

Minutes of Meeting held 31st July 2019

Present: Coun O Poulter (Chairman), Coun M Baker, Coun J Sanderson, R Dale (Clerk), Cllr B Phillips (HDC) plus 5 members of the public

1. Apologies

Couns. Weston & Farndale (family emergencies) and Cllr. Wilkinson (diary conflict)

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Police Report

A report had been by email from PCSO Bilby, noting that in the preceding two months there had been one "Autocrime" (re an incident in St Helen's Close) and one burglary from a shed in Jervaulx Road.

4. Minutes of meeting held 5th June 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2019, having previously been circulated to Council Members, were agreed as a true record proposed by Coun. Sanderson and seconded by Coun. Baker. No dissensions. The minutes were signed off by Chair Poulter.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings 1)

Village Green Open Space

Despite several attempts to contact Hambleton Planning Enforcement team, no progress had been made with regard to tidying up the Paddock Area, which was now full of thistles which would soon be spreading their seeds throughout the area, thereby ensuring a continuation of the problem in future years. Patrick Costar notified the Clerk on 17th July that he had contacted Linden Homes and requested that they engage a landscape contractor as a matter of urgency.

2) Dog Waste Dispensers

Coun. Sanderson reported that he had not yet had time to locate a suitable alternative location for the dispenser. The Clerk reported that one roll of bags, costing around £2, was typically lasting for about 3 weeks in the dispenser in Back Lane.

3) Snicket Safety Barrier – Meadowfields/St Helen's

No further action required. The dimensions of the barrier fully comply with regulations and there had been no further complaints.

4) St Helen's Close "Hammerhead"

The Clerk reported that no progress had been made so far with regard to identifying the ownership, and hence responsibility for maintaining, the strip of land either side of the Snicket Safety Barrier at the end of St Helen's Close. This matter had also been referred to HDC Planning/Enforcement team for investigation.

The Clerk reported on two communications received regarding the issue of vehicles being parked in the hammerhead and therefore preventing emergency vehicles and Council waste collection wagons from being unable to turn and having to reverse the length of the cul-de-sac to get out. NYCC Highways have reported, via Cllr. Wilkinson, that they have no powers of enforcement with regard to vehicles causing an obstruction. PCSO Laws had sent an email suggesting the possibility of requesting a "turning only" sign from Highways, although she indicated that this would be advisory only but might nevertheless deter motorists from parking there. Police action could only be taken if there were double yellow lines (which Highways have declined to put in place) or a vehicle is parked across a dropped kerb.

5) Play Park

Coun. Baker reported that the willow tunnel was infested by what appeared to be ground wasps, and parents were concerned that children might be stung. In fact it was understood that this particularly variety of wasp was unlikely to sting, but the very large number of wasps present was nevertheless a cause for concern. HDC Pest Control department should be contacted to investigate and deal with this.

Coun. Baker also reported on an increasing incidence of vandalism, most of which was believed to be associated with the same group of teenagers who had been identified and who it is understood live in the village. He would continue to monitor the situation and seek to obtain evidence.

The Clerk reported that he had asked HDC to arrange to reposition the litter bin which is currently beside the second gate to a new position near the main entry gate. The bulk of the litter collects in this area, and the first bin which is already located by the main gate is often seen to be full to overflowing while the second bin remains empty. A third bin (an older one) which is positioned half way down the park is also rarely used, and is to be moved to a new position near the second gate – however, it is understood that there is a hole in the ground underneath the bin which, for safety reasons, needs to be filled as soon as the bin is moved.

6. Public Forum

No prior notification had been received from parishioners wishing to make a statement or ask a question on any matters not included elsewhere on the agenda.

7. Planning Matters

It was noted that previous Planning Applications for the construction of two pig buildings at Morton Grange Farm, and outline planning permission for construction of a bungalow at The Hollies, had both been granted. The construction of the pig buildings would also entail a slight diversion of a Public Footpath in that area. Councillors had no concerns regarding the proposed alternative route.

There were no comments from Councillors regarding the Planning Applications for an extension and balcony at the rear of plot 3 at the Hatch End development, or for an extension at the rear of Black Thorn House.

8. Finance

- 1) The Clerk reported that the balance of funds, including a sum of £41.44 in petty cash, was £6,689.24 including £2,924.51 remaining from the CIL funding.
- 2) The main outgoing during the preceding two months had been the purchase of a new sensory panel for the Play Park at a cost of £1750 plus VAT, using funds that had previously been "ring-fenced" following the reimbursement received from Image Playgrounds for the removal of the original trampoline. Other major payments include £375 for one quarter's remuneration for the Clerk (including PAYE charges to HMRC), £184 plus VAT for grass-cutting in June, £100 to HDC for the uncontested election charge, £105 for the latest issue of the Community Newsletter, £37 plus VAT for a set of replacement electrodes for the Parish Defibrillator and £10.82 for office stationery. There was also a charge of £36 for the hire of the Village Hall for the Easter Egg Hunt.
- 3) The annual insurance policy had also been renewed with effect from 1st July at a cost of £544.10, an increase of just under £17 from last year.
- 4) Arrangements to update the HSBC Bank Mandate to remove signatories who had retired from Council and to add the newly elected/co-opted Councillors as new signatories had been delayed, and the original application had been timed out. A new application would be arranged as soon as possible.

9. Attendance by Councillors at other meetings

There had been no other meetings taking place which have been attended by Council members during the preceding two months.

10. Correspondence

There had been no correspondence of note during the preceding two months other than as dealt with under other agenda items.

11. AOB

There was no other competent business.

12. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 25th September 2019, commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 20.25pm