

**SKEEBY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN SKEEBY JUBILEE VILLAGE HALL**  
**at 7pm, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**PRESENT-** Cllrs I. Moreton (Chairman), K Richardson, J Budden, R Dixon, J Frankland.

**IN ATTENDANCE** Mrs S Perks (Parish Clerk), County Councillor A Thompson. 5 residents

It was agreed to add items 22.2.6 & 22.2.7 to the agenda for the invoices to be paid.

**1. Apologies**

1.1 None received

1.2 None

**2. Declaration of Interest**

2.1 None

**3. Minutes of the last meeting.**

3.1 The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the parish council held Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were amended to add under item 14.4 that a resident had reported that the leaves from the Maple tree under ownership of NYC were blocking a watercourse to a residential property. SP to report. The minutes were then approved as a true and accurate record.

**4. County Councillors report**

4.1 No report as Cllr Thompson has recently returned from annual leave but mentioned that the Boundary Commission Review report was due and he was hopeful that our ward boundaries would stay the same.

**5. Police bulletin**

5.1 Received and circulated to Councillors. Cllr J Frankland confirmed Inspector Metcalfe has added Skeeby to the list of villages to attend who have concerns with speeding through the village, and that he has been seen conducting checks in the village. Cllr J Frankland also reiterated about residents signing up to the Community Messenger Service and how Inspector Metcalfe wanted to receive emails from residents directly.

**6. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary.**

6.1 Safer Roads Fund (SRF) -It was noted that our FOI request has been acknowledged and responded to.

6.1.2 Cllr J Frankland provided a review of the information received from NYC as part of the FOI request. He noted it was still unclear how the bridge was decided upon to be added as part of the funding scheme and that NYC have been unable to provide details of former meetings stating that they do not have this information as it was prior to the new North Yorkshire Council being formed. Cllr A Thompson stated that the £104,000 for the bridge has been allocated to Skeeby, and he will contact Alex Gardner, Highways Improvement Manager (Areas 1 & 2) to confirm. **Action AT**

6.1.3 Footpaths- A report was received from the clerk noting that Andy Brown, Senior Public Rights of Way Officer at NYC confirmed additional funding and engineering has been secured for PROW for 2024/25 and that Skeeby footbridge will be the next one tackled in the coming financial year. Andy Brown also commented that the footpath that runs up Abbey Close to the services on the A6055 will be given higher priority now that they are aware of how residents use this footpath to access the services as a shop but said how quickly this will be resolved will depend on how co-operative the landowner is. A response had been received from Aske Estate regarding the surface of the footpath from Richmond Road up to Gascoigne Farm. Councillors agreed that the area had been tidied up but that the ground surface was still very uneven and not put back to the same condition it was prior to the utility's connection being made. **Action SP**

6.1.4 D Day Celebrations – Cllr J Budden confirmed that we have been given permission to use Halfe Hill and a bale of straw would be provided for a beacon lighting event on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June. The pub society confirmed they would like to be involved and are planning to decorate the pub, staff to dress up with the possibility of have some live music and serving fish and chips. Cllr R Dixon will liaise with the pub to confirm. Cllr I Moreton will speak with the village hall to ask about using the toilets and if the village hall had any plans to mark the occasion. The clerk to source possible funding. **Action RD/IM/SP**

## **7. Halfe Hill Farm Development Proposals**

7.1 Following the open meeting inviting residents to share their views on the proposals, Cllr I Moreton thanked Cllr J Budden for his contribution and information of the history of Halfe Hill. It was agreed that the clerk would encourage the residents who had written to the parish council directly to share their views with the Architects. The clerk to convey to the Architects residents would like to be informed of all the comments made, questions asked and responses given following on from the drop in sessions, and to ask if the information could be published on the parish council website. Councillors agreed to another meeting as requested by the Architects – Clerk to arrange Cllr A Thompson confirmed that when the planning application is formally submitted, he would ask for the application to be dealt with by Planning Committee and not delegated officers.

## **8. Village hall electricity contribution**

8.1 It was agreed that a contribution of £50 a year to the village hall was sufficient enough to cover the cost of the clock, defibrillator and emergency phone system based on the running cost information given by the manufactures. **Action SP**

## **9. Holmedale Community Nature Project**

9.1 The request to join the Holmedale Community Nature Project was noted

9.2 It was decided to invite Martha McBarron to the next parish council meeting to provide more information. **Action SP**

## **10. Best Kept Village Competition**

10.1 It was decided to enter the best kept village competition this year. **Action SP**

## **11. Solar Farm Development**

11.1 A report was received from Cllr K Richardson after attending a meeting with Frances Nicholson from Harmony Energy. Gustaf Schuler from Atrato, the other company which the solar farm is owned jointly with Harmony Energy, is the point of contact during the construction phase. Harmony Energy will be responsible for and manage the community funding which is available for the life span of the project. Applications for funding need to be submitted to Frances Nicholson.

## **12. Area 1 Highways Workshop**

12.1 A report was received from Cllr I Moreton after attending a recent Area 1 Highway department workshop. Details of the intervention criteria used by Highway Officers to access reported defects has been shared with the parish council. It was agreed to ask Darren Griffiths from NYC to come to make an assessment of Skeeby with a view to have a Vehicle Activated Speed sign (VAS) installed. It was also agreed to apply to Harmony Energy to fund a VAS sign for the village.

## **13. Play Parks**

13.1 It was noted that a report was not received as the person responsible for providing the safety checks and report is off on long term sickness. Clerk to check the safety checks are still taking place. Cllr J Budden reported that the gate post on Linden Road is solid, and that the fencing is attached to it. The top of the gate spring is broken. Cllr K Richardson will take a look to see if it can be welded back together. The clerk will contact Rural Playgrounds for general information in relation to their services for playpark repairs and maintenance. **Action SP/ KR**

## **14. Village Green**

14.1 It was reported the beck had not been fully cleared. It was also reported that the Beech tree behind the railings was beginning to split and need to be surveyed. It was agreed to contact an arborist. **Action KR / SP**

## **15. Section 137 for 2024/25**

15.1 It was noted that The Department for Levelling up have set the appropriate sum for section 137 (40(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for 2024/25 at £10.81

## **16. Portrait of the King**

16.1. It was noted our order for a free portrait of HMK has been placed and delivery is due before the end of April.

## **17. Business Stream**

17.1 It was noted we have received notification that our surface water drainage charge for the car park will increase from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 by 1.9%

**18. North Yorkshire Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner- Consultation on Substance Use Strategy**

18.1 It was decided not to respond to this consultation.

**19. Home to School Travel Policy Consultation- North Yorkshire Council**

19.1 It was decided not to respond to this consultation.

**20. Let's Talk Food campaign- North Yorkshire Council**

20.1 It was decided not to respond to this consultation.

**21. Planning Matters**

21.1 ZD23/00471/VAR – Variation of Condition 1 Attached to Planning Permission 20/00654/FULL Amendments to area to the rear of the dwellings including parking arrangements, building retention and rear gardens for planning permission 23/0040/VAR- It was agreed Councillors have no objection to this application. It was also noted that the documents were not available on the planning portal and the clerk would raise this with the planning department. **Action SP**

21.2 ZD24/00039/VAR Variation of Construction Hours attached to Planning Permission 21/00931/FULL to allow hours of working to be extended to 08.00-18.00 on a Saturday- Land SE A6108 Darlington Road, Richmond- Noted.

**22. Finance**

22.1 No report received.

22.2 *The following payments were agreed.*

22.2.1 Zurich Insurance 01/04/2025- 31/03/2025	£747.20
22.2.2 North Yorkshire Council Grass Cutting 2023 season	£2293.50
22.2.3 Clerks Salary Jan -March	£380.99
22.2.4 HMRC	£95.20
22.2.5 Jubilee village hall- Hall hire 2023/24 + electricity	£190.00
22.2.6 TP Jones- Payroll	£79.20
22.2.7 Business Stream- surface water run off car park	£58.56

22.3 *The following payments were noted*

Go Fund Me Donation £4.60

22.3.1 It was noted the Go Fund Me page has now been closed down and deleted.

**23. Asset Register**

23.1 The Asset Register was reviewed and the value agreed at £69, 207.00

**24. Internal Auditor**

24.1 It was decided to appoint an Internal Auditor for the 2022/23 financial year.

**25. Correspondence**

The following correspondence was noted.

25.1 GNAAS thanking us for our donation

25.2 Matt Ball Architecture-invite to a meeting regarding a potential development in Skeeby

25.3 Stephen Gibb- to inform us that the works to clear the beck will be completed by the end of February.

25.4 PKF LittleJohn to inform us the submission deadline for approved AGAR and supporting Certificate of Exemption is Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

25.5 Rural Playgrounds- Kirkby Stephen- Play park repairs, maintenance, general works.

25.6 NYC- Subsidised Local Bus Services- Update

**26. Items for the next agenda**

26.1 D Day celebrations, FOI Safer Roads.

**27. Date and time of next meeting.**

27.1 The next meeting will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm, in the Jubilee village hall. The Annual Parish Council meeting will be prior to this, starting at 6pm

The meeting closed at 8.42pm

Skeeby Parish Council 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairman**