

Sinnington Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Meeting 9 January 2017

1. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence: None
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th November 2016 (previously circulated) were approved.
4. The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mark Feather from the Woodlands Trust and thanked him for attending. The Chairman explained that the PC was dissatisfied with the current level of communication received from the Trust and requested clarification regarding the responsibility for the maintenance of the wood and any issues that arise. The sign displaying the history behind the wood had been removed, with no notice. Also, the lower path had become unusable in the winter months.
Mark ran through the process of a woodland assessment including the process of replacing and possibly relocating the sign. The old sign referred to the first 10 year life of the woodland and was now out of date. Mark informed the PC that the Trust would be happy to provide a new sign if the PC would like to put forward some suggested wording, which the Trust could add onto a corporate designed sign. Mark suggested the PC look at the sign in Cropton as an example.
Mark explained that to reposition the lower path would be very disturbing for the woodland and unnecessary when an alternative path was available to use. But if the PC would like to suggest a new path location, Mark would look to see if it was possible to relocate.
In regards to the future maintenance of the wood, Mark informed the PC that, the Trust are required to carry out regular tree inspections every two years for insurance purposes. Also that the PC should inform the Trust of any issues. It is the Trusts responsibility to resolve and carry out any required maintenance work.

Mark agreed to provide an annual report to the PC to improve communication.

5. Matters arising:
 - a. Honesty box. £33.30 for last 2 months. MS agreed to cover January and HB February.
 - b. Condition of Footpaths. It was reported that a large section of tree branch had fallen and was dangerously obstructing the path in the field between the end of Nuns Walk and Roffe Wood.
Action: Clerk to write to Mr Wilson (landowner) asking that the path be cleared. The Clerk had written to the contractors responsible for the damage to the grassed area just off the A170 to Marton Road. A response was received (previously circulated) and the PC accepted their offer of £250 to undertake reinstatement of the affected areas when all works are complete.
Action: NYCC to be contacted once all works are complete, to ensure the road is cleared of mud.
 - c. Village hall extension. An application for further funding has been completed. The local builder Lee Mitchell is happy to undertake the work in two stages, to dig the footings in May and then continue with the build in the 6 weeks school holidays.
Action: The Chairman to make enquires regarding health and safety requirements.

d. Village trees.

MB, proposal received by Arboricultural Consultants (previously circulated) to carry out the village tree inspection, £385 plus VAT. All agreed to accept the quote and confirmed areas highlighted for inclusion in the inspection.

Action: MB to contact Arboricultural Consultants and accept the proposal.

e. Slowing the Flow and Land Drainage Issues.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Alan Eves, Forestry Commission (FC), Yorkshire Forest District, to the meeting and invited Alan to provide an update on the STF project and other localised flooding measures.

The following summarises the position to date. Further details can be obtained from the Clerk.

The Slowing the Flow project is all but completed and DEFRA funding has ended. Ongoing work and upstream maintenance measures have been informally carried out under the FC and future DEFRA funding for existing projects is uncertain and is of concern. The PC needs to explore new funding options to ensure that the risk of flooding in the village is kept low. This matter was raised at the last STF meeting and will be reviewed at the next.

Following the localised flooding on 26th December 2016, the upstream woody dams were assessed, 2 were damaged and 9 of 13 smaller dams had to be replaced which was done by a contractor for £5050.

A request was made from the PC to the STF board for help with land drainage issues to reduce localised flooding. Natural England have confirmed funding for the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) initiative with co-operation with local land owners. Recent work on ditch maintenance also needs to be considered by CSF. North Yorkshire County Council is to survey areas affected by localised flooding to make design proposals for drainage.

The North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) has launched a 'Ryevitalize' project essentially for the River Rye. Although this does not include the River Seven,

it does sit directly adjacent to this. Given that the Dove & Seven both feed into the Rye, there may be opportunities to work with the NYMNP & NE to further the objectives of this project. To be further raised at the next STF Project Board meeting.

Natural England has confirmed that the Natural Flood Management Facilitation Fund Round has officially opened. There is a meeting at the EA Office in York on January 11th for interested parties. It was agreed that it would be beneficial if a member of SPC attended.

Actions: MB agreed to attend the York meeting on 11th January and the Chairman would attend the next STF meeting to identify funding opportunities for local schemes.

The Chairman thanked Alan on behalf of the PC for all his hard work.

f. Asset Register.

The Clerk had received guidance from the YLCA (previously circulated).

Action: The Chairman and MS to conduct a tour of the village and update the asset register. Also, they would address issues with Simon Atkinson regarding the flood evacuation route at Elmsall Lodge Farm.

- g. Village Gateway sign.
The Chairman had contacted Whitby sign manufacturer, Croft Castings, and received a draft design and quote for the new sign. All agreed to accept the quote and design of the new sign, £850 plus VAT. Would there be a local builder willing to help with heightening the existing stone to make the village sign more visible?
Action: The Chairman to contact the manufacturer to commence work and seek approval from NYCC Highways.
- h. BT Line, Netherby Lane. The line has now been removed. Item closed.
- i. Dawson Wood Footpath. The area has been cleared.
Action: BB to clear the path of mud.

6. Finance

- a. Clerks Salary and expenses - £125.39 Paid.
 - b. Autela invoice 10091 - £10.00 Paid.
 - c. Littlejohns – The charge was due to the previous year's income/expenditure exceeding the 10k bracket.
 - d. Membership renewal Rural Action Yorkshire - £35.00 Paid.
7. Planning Appeal Application (previous circulated). No objections.
8. Parish Council Meeting start time – PC meetings to commence at 6:30pm.
9. AOB

- a. The BT phone box is to remain a public service, no further action is required.
- b. The Chairman had received a consultation from Julia Mulligan - Police and Crime Commissioner, asking for the PC's views on how the Police Precept should be set for 2017/18. Cllrs agreed on the option to increase the precept by 1.99% in order to raise just over £1.2 million for next year and subsequent years, but avoid a costly local referendum. This would mean the average household paying 8p a week more.
Action: The Clerk to respond to the consultation before the deadline of 11th January 2017.
- c. The Clerk had submitted the Parish Precept request to RDC and acknowledgement of receipt had been circulated.
- d. The request for a memorial Chestnut tree to be planted in the village received no objections.
Action: The Clerk to write to Mr Leng to confirm the PC has no objections.
Action: The Chairman and MS to look at possible locations for the tree to be planted.
- e. It was reported that the current provider of the village Christmas tree had no more trees available.
Action: The Clerk to add to the agenda for discussion at the annual meeting.
- f. The Chairman had carried out a site visit with Alan Eves, to view the four trees on the corner of Friars Hill on the road side. The Elm tree is dead and needs to be taken down.
Action: The Chairman to contact the owner and submit a permissions form to NYMNPA.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Date of the next meeting: Monday 13 March 2017 at 6:30pm.