

SKEEBY PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING HELD IN SKEEBY VILLAGE HALL
at 7.30m, THURSDAY 29th March 2018

PRESENT: - Cllrs Budden, Dixon, Metcalfe, Richardson and Rummery, together with Co Cllr Thompson

APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

Cllr Metcalfe raised a query regarding the publication of reports published in the D&ST and displayed on the notice boards, which he felt should be ratified by the full Council prior to publication and also questioned their accuracy. The Clerk explained that the draft Minutes were sent to the Chairman for approval and amendment if necessary, returned to the Clerk who made those amendments and the Minutes are then circulated to all Councillors. Approximately ten days after circulation, which gives any Councillor time to contact either the Chairman or the Clerk with a request for an amendment of those Minutes, the D&ST report is compiled and sent to the Chairman for approval. The report is a straightforward 'cut -and- paste' from the Minutes, with in most cases Councillors names redacted - nothing is added. It was also pointed out that if the report was deferred for approval until the next meeting, the public would not be aware of the date of that meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that the status quo should remain and the Chairman would continue to have delegated authority on this matter.

Cllr Metcalfe also said that other Councils posted full copies of the Minutes on their notice boards and it was agreed that other Councils can choose to display their Minutes as they so wished and that there was no right or wrong way. Minutes are posted on RDC website for any member of the public to view and a request to view can always be made to the Clerk. With the minor amendment of the replacement of Cllr Richardson for Cllr Rummery, who had not attended the November meeting and was therefore unable to propose that the Minutes were accurate, acceptance of the Minutes for the meeting held on 25th January 2018 was proposed by Cllr Rummery seconded by Cllr Dixon and carried unanimously.

3. MATTERS ARISING

a) Community Parks:-

Linden Road Community Park - Cllr Metcalfe agreed to see if the remedial work which had been requested had been carried out by Streetscape. Deryck Hume had carried out the clearing of the overgrown vegetation and following a discussion between the Clerk and the Chairman, his invoice had been paid out of the main Parish Council account as there was not a huge amount left in the Community Park Account to pay for maintenance in 2018/19. Cllr Metcalfe continued to be unclear as to what work he was able to carry out without prior approval and was referred to the Minutes of November 2017 which stated that 'after discussion it was agreed that Cllr Metcalfe should keep other Councillors informed if any major work was required in the park'. Day-to-day general maintenance of the parks was acceptable, but not repairs or work on play equipment. Cllr Metcalfe was reminded of the accountability of the Council towards both volunteers and the public.

ACTION: Cllr Metcalfe

b) Speed Watch - No speed watches had been carried out and the Chairman reported that the owner of one of the vehicles reported during the last operation could not be contacted as although the registered number, the colour and the model were correct, the make was not and therefore no action could be taken. As an experiment, after the session had finished and signs and high visibility clothing removed, the speed of cars only increased by a small margin. Cllr Thompson announced that he continued to promote speed watch and had a sum of money which he was hoping to spend on the provision of matrix boards or other speed reducing measures. Gilling West Parish Council was proposing to install a 'Community Speedwatch Village' sign which it was thought would cost £700.00 and Cllr Thompson agreed to forward details to the Clerk. No speed watch session are proposed for the time being.

ACTION: Cllr Thompson

c) Water Egress A6108 - No further problems had been reported.

d) **45 Richmond Road - Gas Pipe** - Cllr Thompson agreed to contact Highways on this matter.

ACTION: Cllr Thompson

e) **Railings** - Cllr Thompson agreed to contact Highways on this matter.

ACTION: Cllr Thompson

f) **Travellers Rest** - As the original application for change of use had been made in 2010 and no progress or business plan had been made a discussion ensued as to what, if any, action the Parish Council could take and whether it should contact the Skeeby Community Pub group to see if they were any further forward in their negotiations with Mr Whitfield. It transpired that an approach had been made to RDC regarding compulsory purchase, but this was unlikely to succeed and the difference between the sum offered by the group and that required by Mr Whitfield was too great for progress. It was agreed that the Parish Council could do nothing until further planning applications were made.

g) **Ward Boundary Changes** - The result of this consultation was due in the middle of April.

h) **Julia Mulligan** - Her proposal that the police and fire authorities should be unified under her jurisdiction had been rejected.

i) **Scurragh Lane Signage** - Skeeby was still signposted down the new road rather than the A6108 and Cllr Thompson agreed to find out when the new sign was expected.

ACTION: Cllr Thompson

j) **Damage to Speed Cushions** - The damaged speed cushion had been removed and Cllr Thompson agreed to find out when the replacement was due to be installed.

ACTION: Cllr Thompson

5. VILLAGE GREENS

a) **Damage to beck bank outside Tenby House** - This would continue to be monitored.

b) **Grass cutting** - Following comparison of the two quotes received it was agreed unanimously to stay with the current contractor. This decision was proposed by Cllr Budden, seconded by Cllr Dixon and agreed unanimously and the Clerk was asked to contact both parties to advise them of the decision of the Council.

ACTION: Clerk (2)

c) **Repair to the village green** - The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Price asking him to restore the village green to the satisfaction of the Parish Council following damaged caused by contractors vehicles during recent building work.

ACTION: Clerk

6. RIGHTS OF WAY

a) **Fly-tipping** - No further incidents had occurred

b) **Signpost Olliver Lane** - The Clerk was asked to see what progress had been made.

ACTION: Clerk

7. FINANCE

a) **Report** - This was accepted following a discussion regarding the balances of each account. It was noted that the amount in the community account to be carried forward to this financial year was very low and it had been hoped that some could be transferred to the reserve account (Account No 1) to redress the balance following the assistance given to the Community Park play equipment. A suggestion that the precept should have been raised was rejected as it was felt that the wider community should not be asked to pay for an amenity that catered for so few residents and it was thought that there were fewer than twenty children in the village. Those visiting from outside the area contributed nothing to the economy of the village, so fundraising for the maintenance of these areas was paramount. It was proposed by Cllr Rummery, seconded by Cllr Richardson that £300.00 would be transferred into Account No 1.

ACTION - Clerk

b) **Final Accounts** - The Clerk would prepare the accounts and forward them to the internal accountant.

ACTION: Clerk

c) **Cheques** - Cheques were signed for Zurich Insurance, YLCA, RDC play park safety, Yorkshire Water, TP Jones, Mr J Earl, HMRC and the Clerk..

ACTION: Clerk

d) **CAB** - With regret it was decided that no financial support could be given this organisation.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **PC Wood's Report** - Reports for February was received. .
- b) **North Richmondshire Community Partnership** - Meeting notes were received.
- c) **RDC Funding Opportunities'2019 Queens Award Nominations** - This document was received.
- d) **North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership** - This document was received.
- e) **RDC Parish Plans** - This document was received
- f) **Trees for Open Spaces** - This document was received
- g) **New Category for Britain in Bloom** - This document was received.
- h) **Best Kept Village** - The Clerk had entered the village in this competition.
- i) **Dog Waste Bins** - The Clerk had reported a second incidence of the non-removal of dog waste and RDC had cleared up the offending mess.
- j) **Matrix Boards** - The cost of installing and maintaining these was felt to be prohibitive
- k) **NYCC Richmondshire Area Community - 28th March 2018** - This document was received
- l) **Journals** - The Clerk, Clerk and Councils Direct.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **D & S Times** - This report would be submitted at a later date
ACTION: Cllr Budden and Clerk
- b) **Village Hall Heating** - For the second meeting in a row, the heating had not been switched on and the Clerk was asked to contact the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee to ask that this problem be rectified for future meetings.
ACTION: Clerk
- c) In view of the discussion in Item 2, the Clerk asked whether, apart from Cllr Metcalfe, any other Councillor felt that her reporting of the actions of the Council in the Minutes was inaccurate and received a resounding negative response, which the Clerk found reassuring. In a heated exchange, Cllr Metcalfe felt that the Council was not as transparent as it should be, although this was disputed and it was felt by the remaining Councillors that the Clerk acted responsibly in all matters. Cllr Metcalfe said that he had the right to express his views to which Cllr Dixon replied that she too had the right to a view which was directly opposed to that of Cllr Metcalfe and that criticism was neither necessary nor helpful. It was hoped that all future meetings could be conducted with civility and respect between all Council members.

10. DATE AND VENUE

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on **Thursday 31st May 2018** in Skeeby Jubilee Village Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm

