

Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 14 June 2023

Held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Nigel Denison (Chairman), Cllr Peter Mitchell, Cllr Pam Jackson-Vickers, Cllr Mark Darwin, Cllr Deirdre Brown, Cllr Andy Gale, Roger Clements (Clerk) plus a member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence
 - 1.1. Apologies were received from Cllr Boyle and Cllr Baker (North Yorkshire Council).
2. Declarations of Interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests
 - 2.1. No declarations were made.
3. News from North Yorkshire Council (NYC)
 - 3.1. None was available.
4. Public Forum
 - 4.1. Cllrs reported very favourable comments received on the mowing of Swale Green in preparation for the Dog Show on 10 June. Comments on the 're-wilding' of the remainder of the green were less favourable with some people considering it inappropriate for a village green.
5. The minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council and the Annual meeting for Parishioners, both held on 17 May 2023, were accepted as true records and signed accordingly by the Chairman.
6. Correspondence received and action where necessary
 - 6.1. Advanced warning had been received of nationwide plans to mark the 80th anniversary of D Day on 6 June 2024. Plans will feature the lighting of beacons to mark the 'light of peace' that emerged from the darkness of war. Cllrs were minded to participate in the event and it will be a topic for a future meeting.
7. Clerk's report:
 - 7.1. The tree surgery contractor engaged to fell 2 x trees for the Council had ceased trading – other quotations were being sought.
 - 7.2. All Coronation commemorative mugs had been distributed.
 - 7.3. The Council's old Gmail Account would close at the end of June. All email contact with the council should now use clerk@braffertonhelperby-pc.gov.uk
 - 7.4. As the attendance at the 2022 Fireworks and Bonfire event had been larger than normal, Chairman had met with the H&B Community Association (CA) chairman to discuss the CA's plans for dealing safely with a possible large attendance at this year's event on Swale Green. He was reassured to see the comprehensive risk assessment and robust mitigating policies that had been put in place. Advertising for the event would be targeted at the village and immediate vicinity only. A well run and successful event was expected.
 - 7.5. The insurance policy had been renewed with cover extended to include public liability cover at the derelict building on allotment RR11. The insurer had set some additional safety conditions and these were being put in place.
8. **Financial matters**
9. Clerk's financial report:
 - 9.1. The Council had received a donation from the H&B Community Association (CA) to purchase a Yorkshire flag. The Council expressed its thanks to the CA.
 - 9.2. The annual submission to HMRC for recovery of VAT had been submitted.
10. The following Payment Card Purchases (PCP) were noted and accounts received were approved for payment:

10.1.1. Hampshire Flag Co	Yorkshire Flag	£62.33 (PCP)
10.1.2. Feel Design co ltd	Website hosting	£30 monthly (Standing Order)
10.1.3. T Bowman	Clear bridleway	£50
10.1.4. Sarah Milton	Music	£120 (coronation event)

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10.1.5. M Boyle	Flowers	£25 (coronation event)
10.1.6. M Boyle	Washroom sundries	£20.35 (coronation event)
10.1.7. E K Wignall	Advertising	£185.45 (coronation event)

11. Matters for Consideration

- 11.1. Traffic issues through village – this topic had been a main topic discussed at the Parishioners meeting on 17 May. Chairman summarised the discussion. Although the Vehicle Activated Sign was thought to slow traffic entering the village there was still a feeling that some vehicles came though Main Street too fast - the most intimidating were HGVs and large tractor & trailer units which often took little notice of the white lining and drove onto the pedestrian footways (some tractors were also thought to be exceeding the lower speed limits set by their width). Some parishioners had favoured a village 20mph limit, while others believed refurbishing the current traffic calming measures by raising the kerbs and re-marking the coloured footways would have a positive effect. Chicanes at each village entrance were thought likely to emphasise to drivers that they are entering a village and white 'gates' at the 30 mph signs could reinforce this effect. It was acknowledged that financial constraints were likely to influence decisions by North Yorkshire Council and any proposal would have to be well thought through and, wherever possible, be supported by evidence. Council will produce a system enabling it to receive reports of traffic incidents. It will ask the Lands & Maintenance committee to produce a list of proposals with the intention of taking forward those most likely to succeed.
- 11.2. 5 Year Maintenance plan – Chairman introduced the idea of the production of a 5-year maintenance plan for council lands. Such a plan would aim to spread the cost of tree, hedge and verge maintenance in a managed way. The Lands & Maintenance committee will be asked to draft the plan.
- 11.3. Wheelchair access through village – at the Parishioners meeting in May, the Council heard of the difficulties experienced by wheelchair users attempting to move around the village. Subsequently, in company with a wheelchair user, routes were walked and notes made. It quickly became clear that: one stretch of pathway sloped dangerously towards the Raskelf Road; several dropped kerbs were either absent or poorly placed; the limited good pathways often ended directly into cobbles, the sloping cobbled approach to Helperby surgery entrance was extremely difficult to negotiate and the double barriers on the footpath linking Balk Avenue with Back Lane are placed too close together. It was acknowledged that a new footpath linking Back Lane, via the entrance to the sports field, to Pasture Lane would be a significant improvement for wheelchair users and the village at large. The Lands & Maintenance committee will be asked to draft a prioritised plan for consideration by the Council.
- 11.4. Communications with the public – the traditional methods of communication were discussed (notice board, website, newsletters etc) and some improvements would be sought. It was agreed to trial Council surgeries (where parishioners could raise issues directly with councillors) at the village hall on some Saturday mornings at the same time as the pop-up Coffee Shop, commencing on 2 September.

12. Information received on the following ongoing issues with further action where necessary

- 12.1. Cobbles project:
- 12.1.1. Works to cobbles at the Old Post Office had recently been completed by the householder using the Council's re-laying specification.
- 12.1.2. The next minor works planned would be to increase the diameter of the cobble-free areas above the roots of our younger trees.
- 12.2. Neighbourhood Plan – work had restarted with the arrival of the full 2021 census information. Plans were now underway to produce presentations for residents and other stakeholders. The presentations will lead to questionnaires and the feedback from these will help form the shape of the Neighbourhood Plan.

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13. Planning Matters

- 13.1. ZB23/00990/FUL, for construction of new access road to fishing lakes and holiday cabins at Brafferton Coarse Fisheries, Brafferton – the Council had no objection to this application.
- 13.2. SNN/23/00066/NEWDEV, street naming at development on OS Field 0046 on Boroughbridge Road – the Council supported naming the streets as Broad Ford Drive and Pritchett Drive (James Pigott Pritchett was the architect who modified and extended St Peter’s church, Brafferton between 1826 and 1832).

14. Planning Decisions/information

- 14.1. Planning Application ZB23/00960/FUL, for the installation of a prefabricated substation & associated groundworks on OS Field 0046, Brafferton – awaiting decision from North Yorkshire Council
- 14.2. Planning Application ZB23/00953/FUL, proposed change of use of annex from home for the elderly to holiday let at The Grange, Helperby – awaiting decision from North Yorkshire Council
- 14.3. Planning Application ZB23/00771/OUT, outline planning application for 1 x dwelling with all matters reserved except access on land at Brafferton Manor, Brafferton – awaiting decision from North Yorkshire Council
- 14.4. Planning Application 22/02422/REM, construction of 4 dwellings adjacent to telephone exchange, Back Lane, Helperby - awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council
- 14.5. Planning Application 22/01858/FUL, proposed construction of 2 x dwellings at St Peter’s Close, Brafferton – awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council
- 14.6. Planning Application 23/00374/FUL, construction of a SuDS Pond to serve the planned 28-dwelling development on the Boroughbridge Road – awaiting decision by North Yorkshire Council

15. Closing Matters

- 16. Matters for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting
 - 16.1. See 11.1 to 11.3 above.
- 17. The date of the next Council meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 19 July 23. The Lands & Maintenance committee will meet on Wednesday 5 July 23.