

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Cllr Gareth Dadd. Present: The Chairman, (Cllr R Craig), the Vice Chairman (Cllr D Frith), Cllr D Craig, Cllr F Wachsberger, Cllr S Foster, the Clerk, District Cllr N Clack, Mr Bill Cross (RAY) and sixteen members of the public.

District Cllr N Clack was invited to speak at the meeting first as he had another engagement to attend. He talked about the cuts and said that cuts of over three million have to be made by the District Council. He said that 2.5 million has already been saved, partly by working in conjunction with Richmond District Council. He said that Council tax was unlikely to go up at the moment but the actual voting is taking place next week to decide the outcome. The District Council is trying to make savings from the 'back end' and trying to avoid making them from front line services. He said that the County Council was going to be cutting some services. The Chairman invited questions from the floor. One resident said that if 2.5 million could be saved why was it not done before? Cllr Clack said it was mainly the merging of services with Richmondshire which had enabled the savings. He also said that the public should report any 'wastage' they spot. A resident asked if Departments can carry over unspent money. Cllr Clack said that they have changed how they manage the accounts and unspent money can be given back. The Chairman thanked District Cllr Clack for speaking at the meeting.

2. Talk by Bill Cross from Rural Action Yorkshire about Participatory Budgeting

The Chairman introduced Bill Cross, the Chairman of Rural Action Yorkshire, who talked about Participatory Budgeting. He said that it was an exercise in Parish democracy. He said 'participatory budgeting' had its origins in Brazil to try and rebuild their faith in politics and was intended to involve people in local politics. It has been done at District, County and metropolitan level and they want to try it at Parish level and engage the public. He said that 'participatory budgeting' has taken off in some places. He said that at Eastfield near Scarborough there was a lot of anti-social activity and a low level of public engagement. They had a good public meeting and ideas for improvement were put forward and they received money from the local council and the police authority. He said that Stuart Putney wondered how it might be done involving the Parish Council and put the proposal together with the Yorkshire Local Council Association for some funding to run this exercise. 'Participatory budgeting' is being promoted as a technique for Parish Councils to use. The Parish Councils volunteering for it can receive up to two thousand pounds. He said that 'participatory budgeting' was being promoted in Borrowby and Knayton and that Richard Critchlow was doing the filming of the project. He said that Borrowby and Knayton could act individually to receive up to two thousand pounds each or jointly to receive up to four thousand pounds. He said that the scheme had not been done by two parishes acting jointly before. The scheme would involve people bringing their ideas to a public meeting which had been approved by a task group - voting would take place for the

proposed projects and the money allotted to the ones receiving the highest votes. A resident asked where the money was coming from and Mr Cross said it was taxpayers' money and encouraged Parish Councils and the public to have 'more say.' Cllr Frith asked why he wanted to see a joint proposal. Bill Cross said that a lot of Parishes are very small and may think the scheme would be too much to take on; one way of solving this is for Parish Councils to act jointly. He said that he noticed that Borrowby and Knayton have some joint interests already. Cllr Frith said that 'participatory budgeting' was being described as an 'exercise' and could the scheme be expanding. Mr Cross said that the funding was for the pilot work and that following this Parish Councils may increase their precept to keep communities engaged. The scheme was to find out what communities want. Cllr Frith said that people shouldn't be asking for money for 'non-essential' things and could he advise on this. Mr Cross said that a task group is to be set up to ensure the projects are legal and sensible/practical; he said that the task group need to be satisfied that these criteria are met for projects before they are progressed to a public meeting. He said that in most cases there are seven to eight projects presented at a public meeting and people vote and the score sheets are totalled. A resident asked if it was the Parish Council who decided how to spend the money and not Mr Cross. Mr Cross said that he is only concerned that the projects which go to a meeting are legal and practical and that the scheme is well promoted. A resident asked when this money runs out. Bill Cross said that the money was available until the end of May, but he would like to see the outcome of a meeting by the end of April. A resident asked if the money was paid out after completion of the said task. He said the money was received after the voting was completed and the successful projects identified. The Parish Council receive and distribute the allotted finances. A resident asked if the projects put forward had to be new ones. Bill Cross said no, they didn't have to be new. Cllr Frith said that the school was ideally placed in Knayton/Borrowby and who would be eligible to vote at the meeting? Bill Cross said that only residents of Borrowby and Knayton on the local electoral register can vote at the meeting and children over 8 residing in the two villages. Someone said that at school children put forward their own ideas for projects and in the past have voted fairly on things. A resident said that there should be equity between the two villages if it was a joint project. Bill Cross said the task group could introduce more rules to ensure more of a balance across projects in the two villages. A resident asked how you would know that all the people voting at the meeting were on the local electoral roll and how could you stop outsiders voting. Bill Cross said that you do rely a lot on trust at this stage. Cllr Frith suggested having an independent Chairman at the final meeting and asked Bill Cross if he could do this and he agreed. Cllr Frith asked if there is greater chance of receiving the grant money acting jointly. Bill Cross said no, but Borrowby and Knayton would be the first villages to have a joint approach if they chose this option. Linda Gibbon, the Chairman of Knayton Parish Council, asked if all the projects have to be finalised in 6 weeks' time. Bill Cross advised deciding tonight on a single or a joint approach and to set up the task group so that the community has more time to respond and the scheme. When asked why the newsletter had not been sent directly to 'organisations' Cllr Frith said that the letter about 'participatory budgeting' was sent out to all residents in the village and it was

hoped that by doing this the information would also reach the local 'organisations'. The Chairman asked the floor if they would prefer a joint group with Knayton for the 'participatory budgeting' scheme or an individual group for Borrowby alone. One resident said there needed to be some actual ideas put forward for projects. Cllr Frith said there were some ideas following the distribution of the Parish Council newsletter and these were in the January minutes. A final vote by everyone was 12 for a joint scheme and 1 for a single village approach. The Chairman of Knayton Parish Council said that at their meeting a joint approach was wanted. A joint scheme will be undertaken. A task force needs to be set up as the next stage. Linda Gibbon suggested setting up a task group of about 4 people from each village, each involving two residents and two Parish Councillors. Cllr Frith and Cllr Wachsberger from Borrowby and Cllr Gibbon and Cllr Wood from Knayton will be on the task force and Sue Seddon and Richard Critchlow also volunteered to be on the task force.

3. Minutes

The minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th January 2011, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- 4.1 Affordable Housing – The Rural Housing Enabler is sending a draft report which the Parish Councillors will study and will hopefully be discussed at the next meeting.
- 4.2 View obstruction at the Allerton Wath junction – Mr Dickie Bell has cut the hedge near the telegraph pole and Keith has cut the hedge at his side more vertically. This is the first stage and Cllr Frith said that there is a noticeable improvement in visibility at the junction but he would like to see more cut off the hedges after the summer.

5. Correspondence

- 5.1 Borrowby Methodist Chapel – The chapel has undergone registration with the land registry and there has arisen the query as to who owns the land or part of the green in front of the chapel. The deeds do not show who is responsible for the area mentioned. Someone thought past communication had included the Parish Council, hence their reason for writing. A resident said that when the Parish Council was looking at Green registries he believed the Greens to be registered to John Consett. Previous correspondence and files are to be checked.
- 5.2 HDC. Notice and poster of forthcoming Area Forum Meetings. There is a meeting in Thirsk on Tuesday 22nd March at 6.30 pm and one in Northallerton on Wednesday 23rd March at 7.00 pm at the Civic Centre, Northallerton.
- 5.3 Jim Smit, Chief Executive. Letter about 'The Big Lunch' on Sunday 5th June 2011. The 'Big Lunch' was an idea from the Eden project and is an opportunity for neighbours/communities to get together. Anyone wishing to organise an event can get advice from the website which is: www.thebiglunch.com.

- 5.4 NYCC Highways. Notice of works to the road from Borrowby junctions to the Thornton-Le-Beans junction involving the road closure on Monday 7th February for up to five days. Map showing the road closure and diversion route.
- 5.5 Rural Action Yorkshire. 'Country Air' magazine.
- 5.6 HDC Louise Davis, Committee and Member Support Officer. Voting sheet for the Parish Council to select three nominees from the list to be Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee by Friday 15 April.
- 5.7 Robin Carr Associates, Public Rights of Way Management and Consultancy Services. NYCC has instructed the company to assess applications for Definitive Map Modification Orders and produce advisory reports to enable them to decide on the applications. One of the routes is in Borrowby, starting from the pub and extending down to 'Field Cottage'. The Parish Council have a Consultation Acknowledgement form to complete and return by 18th March and it is hoped that a final decision will be made by the end of March. Parish Council to study, discuss and complete form.
- 5.8 HDC Electoral Division. Clerk's training sessions to prepare for the May elections. The sessions are on two dates: Monday 7th March and Wednesday 9th March at 6.30 to 7.30 pm at the Civic Centre, Northallerton. There is a form to fill in and the Chairman agreed to be the point of contact in the village for the nomination papers. The Clerk proposes to attend the briefing on Monday 7th March.
- 5.9 NYCC Parish Charter. – This was approved on 11th January 2011 and a copy was enclosed. The charter takes into account the responses received during the consultation exercise and can be downloaded at the NYCC website.
- 5.10 NYCC Putting People First. Future delivery of social care in the future. Contacts for social care.
- 5.11 North Yorkshire Reward Grant Fund. Information for funding for new projects.

6. Planning

- 6.1 Planning application for the proposed installation of a new ground floor window to existing dwelling at 5 The Byre, Borrowby, for Mrs J H Bowron (11/00211/FUL).

The Parish Council have no objections as the window is in keeping with the dwelling. Comments to be returned.

7. Finance

A receipt has been received from HRAP for the £100.00 donation from Borrowby Parish Council.

Cheques written out: Hedge cutting by Mr Bell	£30.00
Grovers (newsletter copying)	£8.50

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 Damage to grass – It was reported that the grass on both corners of the road up to the village hall have been damaged. A resident said he saw it happen and said it was a diesel tanker. Cllr F Wachsberger also spoke about the section of grass outside Peacock's field which is getting increasingly eroded by damage from large vehicles entering and exiting the field and he has taken some photographs of the damage. Cllr Frith said that the photos could be sent to County Cllr Dadd. A resident said that there is some damage to the green outside the Methodist chapel caused by vehicles parking on there and also by vehicles cutting the corner. The possibility of kerbing was raised but the Chairman said we still need to clarify the ownership of the green.

9. Open Forum

- 9.1 A resident said that the chestnut tree could do with pruning. Cllr Frith said that in 2005 Mr Les Crookes paid for the pruning. He said the minutes need to be checked and, if this was the case, to see if he would be willing to pay for the pruning.
- 9.2 A resident reported that the hedge at 'Pinfold' has grown right out to the road and needs about a metre trimming off. He said that you need to drive in the middle of the road at this point to avoid catching the wing mirror on the hedge. Cllr F Wachsberger said he would speak to the residents of 'Pinfold' about the problem.
- 9.3 A resident said that the parking in the road near the pub was really bad last Friday and made it difficult to get round the junction. It was stated that the publican had put a notice in the pub window to deter parking around the junction a while ago but the notice was only in place for two weeks. A resident suggested sending polite letters to the residents of 'Ivy House' who regularly park their cars close to the junction and to the publican. The Chairman said that the Parish Council would think about this further and decide if polite letters or speaking to the people would be the best course of action. Cllr D Craig said that the high parking congestion level at the junction was presumably a temporary situation in any case.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman said that the next Parish Council Meeting would take place on Thursday 17th March at 8.00 pm and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was closed at 9.50 pm.