



Minutes of the Grassington Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2nd March 2017

Present: Cllr Rooze (Chairman), Cllr Charlton, Cllr Lofthouse, Cllr Smith, Cllr D Wood,

Also in attendance: P.Sugden (Clerk), Cllr Marshall (part only), Cllr Foster (part only), Ms. G. Carter-Yorkshire Housing (part only)

- 1. To receive apologies for absence-** Cllr Brooksbank, Cllr Darwin, Cllr Kendall, Cllr P.Wood
- 2. To receive and declarations of interest or applications for dispensations under the Council's Code of Conduct-** None declared
- 3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2017 as a true and fair record-**Minutes of this meeting were approved.

4. Aynham Close

Ms Carter updated the council on the Aynham Close project. All properties have now been let with a good mix of local tenants. With 7 tenants relocating from privately let accommodation in Grassington and 5 from private landlords in the surrounding area other local housing has now been released. The Council will be provided with a statistical analysis of the applications. The number of applicants suggests that demand from Grassington and the immediate surrounding area is now substantially met. The Council asked Ms Carter to convey their thanks to Yorkshire Housing and to builders, Brewsters.

5. Information and Updates

5.1 Cllr Marshall gave an update on recent activities at North Yorkshire CC including the decision that council tax is to increase by 1.99% together with a supplement of 2% for social care

5.2 Cllr Foster gave an update on recent decisions of Craven DC. He advised that YDNPA is still looking for sites for community based housing and that Craven DC still has grant funding available to support any applications.

6. Financial Matters

6.1 The following accounts were approved for payment

Wages and salaries £351.41

Use of Home as office £16.00

Craven District Council –electoral expenses £120.00

6.2 There being no councillor willing to take on the role of RFO it was RESOLVED that the clerk would assume this responsibility on an interim basis; initially for 3 months.

It was RESOLVED that the finance sub-committee shall comprise Mr. Sugden, Cllr D. Wood, Cllr Charlton. Cllr Kendall will be invited to additionally join this committee.

It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Wood, Charlton and Rooze would be authorised to sign cheques and other financial instruments at Barclays Bank

6.3 It was agreed that Grassington Hub should be invited to take over the issue of parking permits for the Wood Lane car park. It was RESOLVED that the new tariff should be set at £11 from which £1 will be offered to the HUB as a handling charge

7. Lighting Matters

NYCC have advised that the energy usage charge for 2016/17 will be £3,649.12. They have advised that the further charge will increase from 10.9p to 12.6p per kwh. Any decision on whether to accept this increase or to tender for electricity supplies was deferred until more councillors are present.

8. Property Matters

8.1 Repairs to the Town Hall. It was RESOLVED to accept the tender submitted by James Harker to point the gable-end wall at a cost of £2,820 +VAT and to make safe a chimney stack at a cost of £1,385 + VAT. No responses had been received to the invitation to tender for joinery repairs in the area of the Octagon. Approaches will be made to A, Wilson and J Rymer to see if either will undertake this work.

8.2 The Council had been very pleased with the outcome of negotiations with the Town Hall Trustees under the chairmanship of Mr Davies. They had detected a genuine will on the part of all participants to progress these discussions in a way which will ensure the future of this important village asset. There was therefore both anger and frustration at recent communications from the Chairman of Trustees which attempt to reverse all that has been agreed to date. The Clerk was accordingly instructed to write to the Trustees encouraging them to revert to the previously agreed position and to not attempt to introduce retrospective and unilateral conditions.

8.3 £185 has been collected in allotment rents, 7 remain outstanding

8.4 Cllr Lofthouse presented an update on Ratcliffe corner. The owners have agreed to assign the land to the council and to try and ascertain ownership of the wall. An indicative cost of £265.00 for repair of the wall has been received. It was agreed that this work should proceed in order to reopen this facility.

9. Highway Matters

It was reported that our Highways representative, Cllr Kendall has been frustrated in his attempts to develop a rapport with Area 5. Cllr Marshall suggested contacting the department head, Mr James Malcolm, based in Boroughbridge. Another contact is Cllr Chris Metcalfe who is the elected member with the highways portfolio.

Cllr Smith reported a pothole adjacent to a water hydrant at the junction of Moody Sty and Wood Lane.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

There is uncertainty whether the efforts of producing a neighbourhood plan would be justified. Cllr Rooze will take informal soundings of his opposite numbers at Threshfield and Kettlewell before this topic is revisited when all councillors are present.

11. Planning Applications

C/33/118F Car parking bays at Ashfield House- no objections

C/33/257C Bridge House-erection of new house in garden-no objections

C/33/184J Town Head Farm-dairy building-this is phase 1 of a 3-phase project-the entire project should be examined.

12. Planning Approvals

C/33/506 erection of cottage on Garrs End Lane-approved subject to S106 –noted.

Correspondence Received

12.1YDNPA Southern Forum- Cllr Charlton to attend; other Cllrs to be invited at next meeting

12.2 Craven Schools Partnership social event-Cllrs to respond individually

12.3Extension of bus service to Ilkley-noted

12.4Plant Monitoring survey-noted, It was agreed that the work done towards a walking festival should be made available to Grassington Festival.

13. Clerks Report

Noted. Cllr Wood asked that we continue to record outstanding duties and responsibilities of Councillors

For Information

The next meeting is Thursday 30th March 2017 at 7.30 pm, Council Offices, Devonshire Institute.

14. A member of the public was critical of the lack of progress on agreeing with TH Trustees a future policy for managing and funding the Town Hall