

## HARMBY PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD IN HARMBY VILLAGE HALL

ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 AT 7PM

Present: Mr A Partridge - Chairperson  
Mr N Cannell - Vice Chairman  
Miss L Peacock  
Mr C Payne – Clerk  
Also Present Councillor Karin Sedgewick (Leyburn ward)  
Derek Wallace

1. **Apologies for absence** – Councillor J Lyndsay.
2. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were agreed as an accurate record.
3. **Matters arising:** -

#### **Planning Applications**

##### **Farrows Yard**

It was noted that demolition of the buildings on the site had recently been completed.

##### **Dale Garth**

Councillor Partridge understood than planning permission would shortly be granted.

#### **Safety Checks and Repairs**

There were no new problems to report.

##### **Puzzle Cottage**

The ivy had been cut back very shortly after the owner was notified of the potential dangers.

##### **Play Area Hedge**

This had been cut at a cost of £100

#### **4. Waste Transfer Station**

Councillor Sedgewick reported that 69 local residents have corresponded with NYCC to voice their views. The majority of these had been to object.

A detailed discussion then took place about the unsuitability of the site for reasons of health, amenity, visual impact, and traffic dangers. Councillor Sedgewick reported that in the immediate vicinity of the site there had been one traffic fatality in 2005 and serious accidents in 2007, 2009 and 2011.

Councillor Tony Duff (Leyburn Ward) had discovered that existing sites in the area were operating at only 20% capacity and there was simply not enough waste to justify a new site. Hambleton had decided that they were closing down small (car park type) recycling centres so that residents would have to use the larger sites and that this may have an impact on where waste is stored.

Mr Wallace had reported that a site adjacent to the Leyburn Industrial Park had originally been put forward as being suitable for a similar station, however this had later been dropped by NYCC. Mr Wallace had attempted to discover why, but had been refused access to the minutes of the relevant meeting until they had been agreed which would not be until the next meeting, 18 months later!

The current period for consultation had now formally closed and the next stage of the process would start in a few months time.

The Chairman formally thanked Councillors Sedgewick, Duff and also Mr Wallace for the hard work that they had all put in on behalf of the village to date.

## **5. News Letter**

Two news letters had been issued since the last meeting both of them largely covering the Waste Transfer Station and encouraging residents to object. It was agreed that the letters had gone down very well and should be continued. Thanks were given to Councillor Sedgewick for arranging delivery of the second letter.

## **6. Children's Play Area**

- Rabbit Damage – no volunteers had come forward to fill the holes on a regular basis and they remained a serious concern.
- Repairs – Mr Payne had emailed the latest safety report from RDC to councillors. This showed several repairs that were required. The committee agreed that the lifespan of many of the timbers was coming to an end and that replacement rather than repairs would soon be required. Grant(s) would be required for this but as far as councillors were aware nothing was currently available. Councillor Sedgewick thought that she may know of places that the Parish could apply to and that if she found any she would let the Clerk know.

In the meantime councillors agreed that the repairs should be completed and asked Mr Payne to arrange this with the contactor that had completed previous work there.

## **7. Defibrillator**

Councillors agreed that sufficient numbers of volunteers were available for training. The Chairman agreed to provide a list to Mr Payne.

Mr Payne reported that a retired GP had recently moved into the village and had volunteered to be a first responder.

## **8. Grass cutting**

It was agreed that Shires Country Services would be the preferred contractors for village grass cutting and Mr Payne agreed to let them know so that work could start shortly.

## **9. Transparency**

Mr Payne reported that it was a requirement that the village should have a website so that accounts and various other items were readily available to view by village residents. He has received a quotation for £260 plus £10 per month for hosting. Councillors considered this to be good value for money and asked Mr Payne to go ahead.

Mr Wallace volunteered to start work on a Parish Plan to be included on the site. The chairman gratefully accepted this offer.

## **10. Audits**

Mr Payne reported that a new regime for external auditing was starting and that villages with expenditure of less than £25000 had the option to opt out and appoint auditors of their own. Mr Payne reported that he could see no advantage either financially or otherwise to doing this and councillors agreed that auditors should be appointed on our behalf.

## **11. Accounts**

The accounts were reviewed and unanimously accepted as representing a true and accurate record.

## **12. Other Business**

Councillor Peacock reported that traffic had recently increased considerably in Middleham Lane. This was largely due to local building work but also included farm vehicles. Pedestrian traffic along the lane is in danger because of the speed that vehicles come off of Harmby Bank and carry on down the lane.

There is a real fear of a serious accident. A discussion took place and it was agreed that Councillor Peacock would produce Go Slow warning signs to be placed near the entrance of the lane.

Councillor Peacock also reported that the Wensleydale Voyager bus service was now running to Princes Gate shopping centre and Tesco in Catterick Garrison 6 days a week The service starts in Hawes and picks up at various villages on the way.

She stated that she fully supported the Little White Bus service which is funded by public money and run by volunteers. She did however have concerns that it was encouraging residents to shop out of the area on a daily basis and that also that resources would be better spent on transport to outlying villages that have had services cut or removed.

It was noted that a free service already ran from Leyburn to Tesco twice a week which was funded by Tesco themselves – had extension of this service to other areas been investigated?

Councillors agreed that using public money to lure custom away from local businesses on a daily basis would be better utilised to encourage local enterprise instead. Mr Payne was asked to contact RDC Councillor Blackie who is responsible for the organisation of the service and make him aware of councillor's concerns.

**13. Date of next meeting:** Date to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm