

SKEEBY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN SKEEBY VILLAGE HALL
at 7.03pm, THURSDAY 30th November 2017

PRESENT: - Cllrs Budden, Dixon, Metcalfe and Richardson,

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Rummery and Co Cllr Thompson.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

Cllr Metcalfe suggested that Councillors' names be attributed to actions on the publicly published Minutes so that residents knew which Councillors were carrying out which activities. Discussion ensued during which it was felt that if any resident wished to discuss the activities of the Council then they were at liberty to attend Council meetings and were also able to approach any member of the Parish Council at any time. Councillors were reminded that the Council was a group and not separate individual members and it was agreed that the practice of redacting the names from the public copies of the Minutes would continue. Acceptance of the Minutes for the meeting held on 6th October 2017 was proposed by Cllr Dixon, seconded by Cllr Metcalfe and carried unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Parks:-

Linden Road Community Park - several items were highlighted in the latest safety report by RDC. These included a gate requiring oiling, the zip wire is still stiff with a noisy bearing. two end caps were missing from the top of the slide with a loose connection on the rope ladder. Cllr Richardson would arrange to oil the gate and the Clerk would contact Streetscape. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Budden and Dixon would carry out an inspection of this park to see if there are any minor maintenance issues and report to the next Council meeting.

ACTION: Cllrs Richardson, Budden, Dixon and the Clerk

Springfield Community Park - The old equipment had been removed and new equipment had been installed which had passed the RDC safety check. Concern was raised that the two planters had been removed by Cllr Metcalfe without reference to other Councillors. Whilst it was appreciated that continued maintenance work was required, any actions should be discussed with other Councillors prior to them being carried out so that everyone was aware of what was happening. It was not a question of permission being obtained, merely a matter of courtesy. Cllr Metcalfe maintained that the two planters had been rotten, which was why they had been removed and although a pallet had been donated to replace them, after discussion it was decided that without someone willing to look after the planters, the costs involved in replacing and filling them with new plants would be wasted money. Cllr Metcalfe had weeded the borders, carried out remedial work and repainted to the fence with the help of volunteers. Deryk Hume had offered to look after a corner of the park and this offer was accepted. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Metcalfe should keep the other Councillors informed if any major work was required in the park.

Insurance - The Clerk had spoken to the insurance company regarding the increase of equipment in Springfield and had been advised that they would waive the increase for the current year, but the premium for 2018 would rise by at least £40.00.

Streetscape Invoice - Until the VAT had been received, there was insufficient money to pay the invoice amounting to £12,660 00 now due. Even after the receipt of the VAT there was still a shortfall which would be paid out of Business Account No 2. The Clerk had advised Streetscape of the delay.

RDC grant - Following agreement by the Councillors, The Clerk had contacted RDC to thank them for the offer of a grant towards the purchase of a new item of adult fitness equipment but it was unable to fund the additional money required. The Clerk thanked RDC for their support and received confirmation that it would be considered favourably should it wish to seek a grant in the future.

b) Speed Watch - Two speed watch session had been carried out, one motorist had been recorded at 47mph and another at 38 and both had been reported to NYPA. Another session would be held at 10.00am on 9th December.

- c) **Self-build housing** - No plans had been received.
- d) **Water Egress A6108** - It would appear that the problem had been rectified.
- e) **Travellers Rest** - Cllr Metcalfe had met with Mr Whitfield who had replaced the missing window and agreed to keep an eye on the property.
- f) **45 Richmond Road** - Steve Barker at NYCC is dealing with this matter but no information was available.
- g) **Railings** - This was also in hand.
- h) **Ward Boundary Changes** - Further notification regarding this had been received but it was agreed that as the comments of SPC had already been submitted there was no need to duplicate these
- i) **Amalgamation of NYPA/NYFRS** - The outcome of this was anticipated before the end of the year.
- j) **Parish Portal** - Problems are still occurring, so the Clerk had reached an agreement with the Highways Customer Services that any problems would be emailed directly to her. The portal can only cope with routine problems, ie streetlamps and potholes and anything outside this is difficult to categorise successfully.
- k) **Scurragh Lane Signage** - It was noted that the Skeeby was still signposted down the new road rather than the A6108 and the Clerk would contact Stuart Culley to ask about progress.
ACTION: Clerk
- l) **FPA - 29 Springfield** - Full approval had been granted.
- m) **Damage to Speed Cushions** - This had been reported to Highways and the problem rectified.

5. VILLAGE GREENS

- a) **Damage to beck bank outside Tenby House** - This matter was deferred to the next meeting to ensure that all building work on this property was complete before asking for the becksides and village green to be reinstated.
- b) **Notice Board, Springfield** - Remedial work had been carried out by a team of volunteers and the Clerk was asked to write to Messrs Nolson and Kendall to thank them for their help.
ACTION: Clerk
- c) **Beck Clearance** - The Clerk would contact NYCC Grounds Maintenance to remind them that this work was still outstanding.
ACTION: Clerk

6. RIGHTS OF WAY

- a) **Fly-tipping** - Cllr Budden reported that fly-tipping had occurred on Olliver Lane and would monitor the problem.
- b) **Signpost Olliver Lane** - This was damaged and the Clerk was asked to report this to the NYCC Footpaths Officer
ACTION: Clerk

7. FINANCE

- a) **Report** - This was accepted
- b) **Precept 2018** - The Clerk provided a forecast for the 2018/19 year which highlighted the likelihood of increases in all areas, but particularly in respect of grounds maintenance for the village greens, park safety inspections and a large increase in insurance costs. It was noted that during 2017/18 the costs of audits had increased enormously, but with the appointment of another internal auditor these costs should not be repeated. The current account was healthy at present although the cost for grass cutting had yet to be deducted, but the Clerk suggested that there would be a small surplus to carry forward to 2018. There was still the matter of restoring funds to Business Account No 1 to balance the withdrawal of money to pay for the improvements to the two Community Parks to consider and it was agreed that any future development to the Community Parks would have to be funded prior to expansion. The possibility of SPC having to pay rates for the car park was not included, so there was the possibility that a further £250.00 would have to be found. Although an increase to the Precept was proposed by Cllr Metcalfe, after discussion it was proposed by Cllr Budden. Seconded by Cllr Dixon and carried unanimously that the Precept would remain at £5,800.00 and SPC would work within that figure. The Clerk would advise RDC of SPCs decision.
ACTION: Clerk

c) **Accountant** - The Clerk had asked Ian Crisop of Chipchase Manners Accountants in Newbiggin, Richmond, if he would be willing to become the internal auditor for SPC and he had quoted costs of £150/£200 for his services. It was agreed that the Clerk would write confirming his appointment.

ACTION: Clerk

d) **Appointment of Payroll Accountants** - Following discussion with the Chairman, the Clerk had signed a Letter of Engagement with TP Jones and Co LLP, Harrogate, who had replaced Thirsk Community Services dealing with payroll services.

e) **Donations** - After discussion it was agreed to send a cheque for £50.00 to GNAAS, but defer an application from CAB to the end of the financial year to see if the financial state would allow a donation to this organisation. A cheque for GNAAS was signed.

ACTION: Clerk

8. CORRESPONDENCE

a) **PC Wood's Report** - Reports for September and October were received. .

b) **RDC Parish Consultation Meeting Survey** - The Clerk had completed and returned this document.

c) **NYCC Improvement to Street Lighting** - This document was received.

d) **Big Lottery Funding** - This document was received

e) **NYCC Richmondshire Area Committee - 29th November 2017** - This document was received

f) **RDC Newsletter** - It was agreed that this document, because of its length and colour content, would be circulated by email in future rather than a hard copy being printed for circulation.

f) **Journals** – The Clerk, Clerk and Councils Direct, SLCC Training Programme

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **D & S Times** – This report would be submitted at a later date

b) **Bird Boxes** - Cllrs Budden and Richardson agreed to hang these in appropriate locations.

ACTION: Cllrs Budden and Richardson.

10. DATE AND VENUE

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 25th January, 2018 in Skeeby Jubilee Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm