

Church Fenton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Church Fenton Parish Council held on Thursday 18th July 2019 at the Village Hall, Main Street, Church Fenton

Present: Cllr Ross Higham (Chair), Cllr Andrew Mason, Cllr Craig Blakey, Cllr Samantha Charlston, Cllr Michelle Seguss, Cllr Paul Herbert

Jeremy Sherlock (Clerk); NYCC Cllr Andrew Lee;

15 members of the public;

28. Apologies, Declarations, and Dispensations

Cllr Sarah Chester (work); SDC Cllr Richard Musgrave

29. Public Session

Comments were made with regard to the Mint Festival which is scheduled for 28th September 2019. There has been no formal communication with the Parish Council. However it is understood that an Event Management Plan has been submitted to Selby DC. It was suggested that the following issues should be raised with Mint and SelbyDC:

- Are the same licence conditions as last year?
- As there is no anticipated rail strike it is likely that more people will go through the village
- There was an issue last year with people without transport walking through the village well after the event had ended
- There was an issue last year with Taxis speeding through the village.
- There were some poorly lit areas near to the venue
- Will free tickets be offered to residents?
- Will there be a charitable donation?

The Clerk will write to Selby DC and Mint.

There was a suggested solution to the parking problem of creating a car park behind the Village Hall.

30. Reports

None.

31. Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th June 2019

Resolved that the minutes of 20th June 2019 represent a true record of the meeting.

32. Matters Arising

None

33. For Discussion

- a. **Highway Issues** – the Clerk has circulated a report that considered a variety of highway issues recently considered by the Council. Many of the possible remedial actions will need to be considered by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) as Highway Authority. Enforcement is generally a Police responsibility. There are only a limited number of actions that can be taken by the Parish Council.

Parking

The amount of parking near to the Station has increased in recent years leading to street parking particularly in Sandwath Lane and along Station Road. A particular issue is people parking near junctions creating problems with visibility. There is also a problem for agricultural vehicles. The ideal solution would be to create additional parking near to the Station, but due to development commitments this is no longer possible. NYCC have developed a scheme to restrict parking on Sandwath Lane, but this may create issues elsewhere.

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Parking near to the School is a problem for short periods of the day. Again a significant issue is people parking poorly. The situation may improve when the White Horse car park becomes available.

Some other parking issues have been reported (e.g. Northfield Terrace, Oakwopod Close).

The only way to manage parking would be to introduce parking restrictions, though these would be difficult to enforce, especially for the school parking where people feel that poor parking is acceptable as they are only there for a short time. Some residents have no off street parking. Restrictions may move problems elsewhere. In addition use of yellow lines etc would have the impact of “urbanising” the village. Parking restrictions would need to be considered and implemented by NYCC as Highway Authority. Parking also has the role of informally reducing traffic speed as there is less clear highway available.

Roundabout

The Council view the mini roundabout as dangerous due to visibility issues and poor usage, and have asked NYCC to replace it with a conventional junction. The only concern is that, without other measures, traffic speeds will increase along Station Road/ Main Street as there is no longer the need to slow down for the roundabout.

Speeding

Speeding has been identified as an issue in a number of areas including near to the School, Northfield Terrace and Nanny Lane. The Council has commenced a 20 is Plenty campaign, and has lobbied NYCC to introduce a 20mph limit in the Village. The linear nature of the village probably create more speed issues as people become impatient. There are issues with enforcement of any speed limit. However the 40 mph limit at the west end of the village has had an impact on traffic speeds.

Measures that can be considered are Informal 20mph signs (these have been introduced in a number of villages as a reminder to motorists. This is a cheap option.), Speed warning signs (these electronic signs flash when speeds are being exceeded but are relatively expensive to install and maintain) and Physical measures (such as chicanes).

Issues and options discussed included provision of off street parking, police enforcement, management of demand, education, speed triggered traffic lights, community speed watch, school crossing, and parking on pavements. It was agreed that a holistic approach was sensible, and that this should be taken forward by a sub group.

Cllr Lee advised that any actions by the County Council are based on statistics but asked if he could be included in any requests for information or assistance.

Thanks were given to Church Fenton Lottery for sponsoring the 20 is Plenty signs.

Resolved that a sub group of Cllrs Herbert, Higham, Blakey and Seguss be established to consider highway issues in more detail and report back to the September meeting

- b. **Recreation Space** – the Clerk had circulated a report on public recreation facilities in Church Fenton as a number of suggestions had been received. The Parish Council owns and manages 3 recreation areas:

- Main Street Recreation Ground
- Sandwath Estate
- Old School Field

There are the following club facilities whose use is primarily limited to club members:

- Cricket Ground – owned by the Parish Council, and leased to the Cricket Club at a peppercorn.
- Football Ground – leased from a local farmer.
- Bowls Club

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The Council is finalising a proposal to install an All Weather Play facility at Main Street. The proposed Strata Homes development includes fairly substantial areas of open space, but the layout does not make these particularly usable. The recent planning application on the Airfield site includes a small play area. This is in Ulleskelf Parish.

It has been suggested that problems created by dogs may be better dealt with by offering positive options rather than prohibitions.

There have been some recent suggestions regarding enhancement of facilities. This should not be seen as an exhaustive list of options.

- Provision of more play facilities for older children. The Skatepark and all weather play area are targeted at this group, but other areas have larger play equipment and teen shelters.
- Provision of exercise equipment targeted at adults. These are increasingly common.
- Conversion of the footpath between the Airfield Houses and Northfield Lane into a safe cycle route into the village. This type of facility is common in the Netherlands.

A number of issues were considered:

- The Council has a limited amount of land, with only Old School Field an “informal” site – there is a danger of trying to cram too much in existing areas. Would other land be available?
- What is felt to be the priority? Should the Council be trying to do everything?
- At some point the equipment on existing sites will need replacing, though this is not imminent. This will need to be considered in future budget provision.
- Finance would need to be found, though grants are often available. CIL may be available, but only if there is additional development. Land/ facilities can also be provided as “planning gain”.
- There would be an additional maintenance cost to additional provision.

It was agreed that as this is a medium term issue no action is needed at this point, but it can be considered at a future meeting in association with budget considerations.

Resolved that the issues be considered further as part of the 2020-21 budget considerations.

- c. **All Weather Play Area** – Premier Play have provided more information about their proposed scheme including revised costings and a timeline. The project is still deliverable within the current S106 and CIL budgets. The timeline is based on approval today and a start in September which is not feasible as the Council is committed to carrying out a final round of consultation. “Final” plans will be needed before this can be done. The maintenance costs quoted seemed high. It was queried whether the guarantee would be invalidated if a formal maintenance scheme was not used. The Clerk commented that similar schemes elsewhere use tarmac which is easier to maintain.

It was suggested that the consultation should include the provision of adult exercise equipment as an option. However this had previously been considered by the Council and it had been resolved to progress the All Weather scheme.

Resolved that the sub group carry out the consultation and finalise the scheme for consideration at the next meeting

- d. **Sherburn Visiting Scheme** – at its meeting on 21st March 2019 the Council was advised by the Clerk of a request for financial support from the Sherburn Visiting Scheme after it lost County Council funding. The Scheme provides a variety of support to mainly elderly people in the Sherburn area. Councillors were sympathetic to the request and asked for a formal submission and more detail.

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A further letter has now been received by the Clerk requesting £1,000, or what the Council felt as suitable. Due to current pressure on budgets it was not felt possible to support the scheme this year. In addition there was a lack of information regarding benefits to Church Fenton residents.

Resolved that the request for funding be declined, but that the Scheme be asked to provide more information on benefits to Church Fenton residents so that it can be reconsidered in future years

- e. **VE Day** as this is not until May 2020 it was agreed to defer until the next meeting.
- f. **Bench, Busk Lane** – Cllr Higham reported that he had spoken to the developer who will replace the bench shortly. This would then become part of the Council's property.
- g. **Defibrillator** – Yorkshire Ambulance Service have advised that they will notify relevant callers of the defibrillator within a distance of 600m. This means that the east end of the village (Nanny Lane and Busk Lane) and Sandwath Estate are not currently covered. Any location needs to be publically accessible and have an electricity supply. It was reported that the Cricket Club are intending to install one, which would cover the east end. Provision at the Station would be an option at the west end. Cllr Mason agreed to check whether the Indian Restaurant would be suitable. Once sites are identified there is grant assistance that can be explored.
- h. **Clerk Overtime** - The Clerk working hours have been increased from 4 to 5 hours partly as a result of additional work arising from the recent property acquisitions. Despite this increase it had not proved possible to reduce the backlog of additional hours worked. In the light of this an overtime payment for 24 hours was suggested reducing this surplus to a manageable level going forwards. The cost to the Council would be 24x£14.96ph = £359.04.

Resolved that an overtime payment for the Clerk of £359.04 be approved

34. For Information

None

35. Planning

Applications Approved

2019/0309/HPA – Extend dropped kerb by 1.83m and remove front facing boundary wall by 1.83m to enable a wider driveway at 1 Church Mews, Church Fenton

36. Finance

- a. Clerk's Finance Report - an up to date receipts and payments analysis has been undertaken. This shows a balance of £71,948.78.

An analysis of general funds allowing for advance rental income, Sandwath Endowment, Bond and CIL grant, shows the following.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| General Fund | £9335.49 |
| Net Pub/ Shop rental income | £10,469.90 |
| Neighbourhood Plan Grant balance | £1,438.00 |
| Sandwath endowment balance | £25,297.89 |
| CIL | £5,407.50 |
| Shop Bond | £20,000.00 |
| TOTAL | £73,236.06 |

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The Clerk reported that the invoice for the Election Expenses had been received. This is within the agreed budget of £2,000 which had been based on a Selby DC estimate.

The Council's Internal Auditor has decided to retire, so there will be a new one for the 2019-20 Audit.

Resolved that this report be noted

b. Payments

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Playground Inspection | HAGS-SMP | 49.20 |
| Playground Inspection | HAGS-SMP | 49.20 |
| Tax | HMRC | 135.20 |
| Design and Artwork | Andrea Hall Design | 3,024.00 |
| Stationery | Viking | 52.84 |
| Refund | Church Fenton Community Hub | 200.00 |
| Room Hire | Church Fenton Village Hall | 48.00 |
| Grass Cutting | Shed Grounds Maintenance | 412.77 |
| Grass Cutting | Shed Grounds Maintenance | 22.91 |
| Salary | J Sherlock | 277.36 |
| Salary | Stephen Fisher | 105.58 |
| Loan payment | PWLB | 203.87 |

c. Income

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Repayment in error | Church Fenton Community Hub | 200.00 |
| Rent | Church Fenton Community Shop Ltd | 1,108.07 |
| Contribution | S Charlston | 36.04 |
| Rent | Church Fenton Community Hub | 1,794.19 |
| Rent | Church Fenton Community Shop Ltd | 1,108.07 |
| Rent | Church Fenton Community Hub | 1,796.08 |

37. Representatives Reports

Cllr Charlston advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 comments were being processed. A footbridge needs repair on path from Northfield Terrace.

Cllr Seguss reported that the grass verges next to Hilagharth were very overgrown. The Clerk will contact the Solicitor acting for the sale.

Cllr Blakey advised that he had spoken to Network Rail staff when they were in Rose Lane. Electrification is still planned, but the timetable is uncertain.

Cllr Herbert advised that he has circulated a template to allow the Council to monitor progress. Councillors agreed that this was a good idea.

38. Communications – the outward facing Facebook page has been set up. Item for it and Fenton in Focus include traffic, dogs, defibrillator, and All Weather scheme.

39. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Highways, All Weather Play, Mint Festival, Activity Monitoring

40. Date and time of next meeting – Thursday 12th September at 7:30 at the Village Hall, Main Street, Church Fenton

Meeting closed at 9:30pm

Jeremy Sherlock; Clerk; clerk@church-fenton.net; 07981 371937