Sinnington Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting 12th September 2016

1. Apologies for absence: Clerk to the Council.
2. The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting including one member of the public – Alan Eves.
3. Minutes of the last meeting held on the 11th July (previously circulated) were approved.
4. Matters arising:
   1. Honesty box. Approximately £200 for last 2 months. Mike S agreed to cover the next 2 months.
   2. Footpaths in Stables and Roffe Woods. There has been no change with regard to the Woodland Trust. A local working party is needed to do some clearing. It is now down to ‘self management’. Additionally, the permissive footpath alongside the Stripe needs some maintenance to level it along with the clearing of some overhanging trees. Suggested a working party in early December – needs an article in the village newsletter (tools required). The sunken footpath off Dark (Netherby) Lane also needs some clearing.
   3. Village hall extension. Building Control had had a number of queries regarding the designs and some revised drawings have been submitted. The main issue is the size of the disabled access toilet. The Chair will discuss the new drawings with the builder. Funders are involved and a meeting has been arranged with Yorventure. Hoping for the work to be done next summer during the playgroup holidays.
   4. Roadside footpaths. Working party needed to do some clearing. Les Scaling is willing to do some but needs some equipment.
   5. Village trees. The Clerk has had contact with John Clayton at RDC who has provided a list of arboriculture contractors (including James Brown). There was an inspection some years back but the list of those included and their condition cannot be found in the records. The Council needs an inventory and condition report.
   6. Gas logger. This has been relocated to behind the bus shelter on Main Street. Item closed.
   7. Slowing the Flow/Land drains. Visit from EFRA VIP team to the village on 24 August to look at the flood prevention work. RH and WB attended. Summary of the position is as follows;

A response to the Clerks letter (25/5/2016) requesting relevant partners to help review agricultural practices and land drainage effects to surface water runoff in Sinnington.  This was discussed at a Slowing the flow (STF) board meeting in July 2016 followed by a separate cross-party meeting between the statutory bodies to discuss a range of possible solutions.  A letter from the Natural England will be sent to the PC in the near future outlining a plan of action to take this forward under Catchment Sensitive Farming.

Ongoing funding to maintain monitoring & measures.  The STF demonstration project received 2 phases of Defra funding.  P1.  4/2009 – 3/2011 followed by P2.  4/2011 – 3/2015 to continue the work.   Defra funding has now ceased.  Although there are no formal arrangements in place, partners continue to cover costs associated with monitoring, support work – attending/hosting meetings etc.   There is presumption that partners look to maintain & add to the measures and that Forestry Commission Research carry out ongoing monitoring under FC core funding – which they do in cooperation with the Public Forest Estate (PFE).  There is no formal provision for providing further measures or ongoing maintenance.  There are challenges under current funding mechanisms to get further Defra funding for existing projects.  There is an obvious risk here to extending and maintaining long term natural measures for the river Seven.  As a community, Sinnington PC needs to consider longer term external support beyond the scope of the original demonstration project to maintain the use of natural measures for ongoing flood management under some form of local flood management strategy / scheme for the Seven/ Rye.  As discussed – in the meantime it would be worth the PC considering adding these concerns as a marker in response to the EFRA committee letter of thanks, and copied to the Chair of the SLF board Jeremy Walker.

1. Finance
   1. WB prepared the foundations for the new village bin so reducing the overall cost.
   2. Auditor – some further explanation was need regarding some particular expenditure. This has now been sorted.
   3. Asset Register – check needed on each item to bring the list up to date.
2. Planning Applications. There was some discussions on each with no particular issues raised.
3. Parish Clerk – discussion regarding PAYE status. RH to arrange meeting with Yorkshire Local Councils Association to obtain clear advice.
4. AOB
   1. Village gateway. RH had circulated link to some illustrations of different options. Some views expressed suggesting that current base is built up and a new sign fitted atop. Piece needed in the village newsletter inviting ideas.
   2. Sight lines along A170 west of the east junction. There has been some cutting to provide more visibility but more is needed.
   3. Street lights not working. One pole at the top end of Netherby/Dark Lane. All the services have been removed bar that of BT. RH working on this.
   4. Dog mess. More being found left. Reminder needed in newsletter.
   5. Himalayan Balsam. Contractors will remove this from the river bank next year. They are also working further up the river.
   6. Vehicles parked overnight on the green near the village hall. It is not clear what powers the Council has regarding this.
   7. National Park local plan. This has been republished and a questionnaire has been sent out with responses required by 18 November. RH will send out the link.
   8. There had been thank you letter from the couple who had their wedding on the village green in August.
   9. Dawson Wood footpath. Needs clearing as cannot be used. Responsibility of the Holt estate.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date of next meeting; Monday 14th November 2016 at 7.00 pm.