

SKEEBY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN SKEEBY JUBILEE VILLAGE HALL
at 7.30m, THURSDAY 20th MAY 2021

PRESENT:- Cllrs Budden, Richardson, Rummery, Moreton and Dixon. One member of the public (Mr D Wilkinson) also attended.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Dist Cllr Heslop and Co Cllr Thompson

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Moreton, seconded by Cllr Richardson and carried unanimously that the Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2020 were accurate and were signed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) **Travellers Rest** - Ms Kay Richardson attended the meeting to give a brief report. Mr Whitfield had agreed to sell the Travellers Rest for £175K and the money has been raised through shares and a grant of £50K from RDC to purchase the property. The pub group has appointed a solicitor to oversee the legal aspects and the share offer documents are covered by the standard mark for share holders. A new banner has been attached to the front of the pub with Mr Whitfield's permission and a pop-up display on the forecourt (agreed with SPC) was planned over the bank holiday weekend to attract new investors. There will be free beer, courtesy of the Richmond Brewery and the event will be advertised in the Richmond Today booklet. Articles have also appeared in the Yorkshire Post, D&ST, Northern Echo and the Independent and also the pub group website. It is thought that it needs to raise a further £150K to cover the cost of refurbishing and a £2.5K grant has been received from the Plunkett Foundation for a fighting fund to cover legal advice, structural engineers etc. As a non-profit organisation the tenant will pay an annual rent which will go to shareholders with 3% benefit. The new Chair, Mrs Carol Wilkinson, has made a huge difference as to the direction the pub group is able to proceed and thanks are due to her and Ms Kay Richardson for their strenuous efforts to reinvigorate the re-opening of the Travellers Rest. Ms Richardson was thanked for her report.

b) **Community Park - Safety Inspection** - This report was received and it was noted that there were several outstanding items still to be rectified. Discussion ensued regarding the removal of moss from the safety mats and the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Lodge to see if he had any recommendations regarding products which could be safely used on the matting. As it was thought that he had replacement parts for play equipment available, he would also be asked if he could provide a new shackle for the zip-wire.

ACTION: Clerk

c) **Water egress/Skeebby Bridge Repairs** - No further work had been carried out, despite the egress of water recurring and reported.

ACTION: Clerk

d) **Flooding - Olliver Lane** - It was not known whether the recent work to clear the back-filling of the culvert had been successful, but there had been no further incidents of the beck over-flowing into Olliver Lane and the A6108.

e) **Northern Forest** - 60 trees had been planted in Linden Road Community park, a mix of wild cherry, hazels and birch and a report had been sent to RDC Climate Change Action for inclusion on their website. Cllr Rummery had also sent details to the Woodland Trust. Cllrs Rummery and Moreton were thanked for their efforts in planting all the trees.

f) **Planning Application - 42 Richmond Road** - The planning application appears to have stalled, but Cllr Rummery suggested that he contact the Land Registry to establish SPCs rights to the land to the front of this property, an action which was proposed by Cllr Budden, seconded by Cllr Moreton and carried unanimously.

ACTION: Cllr Rummery

g) **Scurragh Lane** - It was reported that the parents of the owner of the land were now living permanently in the caravan and were selling home produced meat products on site. The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Office/Environmental Health regarding this and also the keeping of livestock (ie goats) and the accompanying smell.

ACTION: Clerk

h) **Duck Race - 28th August, 2021 - 10.30am - Barnacres Field** - Ms Kay Richardson reported that she would be organising the sale of tickets for this event very soon. Barnacres had agreed to the use of the field, ducks were organised and Cllr Dixon would organise the raffle. Refreshments would be served in the village hall (Clerk to book) and Cllr Dixon would organise helpers as required. Ms Richardson was thanked for her help.

ACTION: Clerk

i) **FPA - Garden Centre - Scotch Corner** - Although agreeing in principle with the plans, SPC raised concerns regarding the size of the car park (600 spaces) and also the impact on local garden centres/nurseries.

j) **Traffic Lights/Speed Cushions** - A huge amount of concern has been raised regarding the alleged proposal by NYCC to install traffic light control at Skeeby Bridge, with many residents contacting SPC, NYCC and Cllr Thompson with their fears that to install traffic lights would increase the number of accidents at the bridge. When temporary lights have been used on this site, several accidents occurred, as visibility for the approach, but particularly from the west around a blind bend, was exceedingly poor. Cllr Thompson reported that the proposed installation was part of overall improvements to the whole length of the A6108, but he had received assurance from NYCC Highways that should the proposal go any further, a period of consultation with SPC would occur.

4. VILLAGE GREENS

a) **Tree Safety Report** - Confirmation had been received that all the trees within the ownership of SPC were deemed to be safe.

b) **Bricks on Village Green - 45 Richmond Road** - The Clerk had written to the residents of this property asking that they remove the bricks which had been illegally left on the village green.

c) **Parking outside 40 Richmond Road** - This appears to have been resolved, although Cllr Moreton reported that no-one had been seen at the property for the last three weeks. The situation would continue to be monitored.

d) **Grass Cutting** - The quote from NYCC had been accepted and confirmed.

5. RIGHTS OF WAY

a) **Stiles** - It was reported that one of the stiles on the footpath commencing at School House had been nailed shut, but has since been changed to allow access although without a step to assist, access was quite difficult. The situation would be monitored.

6. FINANCE

a) **Report** – This was accepted.

b) **Final Accounts** - It was proposed by Cllr Dixon, seconded by Cllr Rummery and carried unanimously that the final accounts be accepted.

c) **AGAR** - It was proposed by Cllr Rummery, seconded by Cllr Dixon and carried unanimously that an exemption should be requested and the Clerk was asked to complete the forms and return them to PFK Littlejohn.

ACTION: Clerk

d) **Precept** - This had been received and it was agreed that £6K would be transferred into the business account. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the transfer.

ACTION:- Clerk

e) **Donations** - An acknowledgement had been received from GNAAS.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Code of Conduct** - Acceptance of the new Code of Conduct was proposed by Cllr Budden, seconded by Cllr Dixon and carried unanimously that this should be adopted.

b) **NYPA Reports** - These documents were received. The Clerk had written to Sgt Wood on his promotion.

c) **Play Equipment** - It had been agreed to get quotes for the replacement of the swings on Springfield and the installation of adult fitness equipment for Linden Road. Unfortunately the quote from Streetscape did not include the adult fitness equipment, but additional children's equipment and they were asked to submit a further quote for the items specified.. Matthew

Day rang the Clerk to say that, as the adult equipment was expensive and took the whole cost, including fencing, to above the sum which was available for a grant from RDC, he had decided to substitute the items with those which would come in under budget. After discussion, it was agreed that the quote for the replacement of the swings on Springfield at £3,360 + VAT would be accepted and the Clerk was asked to confirm the order with Streetscape. Ms Jo Richardson would be asked to complete the application forms for RDC. The equipment for Linden Road would be put on hold pro tem. The Clerk had spoken to RDC as she had not received any information regarding grants and it was discovered that Skeeby had not been included on the mailing list - this was rectified.

ACTION: Clerk (3)

- d) **Road closure - Longwood Bank** - This document was received.
- e) **RDC - Funding for Grass Roots Sports** - This document was received.
- f) **Removal of Phonebox** - A proposal had been received to remove the BT phone box from the middle of the village. When the last survey had been carried out SPC had objected to its removal as there had been a small use of the phone. However on the most recent survey, the box had not been used in the last 12 months, so there was no objections to its removal.

ACTION: Clerk

- g) **RDC - Partnership Committee** - This document was received.
- h) **FPA - 33 Richmond Road** - A revised layout for this application had been received. Although not objecting in principle to the development of this site, SPC was aware of the number of objections from residents of Linden Road to this development. It was noted that the garage had been replaced with two parking spaces, although this did reduce the jeopardy of access somewhat, it was always going to be restricted. It was also noted that the pedestrian access to this residence had been moved to be directly onto the pavement and it was suggested that the building should be moved about a meter away from the footpath to allow safer entry.

ACTION; Clerk

- i) **Highways England A66 Community Liaison Group** - An invitation to join this group was received, but as Skeeby was not directly involved, it was decided not to join the group
- j) **FPA - 39 Springfield** - There were no objections to this application.
- k) **RDC - Super Council** - Documents were received on this matter, which is ongoing.
- l) **Elan City - Speed Signs** - These documents were received
- l) **RDC - Home Heating Funding** - These documents were received
- m) **NYCC Area Committee** - These documents were received
- o) **Mr David Wilkinson - NBs/Councillors personal details, website etc** - Several emails had been received from Mr Wilkinson, first querying the posting of other material on SPCs notice boards and the Clerk had replied to say that the content of the Parish Notice Board was the responsibility of SPC, who could display any material it deemed fit, usually only details of fund-raising or charity events and was vetted prior to display. The next email was a demand that Councillors personal details, including address, telephone number, email address and political affiliation be displayed on the notice boards. The Clerk had advised Mr Wilkinson that the first point of contact was the Clerk, whose details were available on the RDC Parish Council website and it was the wish of Councillors not to have their contact details on public display, in line with many other councils who had increasing concerns regarding the vulnerability of Councillors. Mr Wilkinson had contacted RDC who had redirected the enquiry back to the Clerk stating that they did not disclose personal information. Mr Wilkinson then asked why SPC was amongst 33% of parish councils in the RDC area which did not have a website and was informed that SPC used RDCs website, along with many other parish councils who did not have their own website. Mr Wilkinson was then asked if he would like to make any comments. He stated that he felt that more transparency was required, that residents had the right to know who was representing them and that SPC should have its own website, so that residents were aware of what the Parish Council was doing. He was informed again that with the Minutes going up on the two notice boards in the village, a report sent to D&ST and inclusion on the RDC website, there was sufficient information available to anyone who required it and SPC was not prepared at the present moment to spend its precept on setting up a website. Although unhappy with the explanation, it was accepted by him and he had no further questions.
- p) **Skeeby Solar** - The Clerk had applied to this company for a grant towards matrix boards.
- q) **Crime Commissioners Elections** - These documents were received
- r) **SLCC - Training dates** - This document was received

- s) **RDC Climate Partnership** - This document was received.
- t) **Barnacres Farm - Sewage Overflow** - A serious overflow from the sewage pumping station had been reported to Yorkshire Water, who are still investigating. A new fence has been erected to prevent livestock venturing on contaminated ground.
- u) **White Rose Updates** - These documents were received
- Journals** - The Clerk and Clerks and Councils Direct were received.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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

ACTION: Cllr Budden and Clerk

- b) **Clerk's Resignation** - It was noted that the Clerk, after almost 20 years in post, had decided to retire and the thanks of the Councillors, along with a lovely bouquet and cards were received. The Clerk wished to record her sorrow at leaving, but thanked all the Councillors for their unswerving support during her tenure. Advertisements for a replacement would be posted on the notice boards and also in Skeeby Life and a job description would be drawn up.

ACTION: Clerk

DATE AND VENUE-

The next meeting will be held in Skeeby Jubilee Village Hall at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 26th July 2021**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm