

# WESTOW

## PARISH COUNCIL

### Westow Parish Council Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017– 7.30pm - Village Hall

#### Attendees:

S Graham (Chair) SG Angela Fothergill (Clerk) Robin Graham (Treasurer) Christine Smith (CS) John Smith (JS); Neil Johnson (NJ); Mike Smith (MS) Margaret Thompson (MT); Pennie Hamer (PH) one member of the public.

Apologies – Helen Crews

The minutes from July's meeting were adopted as a correct record proposed by Christine Smith (CS) and seconded by Robin Graham (RG)

#### Matters Arising from Minutes

Pennie Hamer had been in touch Gary from Computer FX who had agreed to create the website for £500 plus VAT, this to include free training and one year's free web hosting which would then continue at £99 per annum. Gary had emailed PH to say that the website was nearly complete and it was agreed by the PC that PH, JS and AF would attending the relevant training session.

It was agreed by the PC that information regarding the new website would be put in the November newsletter and JS agreed to draft up a Press Release for inclusion in the Malton Gazette and Mercury.

#### JS to draft up Press Release

#### Clerks Update

Nothing to report

#### Budget and Finance

It was agreed to pay the Clerks Salary of £244 HMRC of £61 and Ladywell Accountancy Services of £25.

RG had received communication from the Pensions Regulation re the Clerks pension and it was confirmed that it would not be required to register the Clerk for a pension, an email would be sent to confirm this.

#### Planning Applications:

Three planning applications had been received since the last meeting

1. An application to up root the hedge that run down the middle of The Rakes. RG had replied on the Council's behalf saying that the Council did not approve the application as Under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations the hedge falls into the category of an important hedge. On the 1855

OS map the hedge can be seen as containing hedgerow trees, this means it is likely to have been in existence earlier than this therefore confirming it as an 'important hedge'. In a 30 m measured strip of the hedge there are 7 woody species to be found. It is used as a habitat for many farmland birds.

He had received a reply from Don Davies who has taken over from John Clayton from RDC who had visited the hedge and carried out a survey and confirmed that he found an average of 6 species in 3 sample plots. He said that the hedge does qualify as an important hedge due the number of species and in his opinion is one of the most diverse hedges in the District.

2. **Simon Webb – Fishers – Removal of 3 trees in lower garden to reduce canopy and replace with 4 small fruit trees** – As the deadline for the PC's reply was the 12<sup>th</sup> September RG had replied to say that if the trees were removed he was concerned re the view from Church Lane and that if the trees were to get too thin this could impact on the High Landscape Value, he suggested that it would possibly be okay to lose one Hornbeam and one fruit tree but to keep one of the Hornbeams.
3. **Woodmasons Cotttage Main St Westow** – single extension to the rear of the property – the PC had no objection to this application..

#### **AOB**

Simon Hogge mentioned that as himself and Jane Wegelius would very soon no longer be part of the Village Church Council that it would be necessary to see if anyone else in the village would be able to help in this regard. **There is to be a tidy up day at the Church yard on Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> September a notice has been put on the village notice board and Church notice board.**

RG mentioned that he swift boxes were nearly completed and would be erected in the near future.

**The meeting ended at 8.45 pm, the next meeting is on the 15th November 2017**

<b>Finance Decisions (for audit purposes)</b>	
<b>Decision</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
<b>Clerks Salary</b>	<b>£244.00</b>
HMRC	<b>£61.00</b>
Ladywell	£25.00