

Minutes of Meeting held 5th June 2019

Present: Coun O Poulter (Chairman), Coun M Baker, Coun F Farndale, Coun J Sanderson, Coun K Weston, R Dale (Clerk), Cllr B Phillips (HDC), Cllr A Wilkinson (NYCC) plus 6 members of the public

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Police Report

PCSO Laws reported that there had been 4 incidents during the preceding 2 months: two incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour involving an incident of disagreement between youths and a neighbour; one vehicle taken without consent; and one incident of damage to property. The officer also reported on the Community Speed Watch initiative and suggested that Morton might apply to participate in this scheme. Coun. Farndale volunteered to follow up this idea.

4. Minutes of meeting held 27th March 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 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. Minutes of Annual Meeting held 8th May 2019

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 8th May 2019, having previously been circulated to Council Members, were agreed as a true record proposed by Coun. Sanderson and seconded by Coun. Weston. No dissensions. The minutes were signed off by Chair Poulter.

6. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

1) Co-option of Councillors

Mr Matthew Baker and Ms Fiona Farndale had been co-opted at the Annual Meeting to fill the two vacant seats on Council following the uncontested election on 2nd May, at which there had been only three nominated candidates.

2) AGAR 2018/19

The Clerk confirmed that Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 had been published on the Council website and on the Parish noticeboards in line with the timetable set by the Auditors.

3) Payroll Services

The Clerk reported that a Harrogate accountancy firm TP Jones & Co had been appointed to provide payroll services to the Council at an annual cost of £65 plus VAT invoice yearly in March. The selection of TP Jones had been made following a request made via YLCA for recommendations by other local authorities who had a similar requirement to ours. Three companies had been shortlisted before TP Jones was finally selected.

4) Bridge Repair

The Clerk reported details of the arrangements and timetable for repairing the bridge.

5) Village Green Open Space

The weeds had been sprayed off and Linden's contractors had sown meadow flowers. It was too early to say whether the results of this would be acceptable. Concern was expressed about the possible inadequacy of the fencing surrounding the water course.

6) Dog Waste Dispensers

Two dispensers had been acquired for installation at two suitable locations in the village on a trial basis. One had been erected by Coun Sanderson in Back Lane, close to the dog waste bin. The second was planned for erection in St Helen's Close near to the junction with Station Lane. Coun Sanderson reported that he had had some problems identifying a suitable location due to the fact that there was concrete just below the surface of the turf in the area originally chosen and he was concerned that this might indicate gas pipes were present in that area.

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

Although there had some complaints on social media that the gaps between the two parts of the barrier were too narrow to allow for navigation through the gap with a larger wheelchair, it had been confirmed by Planning Enforcement at HDC that the dimensions and siting of the barrier were in line with the specifications provided by NYCC Highways.

A parishioner raised concerns about the fact that 3 or 4 vehicles, apparently belonging to either residents of or visitors to a property in the neighbouring Meadowfields estate, were regularly seen to be parked in the "hammerhead" turning area at the end of St Helen's Close. This practice meant that large vehicles, such as Council bin lorries, had to reverse the length of the Close rather than being able to use the hammerhead to turn round. This could also be a serious problem for any emergency vehicles.

The Clerk reported that he had not yet been able to establish the ownership of – and hence responsibility for maintaining – the small strip of land that bordered the hammerhead either side of the exit from the snicket. He was pursuing the matter with HDC Planning, as it appeared likely that the land possibly belonged to Linden Homes and if so that the area should therefore be landscaped by them.

8) New Sensory Equipment for Play Park

A new Light & Colour Sensory Panel is to be installed in the Play Park at a cost of £1750 plus VAT using the refund from Image Playgrounds following the removal of the trampoline. The panel will be installed in the area where the trampoline had been, and the surrounding ground "made good". £175 will remain from the refund that might possibly be used for refreshing the planters and/or replacing the planting at the village signs.

7. 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.

8. Planning Matters

It was noted that the Planning Applications for an extension at 4 Station Lane and alterations and an extension at 5 Dales View had both been granted. An application had been received for outline planning permission at the Hollies. Council had no comments to make regarding this item. There was a brief discussion concerning the proposed change of use of an existing equestrian building at Woodpecker House, and the owner of the property, who was present in the public gallery, was invited to explain the reasons for this change. After considering the matter, Council took the view that there was no reason to object to this application.

9. Finance

- 1) The Clerk reported that the balance of funds, including a sum of £10.68 in petty cash, was £10,535.72 including £2,924.51 remaining from the CIL funding and £1,925 "ring-fenced" from the refund received from Image Playgrounds following the removal of the trampoline.
- 2) The only outgoings during the preceding two months had been two payments totalling £552 (including VAT) to Walkers for grass cutting in March, April and May, the internal audit fee of £64 and £21.43 for office stationery.
- 3) Arrangements were in hand 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.

10. Nomination of two members to represent Council as voting delegates at YLCA Regional Meetings

Couns Poulter and Sanderson agree to continue as the Council's voting representatives

11. Fixed Asset Register

The Clerk had previously circulated copies of the updated Asset Register. There are still some minor alterations to be made with respect to the valuation and installation dates of some older street furniture, and to the valuation of the old fencing surrounding the Play Park. However, the main contents of the register were sufficiently comprehensive to be used in support of the renewal of the Council's annual insurance policy, due on 1st July. This interim version was therefore approved nem con.

12. Complaints Procedure

The Clerk had previously a copy of the Council's Complaints Procedure. No amendments were required, and the Procedure was re-adopted for a further year nem con.

13. Policy for dealing with the Press and Media

The Clerk had previously circulated a new procedure for dealing with the press and media. This was approved nem con and a copy will be published on the Council's website.

14. 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.

15. Correspondence

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

16. AOB

There was no other competent business.

17. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 31st July 2019, commencing at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 20.30pm