

Minutes of the meeting of Riccall Parish Council held on 17th November 2008 from 7.30 p.m. at the Regen Centre

Attending: Cllr Keen (Chairman), Cllrs Adamson, Dawson, Kilmartin & Wilson.
Ellis Partington – NY Fire & Rescue – items 1, 2 & 3.
County & District Cllr Liz Casling – items 1, 2, 3 and part of 4.

1 Apologies and declarations of interest

Apologies for absence were received from;

Cllr Lindsay – in Cyprus / business.
Cllr Wilkinson – work commitments.
Cllr Tibbett – work commitments.
Cllr Duggan - work commitments.

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

Cllr Adamson – item 7 – the cheque for the Regen Centre.

2 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20th October 2008

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th October 2008 were accepted as a correct record and adopted.

3 Ellis Partington

Ellis Partington of NY Fire & Rescue service spoke to members and answered questions. Mr Partington had completed a matrix speed assessment day on Main Street in partnership with the police, to record the speed of traffic leaving the A19 and approaching the entrance to the Recreation Ground. Results of this will be emailed to the Clerk.

A ‘radar box’ can be made available to record speeds on certain problem roads. ‘Simple Sid’ is being trialled locally, where a matrix sign with a face on provides a smile to those travelling within the speed limit and a frown to those motorists that are driving too fast. The Clerk will attempt to get details of both schemes.

The Fire & Rescue Service offer various services to residents including a free home safety assessment and replacement smoke alarms. Mr Partington will email further details to the Clerk so that an article can go into the Beacon.

The Chairman thanked Mr Partington and he left the meeting at this point.

4 Report on progress and updates since the last meeting

District and County Cllr Casling gave an update on action taken and developments since the last meeting – for information only;

A response is required to the Selby DC Local Development Framework ‘Core Strategy.’ *This will be discussed later in the meeting.*

With regard to the maintenance and site security of the Dunelm Farm site, the response from Mark Steward at Selby DC was unsatisfactory in the opinion of Cllr Casling. She offered to take this matter up on behalf of Riccall PC, if necessary.

The decision to grant permission on appeal for the erection of two dwellings at the rear of 51/53 Main St was very frustrating. Cllr Casling felt that the road safety and access considerations were not given enough weight. *Unfortunately after a long battle opposing the application by local residents, Riccall PC and Cllr Casling, the decision of the inspector is final.*

When asked about the future of the Joint Action Group meetings, Cllr Casling explained that she feels that these are positive meetings and that she does not feel that it would be the best move to create the new ‘Community Engagement Forums.’ From a County point of view, however, she did feel that it would be easier to have one forum, rather than each district trying to communicate with members of the public in a different way.

An update from North Yorkshire Police had been received by email – for information only;

There had been the following recent incidents;

3 x theft from unattended motor vehicles.

1 x burglary ‘other’ – shed break-in, nothing believed to have been taken.

1 x theft – milk from doorstep.

4 x anti-social behaviour – youth related incidents.

An arrest has been made in relation to the recent incidents of theft & shed/garage break-ins. *The report was circulated and noted.*

Due to the fact that the ‘fear of crime’ had been raised as an issue at the recent J.A.G meeting, a mobile police officer crime prevention open session had been held on 15th October and on 15th November 2008. During the most recent session ‘Smartwater’ packs were given free to visitors. The police are looking into getting ‘Smartwater’ signage for the village as a deterrent. Cllrs Keen, Dawson and Kilmartin had helped with the session.

The next Joint Action Group meeting will be held on 24th February 2009.

It was agreed that Gordon Neal should distribute the remaining ‘smartwater’ packs through Neighbourhood Watch.

The Clerk gave an update on action taken and developments since the last meeting – for information only;

The new skate park sign has been delivered. Gavin Wright will put it up shortly.

Having put the Byelaws consultation document into circulation, the clerk advised members that the deadline for responses is 20th November. *Members had no comments.*

A meeting between the Clerk and Paddy Hodgkiss has taken place in an attempt to move forwards the planning application for a ‘change of use’ for Westfield. Mr Hodgkiss will complete the tree report and the Clerk will begin to put the planning application together in the New Year.

An article on the proposed ‘focus group’ will go into the next Beacon.

The Clerk explained about delays with the movement of the streetlight column on Station Rd. Utility checks will now need to happen before any work can be done and this will involve a significant delay.

Grass cutting tender documents have gone out to local companies for three different areas of grass cutting work within the village. Tender 1 will cover the main grass cutting contract including highway verges and the Recreation Ground. Tender 2 will cover the central village footpaths for cutting and strimming work. Tender 3 will cover the Village Green and village name planters. Prices should be back for consideration before the December meeting.

Cllr Duggan had raised parking on the grass verge near to the A19 on York Road. It was agreed to monitor this for the current time.

The consultation document about the possibility of lowering the voting age has been circulated and will be discussed at the December meeting.

The meeting with John Grogan to discuss A19 issues is scheduled for 21st November at the Regen Centre. The Clerk will invite a representative from Neighbourhood Watch to attend.

5 Matters from Public Participation

Cllr Dawson had been approached by two members of the public who had been very complimentary about the play facilities on Riccall Recreation Ground. *This was noted.*

Selby DC will be asked about the extension that is currently being built on Silver Street.

Complaints have been received about the overgrown hedge on the corner of Silver Street and Main Street. The Clerk will contact the owner.

6 Correspondence

6a) Correspondence - requiring decisions:

Communities and Local Government – Communities in control; codes of conduct for local authority members and employees – a consultation. *A response will be sent to say that Riccall PC can see no problems with this.*

Carnival committee – to consider a request for the display of posters on RPC property to advertise the Dickensian event in December. *It was agreed that the posters can be displayed and an article will be put into the next Beacon about it.*

6b) Correspondence - for information:

Riccall Methodist Church – thank you for proceeds from concert. *Noted.*

St Mary's Church – thank you for proceeds from concert. *Noted.*

Central Finance Unit – payment of compensation for criminal damage in Riccall. *Noted.*

YLCA – information about the branch meeting on 19th November 2008. *Noted – the Clerk and Cllr Keen are attending.*

Selby DC – report on the provision of allotments. *Noted.*

6c) Late correspondence – to note only.

Open Spaces Society – appeal for funds. *The Clerk had written asking for a link to work done in Riccall. No link could be made so a grant will not be possible.*

Selby DIAL - appeal for funds. *The Clerk had written asking for a link to work done in Riccall. No link could be made so a grant will not be possible.*

A letter from 1st Riccall Scout Group thanking the council for the funding agreed under the 'Community Grants Scheme.' A copy of the news sheet advertising the grant was also included. *This was noted.*

7 Accounts and Budget Update

A total expenditure of £3232.85 was agreed.

It was agreed that an invoice for £180 would be paid at the December meeting. This is to pay for dancers that formed part of the summer graffiti workshop and is a change from the spray paint that the council agreed to fund.

The up to date budget position was considered.

8 Planning

8a) Selby DC has granted planning permission for the following application:

Erection of a two storey extension to the side and a single storey extension to the front and rear (following demolition of existing garage) at 38 Kelfield Rd, Riccall

8b) The following planning applications were considered:

Outline application to include access and layout for the erection of a detached dwelling with attached garage following demolition of outbuilding to the rear of 8 Church St, Riccall (Case Officer – Cllr Adamson)

The Council had no objections to the outline application and looks forward to receiving the full application for further details.

The following application had been agreed under delegated authority as it had arrived too late for the agenda.

Application for two-storey extension to south elevation following demolition of existing conservatory at The Byre, 1A Selby Rd, Riccall

No objections, subject to the usual consultation of neighbours and the use of sympathetic building materials.

8c) Other planning matters

The following applications have been withdrawn;

Conservation area consent for the demolition of existing outbuildings at 43 Main Street, Riccall

Erection of a detached dwelling, double garage and single garage following demolition of existing outbuildings at 43 Main Street, Riccall

This was noted.

A response to the Selby DC Local Development Framework (LDF) – Core strategy ‘further options’ consultation was considered. The summary leaflet had been circulated and the Clerk spoke about the fact that Riccall is outlined as a ‘primary village’. Primary villages are identified as those with a settlement of more than 600 people and where certain facilities already exist including a school, a general store, a post office and a doctor’s surgery. Public transport links are also considered, as are accessibility to service centres and proximity to job opportunities. Selby DC is proposing that the core strategy should achieve the following objectives;

*To ensure over half of the development within the district is within Selby town area.

*To re-use land which has previously been developed.

*To allow some development in Tadcaster, Sherburn in Elmet and some larger villages with good local services and restrict development of open market housing to these settlements.

*To avoid developing in smaller settlements and open countryside.

It was agreed that the Clerk will attempt to get some information about the actual number of houses that are planned for Riccall under the above strategy and that this should be considered in December before a consultation response is formulated.

An appeal decision for the application to erect two dwellings to the rear of 51-53 Main Street had been received. The appeal inspector had granted permission for this development, contrary to local safety concerns, the concerns and objections of both the Parish Council and County & District Cllr Casling and the refusal of permission by Selby DC. *This was noted.*

The Clerk had chased up the large housing development on Station Rd with Selby DC. Richard Sunter had responded to state that the developer had challenged the developer contributions towards the primary care trust, on the basis that there was no demonstrable need. This was confirmed by the PCT and therefore there is no basis for the council insisting on this contribution. Works will need to commence within three years to keep the planning permission live.

9 Reports and Consultation

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

Cllr Keen reported back from the Joint Action Group meeting that he had attended along with the Clerk and Cllr Dawson. The future of the JAG meetings is in jeopardy and this will be discussed later in the meeting.

Cllr Keen reported back from a ‘Chairman’ training day that he had attended. The day had been useful.

10 Co-option of new Councillors

Cllr Dawson reported back from interviews held with the two candidates Rupert Somers-Joce and Steve Sharp. They were interviewed by the Administration & Finance Committee for possible co-option. The interview panel had recommended that both candidates should be co-opted onto the Council.

It was agreed that both Rupert Somers-Joce and Steve Sharp would be co-opted onto Riccall Parish Council in January 2009. The Clerk will complete an induction session with both between now and then.

11 Recreational update

Cllr Dawson gave an update on health and safety checks that he had completed on Recreation Ground play equipment. Gavin Wright will be asked to carry out some minor repairs, including replacing some covers and working on some areas where rust has started to develop.

The Clerk reported back from the annual RoSPA inspection that had taken place in September. Some of the work outlined has already been completed. As a result of the report, it was agreed that the Clerk should;

- *investigate the costs of a tarmac area in front of the goal mouth / sports wall.
- *get a quote to install grass matting safety surfacing around the encounter teen shelter.
- *order some replacement cushion fall for under the aerial slide.

Other areas outlined will be monitored during routine health & safety checks.

The Clerk updated members on current recreational projects. The stage 2 application to Community Spaces for the pre-school area / disabled equipment will go in shortly, once additional information is gathered. A planning application for Westfield will be submitted early in 2009.

The Clerk had emailed RoSPA to find out about best practice for weekly health & safety checks. The response had been "it should be fine for councillors to complete routine checks. They are just looking for the obvious (vandalism, broken glass etc) and do not need specialist skills. Your existing procedures should be OK. We are hoping to work with the various county playing field associations to offer simple training courses for councillors etc and hopefully we will have something in place next year in conjunction with your playing field association." *This was noted.*

It was agreed that the current procedures for checking play equipment should continue as they currently stand and be reviewed in a year's time.

It may be useful to consider some additional signage about dogs having to be on leads on the Recreation Ground.

12 Community Grants Scheme and other grants

Further information and costs from Riccall P.C.C about a grant request under the 'Community Grants Scheme' were considered.

Cllr Wilson declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote.

It was agreed that £400 should be offered under the grants scheme to part fund work to remove pews, install lighting and fit a new carpet in the church, in order to create a new area primarily for the use of children.

A request for financial help with grass cutting costs for St Mary's churchyard for 2009 was considered. This could be agreed at the budget meeting on 24th November.

13 Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings

It was agreed that the Clerk will write a letter to Mark Crane, leader of Selby DC and copy in Neil Skinner and Liz Casling, outlining reasons why the JAG meetings should be left to run in their current format, without interference. The Council agreed that the move to community engagement forums would not be in the best interests of local democracy.

Riccall Neighbourhood Watch is also planning to write in support of the JAG meetings.

14 Tree issues

It was agreed that the tree that is to be planted in memory of David Southall, should be a Rowan tree 'Mountain Ash' at the request of the family. The Clerk has checked whether this tree would be acceptable for the site and it is. Cllr Keen will look into getting an appropriate size tree for planting and will arrange a plaque. The planting will take place one Saturday morning in January and David's family will be invited to be present. Councillors who wish to attend could do so.

An inspection of all trees on the Village Green was considered. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for an arboricultural report to take place on the area and that a local tree surgeon should be asked to carry out any minor works that are recommended.

15 Publication scheme

It was resolved that Riccall Parish Council should adopt the mandatory publication scheme and would agree to pro-actively publish information for the public.

The Clerk will put together an action plan and timetable for necessary information to be published via the website where practical and in hard copy where necessary.

16 Litter bins / stub boxes

It was resolved that a cigarette stub box should be purchased and attached to a post if possible, next to the bus stop opposite Costcutter. Before purchasing the box, the Clerk will clarify with Selby DC who will empty it and will speak to the litter collector about the best place to position it.

17 Communication

It was agreed that in circumstances where information needs to go out quickly to the community, the Clerk should continue with the current system, where email contacts are sent a message to pass on to their community group. In very urgent circumstances emails will be replaced by phone calls.

The Clerk had offered to email all street co-ordinators from Riccall Neighbourhood Watch with urgent information. This offer had been refused as the co-ordinators wanted to be contacted only by the NHW chairman, village co-ordinator or secretary. The Clerk will continue with the current email contact group for the village which includes the three NHW officers.

18 Dunelm Farm

An email from Mark Steward about maintenance of the Dunelm Farm site was considered. Mr Steward confirmed that Selby DC is currently considering its options for the future of the site and with the current market conditions the timescale for development is uncertain at this time. He went on to say that he felt that the site was in a reasonable state and that since the temporary fencing had been removed two years ago, there had been no significant issues arising with regard to security. He accepted that a number of overhanging trees create a 'tunnel effect' at some points on the public right of way adjacent to the site and offered to meet on-site to discuss and inspect the area.

It was agreed that in the first instance Cllr Casling should be asked to take this matter up on behalf of Riccall Parish Council. Any on-site meetings should include the Parish Council.

19 Traffic matters

Further information on the 'formalised crossing point' had not been available from North Yorkshire County Council. This item was deferred until December.

20 Minor items and items for the next Agenda

The Clerk will chase up Selby DC for an update on the possibility of taking over the grass cutting on Saunters Way. SDC has already been made aware of the broken fence.

The Chairman thanked members and closed the meeting at 10.28pm

Circulated;

*Campaign to Protect Rural England – ‘It’s time to stand up for our countryside’
& ‘Countryside voice’*

Open Spaces Society – ‘Open Space’

Yorkshire Local Councils Association – ‘White Rose Update’

CPRE – ‘Stop the Drop’ litter and fly tipping toolkit for councils

Communities and Local Government – Protected trees

Information about the publication scheme

NALC – revised salary scales

YLCA – section 137 limits for 2009/10