

WESTOW

PARISH COUNCIL

Westow Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 11th November 2020, 7.30pm – Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Helen Crews (Chair) Angela Fothergill (Clerk) Margaret Thompson (MT); John Smith (J Smith); Christine Smith (C Smith); Neil Johnson (NJ); Geraldine Burton (GB); Richard J Bannister (RJB); Pennie Hamer (PH); Jaynie Pateraki (JP)

Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes from September's meeting were proposed by PH and seconded by NJ as a correct record subject to an amendment to say that the Howsham Wood gate was allowed to be locked during forestry works and activities - not to say allowed access allowed at all times.

Matters Arising and Action Log

Benches - At the September meeting, Julie Price had contacted the Council asking if we could have some benches around the village, she had raised £250 from her Art Exhibition and was willing to put some money towards the benches. It was agreed by the Council after some discussion that it would be good idea to have a bench positioned at the top of The Raikes looking down towards the Church.

RB to speak to Ricky Francis to see if he would be agreeable to this. Once we know Ricky Francis's view, HC will email Julie Price and let her know the outcome.

Salt Bins - AF to re-circulate the email she had received from NYCC re the cost of extra salt bins.

Howsham Wood Padlocked Gate - In September Pete Lamb had contacted the PC and was concerned there was a padlocked gate on the entrance of Howsham woods. HC had written to both James Stephenson and Anne Henson in this regard – she had received responses back from both James Stephenson and Tom Mason (Anne Henson's Agent) and the padlock has been removed. The responses included a suggestion to have a stile positioned at the side of the gate although the Council had concerns re wheelchair and pushchair access.

PH to email Pete Lamb to inform of the outcome.

Signs on A64 - AF reported that the HGV restrictions signs were now in position at the top of the A64 deterring HGVS from going over Kirkham bridge. The PC thanked the Clerk for her perseverance in this matter.

Clerks Update

AF had provisionally arranged the dates for the 2021 meetings which are as follows: _

13th January

17th March

12th May - AGM

14th July

8th September

10th November

AF had reported on the Parish Portal various faded speed restrictions signs in the village, to date she had heard nothing back. **AF to chase up.**

AOB – the PC agreed that going forward AOB would not be an Agenda item unless there was an urgent item that needed immediate discussion. Non urgent issues brought to the PC's attention in advance of a meeting would be included in the Agenda if appropriate.

Budget and Finance

JR stated that the Current Account stands at £3304.20 after receipt of second part of precept (£1150) from RDC and payments of the annual fee to Computer FX (£58.80) and subscription to CPRE (£36). The Transparency Fund is now £1571.

Expenditure not yet deducted from the Current Account is as follows:

£26.98 for a wall-mounted sanitiser dispenser and 5l sanitiser GEL for the Village Hall;
£586 for the entrance door (includes £300 provided by grant from RDC);
£392.55 for 3 dog waste bins (£90.85 each plus £40 fitting, sites for bins to be decided);
This means £727 is currently available

An application has been made to HM Revenue & Customs to recover the VAT paid on work and materials for the Village Hall floor and door to the value of £446.26

The Parish Hall Account balance is £572.33. This includes a credit of £255.86 from NPower in respect of amendment to electricity bills that were overestimated throughout the first lockdown and before. The monthly DD to NPower has been reduced to reflect low current electricity usage.

The Precept forms had been received for the 2021/22 year followed for a further email from RDC indicating some more information would be available before 20th November regarding the Precept. JS to draft up a proposal for the 2021/22 Precept and circulate to Councillors for their approval.

AF to forward agreed forms to RDC.

Planning Applications

An Application had been received from Mr A Witney, Proprietor of the Stone Trough Inn for The erection of a canopy on the south side of the Inn with a retractable roof and glazed side panels that open. After discussion it was agreed that the Council had no objections to the proposal subject to there not being an increase in excessive noise.

HC to reply to RDC

Firby Footpath

HC had received a request from Mark Newby, on behalf of Phil Dibbs of Firby Hall, to consider his proposal to extinguish part of the Centenary Way footpath between Firby and Kirkham that passes through his property. A lengthy discussion was had and it was agreed unanimously not to support the proposal because of the historic nature of the footpath which is used and referred to in various walking guides. The proposed alternative route is not a footpath and increases the time walkers would be on a narrow highway. The highway can be unsafe for walkers because of fast moving traffic in both directions and steep bank sides.

HC to reply back to Mark Newby and to copy in Claire Phillips, NYCC Definitive Map Officer

The meeting ended at 8.45

Next meeting 13th January 2021