

WESTOW

PARISH COUNCIL

Westow Parish Council Meeting –Tuesday 10th January 2017 – 7.30pm

Attendees:

S Graham (Chair) SG Angela Fothergill (Clerk) Robin Graham (Treasurer) Margaret Thompson (MT); Neil Johnson~(NJ); Mike Smith (MS); Pennie Hamer (PH); Helen Crews (HC); 2 members of the public

Apologies:

John Smith (J Smith)); Christine Smith (C Smith)
The minutes from November's meeting were proposed by PH and seconded by MS as a correct record.

Clerks Update – AF had received membership renewal application from SLCC it was agreed by the Council to pay the subscription of £48 **AF to forward cheque to SLCC**

Budget and Finance

Precept 2017/2018 – RG informed the Council that the precept form had been submitted to RDC for the 2017/2018 year and the amount submitted was for £2300. There had been no increase on last year.

In relation to the Transparency Code it would be necessary for the Parish Council to have their own website, RG and AF had submitted an application to YLCA in relation to obtaining a grant for this purpose which would cover the cost of a laptop, software, training, creating a website etc.

RG had already purchased a printer/scanner, laptop, mouse. The software to be used is Microsoft 365 which would incur a monthly payment. We would also require a domain name for the website and domain space both of which have an annual cost. Some discussion took place as to whether it was necessary to have a service contract for the computer and it was felt at this stage that this would not be necessary. There would also be a cost of between £200 - £400 for the creation of the website.

Regarding the £1000 donation from Yorkshire Water the RG said that £443 had been spent for purchasing the wood for the swift boxes and £90 to Nigel Fargher for his time and travelling expenses for picking up the telegraph poles for the swift boxes.

RG said that the income from bookings for the Village Hall had increased but this was not likely to be the case in the forthcoming year.

The PC account stood at just over £2000.

Planning Applications

A planning application had been received from a Mr J Lambert for an agricultural workers dwelling (site area 0.089ha) on land at Westfield Farm Low Lane Westow YO60 7LX, initially this had been refused on appeal, he has since put in for outline planning. After much discussion it was agreed by the Council that RG would speak to Charlotte Cornforth from RDC with the PC's concerns i.e. access, impact on beck, size of field for the business, require the figures put forward to be substantiated, query the number of people needed on site – is there need for a full time requirement?

AOB

AF had received a call from Christine Defty who explained that it was going to be necessary to raise some funds for the Playing Fields as two of the swings had been removed as after an inspection they were deemed as dangerous and also the button swing on the zip slide needed replacing. All in all this would cost in excess of £1000. After discussion it was agreed to donate £300 to the Playing Field Association from the surplus funds the PC had received from the Yorkshire Water donation.

RG mentioned that James Malcolm from Highways would be coming to the Village Hall on Thursday at 7.30 p.m. to introduce himself to the Councillors. He explained his position and Highways responsibilities regarding safety and filling potholes as quickly as possible. This repair process is done on a priority basis. He agreed the public face of Highways could be improved if his contractors were more vigilant about signs and their general use of materials. He agreed that communications were key to a good working environment and the Highways department were committed to improving the communications with the public.

The meeting ended at 9.00p.m.

Next meeting 1st March 2017

Finance Decisions (for audit purposes)	
Decision	Amount (£)
SLCC	£48