

Minutes of the meeting of Riccall Parish Council held on 8th December 2008 from 7.30 p.m. at the Regen Centre

Attending: Cllr Keen (Chairman), Cllrs Adamson, Dawson, Kilmartin, Tibbett, Wilkinson & Wilson.

Lindsey Ryan – Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer

Mr Steve Sharp

1 Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were accepted from:

Cllr Duggan – work commitments
County / District Cllr Casling.

Declarations of interest in items on the agenda were received from:

Cllrs Adamson and Wilkinson – the cheque for the Regen Centre – item 6.

Cllr Keen had received a letter of resignation from Cllr Lindsay. This was read out, noted and it was agreed that the Clerk should write a letter, thanking Cllr Lindsay for the years that he has served on the Council. The Clerk will begin to advertise the vacancy.

2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 17th November 2008 (circulated) Minutes of the Budget Meeting held on 24th November 2008 (circulated) Minutes of the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting held on 1st December 2008 (to be tabled)

All three sets of minutes were accepted as a correct record and adopted.

3 Report on progress and updates since the last meeting

To receive an update from the District and County Cllr where possible on action taken and developments since the last meeting – for information only:

Cllr Casling had not been able to attend the meeting but had reported to the Clerk that she was progressing with the Dunelm site situation and had contacted Mark Steward. She will write a letter about the proposed change from 'Joint Action Group and 'Community Investment Prospectus' meetings to 'Community Engagement Forums.' She will support the PC stance that this move is not in the best interests of local democracy.

To receive an update from representatives of North Yorkshire Police where possible on action taken and developments since the last meeting – for information only:

No information available for this meeting.

To receive an update from the Clerk on action taken and developments since the last meeting – for information only:

Both the school and the crossing patrol supervisor have complained about the fact that the school crossing point on Kelfield Rd is not gritted in time for children using it in the mornings. The Clerk has followed this up and Kelfield Road is classed as a priority two road and is usually gritted after 9am. Also, members of the public have complained about the lack of footpath gritting. Apparently this is only done after a permanent 72 hr freeze or as and when resources allow. In reality the footpaths are gritted by NYCC very rarely. The Clerk will write to NYCC asking what can be done or how a local solution to these gritting issues might be arranged. An agenda item will be placed on the January agenda to discuss this further.

The gathering of young people near to the entrance to Manor Garth had been reported. There had been some issues with cans being thrown into residential gardens. This will be monitored as it may be an isolated incident.

NYCC had provided road closure signs for the Dickensian Christmas event on Sat. 6th December.

Cllr Duggan had reported that in the Queen's speech there had been mention of County Councils having to produce in-depth studies when handed petitions from residents.

4 Matters from Public Participation

None

5 Correspondence

5a) Correspondence - requiring decisions:

Email from Riccall Parochial Charities – Riccall PC acting as a custodial trustee to the charity – *noted. The Council are happy to go ahead as originally agreed.*

5b) Correspondence - for information:

Selby District Citizens Advice Bureau – invitation to the A.G.M on 11th December 2008 – *noted.*

Selby District Housing Needs Survey – information on publication of the survey – *noted.*

5c) Late correspondence – to note only.

Anne Saunders / St Mary's P.C.C – thank you for the grant of £400 towards the cost of creating a new area in the church.

Liz Casling – copy of email sent to Mark Steward at Selby DC about maintenance of the Dunelm Farm site.

Riccall Neighbourhood Watch – copy of letter to Mark Crane outlining reasons why the JAG groups should not be replaced with 'Community Engagement Forums.'

Selby DC – information about the next Town & Parish Forum to be held on 22nd January 2009.

YLCA – information about a conference day to be held in York on Saturday 21st February 2009. Various workshops are on offer. *Anyone who is interested in attending this will contact the Clerk.*

6 Accounts and Budget Update

A total expenditure of £6287.08 was agreed.

Expenditure against budget was considered.

The Clerk provided a bank reconciliation and a break down of HM Customs & Excise quarterly payment for Income Tax / NI.

7 Planning

7a) The following planning applications were considered:

Erection of a single storey extension to the front and side with balcony above at South Newlands Cottage, Selby Rd (Case Officer – Cllr Dawson)

Riccall Parish Council had no objections subject to the usual consultation of neighbours and the use of sympathetic building materials.

Application for consent to fell Scots Pine Tree within TPO No 2/1988 on land at Hall Lodge, 5 Main Street, Riccall (Case Officer – Cllr Kilmartin)

Riccall Parish Council agreed that the tree should be felled as it appeared dangerous and was an inappropriate size tree for a residential area. The Council would want to see a replacement tree of a more appropriate size planted.

7b) Other planning matters

A response to the Selby DC Local Development Framework (LDF) – Core strategy ‘further options’ consultation was considered. Caroline Sampson of Selby DC confirmed that there was a typo in the Core Strategy leaflet. The figure of 9480 is for homes up to 2026 across the whole district and should read 430 homes per year. The current proposal is for 11% of housing to be shared by Tadcaster and Sherburn with the remaining 32% being spread across the primary villages. *This response was noted.*

8 Reports and Consultation

Any members or the Clerk may report back from relevant meetings at this point;

The Clerk reported back from the launch of Groundwork North Yorkshire. Groundwork Selby is extending its services to cover the whole of North Yorkshire.

Cllr Keen reported back from the YLCA branch meeting and training event that he and the Clerk attended. This had been well attended and contained a session on planning, led by a Selby DC planning officer.

Steve Sharp attended the meeting to observe and to introduce himself to those Councillors that he did not meet at the interview stage. He can not make the January meeting due to holiday arrangements so will be co-opted in February. He spoke briefly about himself and his involvement in Riccall.

9 Recreational update

Cllr Dawson had completed health and safety checks on the Recreation Ground play equipment in November. A list of recommendations is being worked through at present.

20 cubic metres of safety surface ‘cushion fall’ has been delivered for the base of the aerial slide.

Cllr Dawson is putting together a master document that pulls all of the information relating to health & safety and risk assessment together and will act as the ‘Health & Safety’ policy document for the Council. This will be looked at in detail at a future meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Riccall Lands Charity to find out what arrangements are in place for tree surveys and work on the Recreation Ground trees.

10 Administration & Finance Committee

Cllrs Adamson and Wilkinson took no part in the consideration of the Regen Centre grant as they had declared an interest in this item during the Administration & Finance Committee meeting.

The Clerk spoke about recommendations made by the committee and the following were resolved;

£500 should be granted to the Regen Centre using the 'Community Grants Scheme.'

Councillor H&S checks at the Recreation Ground should take place fortnightly from January 2009.

There will be no meeting held in August each year. This new arrangement will start from 1st April 2009 and standing orders will need to be altered in the New Year to accommodate the change. This is to help the Clerk to annualise her hours as detailed in the Administration & Finance Committee minutes.

The Administration & Finance Committee will review the paid hours of the Clerk in September 2009 and every September thereafter in preparation for budgeting.

A request for financial help with grass cutting costs for St Mary's churchyard for 2009 was considered.

It was resolved that a maximum of £1000 will be granted for grass cutting costs in St Mary's churchyard within the financial year 2009/10.

11 Tree issues

Crown consultants Ltd had produced an 'arboricultural report' on behalf of Riccall PC, looking in details at the trees on the Village Green. There was no major work recommended to be done to any of the trees. It was recommended that the large Lime tree with the Christmas lights in has some minor work completed. The lights will need to be taken out of the tree and re-positioned to allow the tree more room to expand. As a result of the report it was agreed that;

These trees will be inspected annually.

A tree surgeon will complete the necessary work on the Lime tree in the New Year and the Christmas lights will be taken down and then re-positioned.

The status of TPOs on the Village Green will be checked with Richard Pollard at Selby DC.

12 Traffic matters

Cllr Keen reported back from the recent meeting held with John Grogan MP in relation to A19 issues. John Grogan has suggested setting up a meeting with NYCC Highways in the New Year. A press release about the meeting has been issued to the local newspapers.

Further information on the 'formalised crossing point' was considered. An email from James Malcolm at NYCC Highways had stated:

“A formalised crossing point is where pedestrians are offered an opportunity to cross the highway in a safe manner by means of a controlled or uncontrolled physical feature. In this instance Paul was referring to an uncontrolled feature. The feature would be to build out the footway near to the access/egress to the Recreation Ground, in the form of an island which would reduce/pinch the carriageway down to one lane, which would then require traffic to give-way to oncoming traffic, prior to this build out feature. This is normally called a give-take system. The traffic coming from the A19 would be required to give way prior to traffic coming from Riccall. The extended width of footway gives greater priority to pedestrians.

I do not have a cost for this particular location, Gary Lumb and I will investigate this further and get an approx cost for this.

If it was to be wholly funded by NYCC, I will certainly put forward a bid submission for this scheme which will be scored and prioritised in line with other similar requests. If there was to be other funding secured as part of the bid submission then this would help raise the final score of the overall scheme.”

Mr Malcolm had also offered to meet with members of the Council to discuss the scheme further. It was agreed that after the meeting with John Grogan in the New Year, Mr Malcolm may be asked to attend a Riccall Parish Council meeting.

13 Grass cutting tenders

Tenders from four different contractors were considered in order to agree the contract for 2009/10/11;

Tender 1 The main grass cutting work, including the Recreation Ground and highway verges.

Tender 2 The central village public footpaths

Tender 3 Riccall Village Green and Village Name Planters

After discussion, it was agreed that Dean Landscapes would be offered the contract for the next three cutting seasons in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The Clerk would negotiate a reduction in price for completing the work on all three tenders.

14 2009/10 Budget

The budget proposal for 2009/10 was considered and agreed with the following amendments;

Subscriptions – an increase of £150

All grass cutting work – an increase of £1150

The extra expenditure would be balanced by increasing the ‘reserves’ figure within the income section of the budget.

The precept for 2009/10 was agreed at £60,780, which is equal to the current year’s precept. The Clerk will send the precept paperwork to Selby DC.

15 Voting age proposals

The consultation on voting age proposals had been circulated before the meeting and was considered. The Council were not in favour of lowering the voting age. The Clerk will respond to the consultation.

16 Minor items and items for the next Agenda

Cllr Tibbett gave apologies for the January meeting.

The Chairman thanked members and closed the meeting at 9.15pm

Circulated;

Tree survey – Village Green

Groundwork North Yorkshire

Rural Action Yorkshire – Country Air

Annual report 07/08

York & North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association - The Playing Field

York & North Yorkshire Waste Partnership – Performance matters