges, enclosing maps. Cllr Frith said that, until the Parish Council AGM at least when the current Chairman wishes to step down, the Parish Council should not undertake the verges responsibility as the Chairman does not want to do this. If the verge work is to be taken on, two other quotations are needed.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting wished everyone a Merry Christmas. The meeting was closed at 9.20 pm.

The next meeting has been booked for Thursday 19th January 2012.