**Sinnington Parish Council**

 Parish Council Meeting Minutes 14th March 2016

1. **Apologies for absence:** from Helen Browes and Mike Swinnerton.
2. **The Chairman** welcomed all to the meeting including Mr Alan Eves who was in attendance to give a talk about surface water problems in the village.
3. **The Clerk** Mr Derek Waters has now taken over duties and has been offered a contract of employment on a self employed basis. The details of the contract have been checked and approved by the internal auditor as suitable and meet all the relevant conditions of employment.
4. **The minutes of the last meeting** held on the 11th January 2016 (previously circulated) were approved.
5. **Matters arising**:-

(a)Honesty Box. The amount collected was £42.15. The next two months to be collected by Cllr. Browes.

(b)Foot paths in Stables and Roffe Woods. As there was still no further progress with the situation it was suggested that a village management committee be set up to look at the best way of dealing with the upkeep of the paths in the woods. Cllr Baldwin spoke of a recent article on forestry management that suggested that local villagers could become more involved and that there were grants available for this. Cllr Baldwin will look at the problems with one of his workers and produce proposals to deal with the situation for the next meeting.

(c)  Village hall extension and green parking. The chairman reported that there is still a problem relating to the deregistration of the land involved which is stalling the project to extend the village hall. Legal advice has been sought through YLCA. We have permission to undertake the development, but the problem is with the cost of the application which is £4,900 regardless of the size of the project. Possible solutions were discussed one of which was to contact the local MP for advice and possible referral to the Sec of State for Environment Liz Truss. We would also need to contact E.F.R.A. If necessary the parish council would have to look at paying the fee to move forward on the project. The car park is nearly complete and will only require some topping up of the soil. It was agreed that the edge would be best turfed Cllr Baldwin will measure the area as he is ordering some turf for his own use and can add on what is required for the car park. A sign to inform the public of the weight restriction of 4 tons will need to be obtained. The clerk will look into this.

(d)  Highways and salt bins. The chairman had attended a recent meeting at the Highways Dpt. and reported that there are no funds available to repair the potholes as the priority will always be to maintain the main A roads. A broken manhole cover on Croft Green had been repaired and the salt bin on the bend at Croft Green had been replaced after the recent accident had damaged the original bin. The salt bins that will continue to be serviced will be at Friars hill by the school, one by the church and the hopefully the one on the bend at Croft Green. Some good news from the meeting was that the footpath at Croft Green would be repaired and also the fence further up towards Friars Hill would be replaced where it is rotten.

(e)Street lights. The old lamppost on Dark lane is there and cannot be removed until BT removes the old phone line.

(f)   The PC Web site. The Chairman reported that the web site was up to date and will be maintained by himself and the clerk once he has had the necessary training.

(g) Sandbags. The village now has sandbags in 3 locations. At Bill Baldwin’s farm, Elmsall farm and Strawberry Fields. The village has an agreement with Elmsall Hall Farm that access through their land can be used in the case of flooding cutting off the village to allow a way in and out of that end of the village. It was agreed to check with the new owners if they were aware of this agreement and happy to continue as such. The clerk will follow this up.

(h) Emergency plan update. The clerk will review the current plan.

1. **Finance**:-

(a) The clerk will receive first payment in April.

(b)  Mr G Richardson to be paid outstanding expenses of £6.48 plus salary up to the end of March as previously agreed.

(c) Invoices:

(1) Village hall hire £64.00

(2) YLCA membership £119.00

(3) Newsletter donation £75.00

(4) S&A Doughty £3184.56

Receipts: Transparency funding £448.00

(d) The chairman reported that the costs for the new car park had increased from the original estimates obtained in 2014 from £7009.34 to £8552.84. The contractors had tried to remain as close to the original estimates given but the additional cost of topsoil and tarmac on the edge had added to the original cost. The parish council would be able to offset some of the increase when the VAT was reclaimed but there will still be a shortfall of £868 to be repaid to the village hall committee. The thoughts of the parish council are that as the main users and beneficiaries of the new car park are in fact the village hall committee. It was suggested that the parish write to the village committee asking for £1,000 towards the increased costs.

(e) External auditors. It was agreed by the council to remain with the same external auditors as we have not had to pay anything towards audit costs in the last 2 years.

(f) Cheque signatures. As we only have 2 councillors able to sign cheques it was agreed to register the remaining councillors with the bank to allow them to sign when required.

**7*.* Planning applications**:-

(a) 15/00888/FUL  Alison Brown,    Erection of detached reception building to Include kitchen, washroom facilities and integral stabling and horse box garage, following demolition of existing stables, together with a 1no bay extension to covered riding area and formation of vehicular access.  Friars Hill Riding Stables, Friars Hill Road, Sinnington, YO62 6SJ *Withdrawn*

(b)  15/01372/HOUSE and 15/01373/LBC, Erection of single storey extension to north east elevation to form entrance hall, Willow Cottage, Main Street, Sinnington YO62 6SQ Members had no objections.                                                   *Refused*

(c) 16/00090/FUL  Mr & Mrs N B Hobbs, Erection of an agricultural building for the storage of equipment and machinery. Chapel Garth, The Garth, Sinnington YO62 6SG*Registered Council members queried what purpose a further storage building was intended for as the owners did not have extensive farming equipment to store.*

(d)16/00067/CAT Alan Eves, To fell 2x Silver Birch. Little Orchard, The Green, Sinnington, YO62 6SG *Registered No objections were raised to this application.*

8. Slowing the flow: Alan Eves gave a short talk about surface water problems in the village. Although the original project had made a positive impact on the river levels during the recent heavy rainfall, the new problem seemed to be surface water coming off the land onto peoples land/gardens. He explained that the new emphasis was on agricultural land use and how it affected the overall issue of flooding. Alan Eves would arrange a meeting with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer to look at the drainage situation off the upper fields in the area. Is there too much water running off the fields. Look at increasing the size of the drainage pipes in the fields. Clean out ditches at the back of houses in the village. He will look at the problems and options available and discuss at a future meeting.

9. Meeting at YLCA 2nd February. The meeting was attended by the chairman and clerk. It was reported that advice and guidance had been given about the external auditor situation which had led to the parish remaining within the current system.

10. Annual report and open meeting. It was suggested that the annual report should ask what people in the village would like to talk about in the open meeting. Examples may be flooding, grass cutting, new car park, speeding by tractors through the village.

11. AOB. Councillor Helen Browes will be attending the upcoming North York Moors meeting. There is to be a marquee on the village green on the 4th June for a residents wedding reception. There were no objections raised by the councillors to this.

**10.** **Dates of next meetings**: Open meeting Monday 18th April 2016 at 7.30pm

 Annual meeting Monday May 9th 2016, 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.