

## Church Fenton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Church Fenton Parish Council held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at the Village Hall, Main Street, Church Fenton

Present: Cllr Stephen Johnson – Chair  
Cllr Chris Dibbs  
Cllr Andrew Mason  
Cllr Jo Mason  
Cllr Craig Blakey  
Jeremy Sherlock (Clerk)  
9 Members of the public

81. Apologies and Declarations

None

82. Public Session

Kenny Smith spoke about the work he is carrying out to support the use of local footpaths including:

- a. Putting walks on the website up to 3km from Church Fenton. He requested financial support of £47.50 plus VAT to cover OS royalties.
- b. Surveyed local footpaths with NYCC and Ramblers association – he has become a local footpaths officer from NYCC.

Cllr Chris Dibbs reported that he had written to NYCC regarding the path west of Oakwood Close. Kenny advised that he had contacted Selby DC regarding the overgrown hedge.

Kenny was thanked for his excellent work.

The Christmas tree/ carols was raised. Cllr Craig Blakey offered to buy a tree. The parish were asked to fund lights.

**Resolved that the Council fund the following from the miscellaneous budget:**

1. **The OS map royalties for the website at £47.50 plus VAT**
2. **Christmas Lights up to £200.00**

83. Reports

An apology has been received from Cllr Cattnach and PC Caroline Ward

84. Minutes of the Last Meeting

**Resolved that these represented a true record of the meeting.**

85. Matters Arising

None

86. For Discussion

- a. **Precept 2012-13-** the Clerk presented options for the 2012-13 precept. This included the following considerations:
  - i. The actual precept income was £15,500 - higher than budget.
  - ii. The budget made no allowance for projects - external funding is rightly ignored, but other things (such as the fencing) have been funded from reserves. Projects (e.g. Xmas lights in the 2012-13 proposal) are not included.

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- iii. The forecast for reserves at the end of 2011-12 is around £11K. A reserve of around £4-£5K would seem satisfactory, so further reserves could be used.
- iv. There is no contingency.

Options considered include:

- i. Set the precept at the same level as this year (£15,500) by utilising reserves - this would mean that the reserve would cover running costs as well as projects - not sustainable in the long-term.
- ii. An inflation based precept increase to £16,275 (based on 5% inflation).
- iii. A small precept increase to cover increased running costs to say £15,750.

It was felt that the reserves should be retained as a capital reserve to allow projects to be delivered in the village. An inflation based increase was preferred as this is more sustainable, and would only cost c£1.50 per year for each Council Tax payer.

**Resolved that a precept of £16,275 be approved**

- b. **Selby District Site Allocations Development Plan Document** – Councillors considered the discussions that had taken place regarding the SADPD at the public meeting that preceded the Council meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk will submit a response agreed at that meeting.

**Resolved that the Clerk submit a response to the SADPD consultation including the following:**

- **The proposed allocations are too high in light of the high level of development in the village in recent years.**
  - **Further urbanisation at the west end of the village should be resisted**
  - **Small scale infill type development that retains the village character is preferred**
  - **The retention of the “strategic gap” dividing the village is not a priority**
  - **The maintenance of the rural aspect of the Parish Church is welcomed**
  - **The individual site comments agreed at the public meeting are supported**
- c. **Additional Play Equipment** – Cllr Craig Blakey provided the Clerk with the quotes previously sought which he had received from a former Councillor. Section 106 funding is available for the scheme.

**Resolved that the Clerk progress the agreed scheme subject to the contractor agreeing to maintain the original quotation of £7,625 plus VAT**

- d. **Christmas Lights** – the previous commitment to future Christmas Lights was considered

**Resolved that the Council allocate £1,500 in 2012-13, and £1,000 per year for 2013-2015 to cover Christmas Lights and maintenance/ service charges**

- e. **Christmas Party** – a request has been agreed for a £100 contribution towards the pensioners' Christmas Party

**Resolved that a £100 contribution to the pensioners' Christmas Party be approved**

- f. **Street Lighting** – the Clerk reported on discussions he had been holding with NYCC including:

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- Inspection – a biannual inspection programme NYCC have quoted £20 per column plus VAT, a total cost of £520.
- Repairs – NYCC have quoted a repair cost of £14 plus VAT for repairs. However they would only charge for materials if repairs were undertaken at the same time as inspections.
- Reduced operating hours to reduce energy usage - NYCC have quoted £48 per column (£1248) to do the work now, or £25 per column (£650) if we wait until April.
- Energy cost – NYCC have quoted an estimated annual cost of £671.25 plus VAT, which even if over optimistic, is a massive reduction on the current cost of c £2.7K.
- Lanterns – NYCC have advised that 8 lanterns are likely to be outlawed within the next 2-3 years by EU legislation. Replacement would reduce energy consumption, provide more light, and reduce future maintenance costs. The cost of these new lanterns would be c£1,600.

It was agreed that the NYCC proposals would reduce costs, and improve the service.

### **Resolved that:**

- 1. NYCC be contracted to carry out inspections and any necessary repairs to the lamp columns at a cost of £520 plus materials plus VAT.**
- 2. NYCC be contracted to carry out future inspections on a 2 yearly cycle, subject to quotations being agreed prior to them undertaking the work.**
- 3. Residents close to Parish Council street lighting be consulted over reduced operating hours with a view to implementing this in April 2012 if there is overall support. This would include signs posted on lampposts, and information on the website.**
- 4. The Council change their electricity Contract to NYCC with immediate effect.**
- 5. The 8 obsolete lanterns be changed at a cost of £1,600.**

### 87. For Information

A Council representative on the Jubilee Celebrations Steering Group was requested

**Resolved that Cllr Chris Dibbs be the Council representative**

### 88. Planning

Applications for Consideration

None

Applications Approved by Selby DC:

2011/0843/FUL – single storey side and rear extension; external seating at the Fenton Flyer, Main Street, Church Fenton

2011/0461/COU – change of use of land to a nature reserve at sandwath lane, Church fenton

Applications Withdrawn/Refused

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None

### 89. Finance

#### a. Clerk's Finance Report

The Clerk circulated a financial report which showed the current balance at £16,652.72.

The balance of funding owed by the former Clerk has still not been received. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a recorded delivery letter advising of the intention of taking further action.

#### b. Payments

J Sherlock – September wage – £229.49

T Freeman – September wage £301.60

SLCC – Subscription - £7.20

Chapel Chat - £50.00

**Resolved that the above payments be approved**

#### c. Income

None

### 90. Representatives Reports

Cllr Jo Mason advised that the rail bridge was being painted grey, rather than the agreed green. She will contact them requesting the originally agreed colour.

Cllr Jo Mason reported that the sign on Common Lane will be erected shortly

Cllr Craig Blakey advised that the sign in the Park has been erected

Cllr Jo Mason advised that problems continue with the track alarms. She will raise this further with Network Rail

Councillor Andrew Mason reported that speed box monitors can be requested. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting

### 91. Clerks Report

Pen portraits were requested

Yorkshire Water have agreed to repair the bollard oin the Park

### 92. Agenda Items for Next Meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7:30 pm:

Traffic calming

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

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