



Brafferton & Helperby Parish Council Lands & Maintenance committee meeting minutes

Wednesday 5 July 2023
Held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr Nigel Denison (Chairman), Cllr Peter Mitchell, Steve Laux (co-opted member), and Roger Clements (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence
 - 1.1. No apologies were received.
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. Chairman's report – all topics were to be covered in the agenda.
4. Previous meeting minutes and Clerk's report
 - 4.1. The previous minutes were noted and the Clerk made the following points:
 - 4.1.1. The tree felling contract had been re-let at the same figure as quoted by the initial contractor and the trees will be felled after leaf fall in November.
 - 4.1.2. Swale Green had been cut ready for the Feast on 8 July. Several complimentary comments had been received on the cut of the whole green – others commented unfavourably on the previous unkempt appearance of the area which had been left to 're-wild', believing it to be an unsuitable use for a village green.
 - 4.1.3. Church Lane practice had kindly donated £150 towards relaying of the cobbled date panel at the Helperby surgery entrance. The work will take place in such a way as to make the design clear and to achieve as smooth a surface as possible.
5. Public Forum – no topics were raised.
6. Traffic issues and plan for improved traffic calming
 - 6.1. Chairman outlined the traffic issues within the village: traffic volume; size of some vehicles and their proximity to pedestrians using the footways in Main Street; speeding in and out of the village and collision risk on the Boroughbridge Road adjacent to Brafferton Manor.
 - 6.2. A list of proposals was discussed for presentation to the Council: restoration of the existing traffic calming measures; widening of the pedestrian walkways on Main Street; increased use of Police speed traps; 'gates' at each village entrance; chicane on the Boroughbridge Road and possible use of 'Rumble strips'.
 - 6.3. Evidence would be required to support the proposals at 6.2. This would come from the Vehicle Activated Sign data plus reports from parishioners and other data capture yet to be authorised. The Council would be asked to support fresh traffic speed data surveys on the Boroughbridge Road, the Raskelf Road (inside the chicane) and Main Street. And, by the way, parishioners might like to be aware that some large (mostly agricultural) vehicles were restricted to speeds below 30mph due to their width.
 - 6.4. It was noted that: some actions were within the power and finances of the Council (speed surveys, village 'gates' for example) others like the expertise of a traffic consultant would be valuable but possibly too expensive. Those involving works to the highway could only come about through action and expenditure by North Yorkshire Council.
7. Plan to improve use of footpaths and footways by wheelchair users
 - 7.1. Chairman described the issues identified when walking the village with a wheelchair user. Costs likely to be a limiting factor but a prioritised list will be prepared for the Council to present to NYC covering additional dropped kerbs, the levelling of the footpath between Back Lane and Balk Avenue, a re-design of the barrier on the footpath linking Balk Avenue with Back Lane. Additionally, re-laying of the cobbles linking Main Street to the concrete path in Drury Lane to be added to the list of self-help re-cobbling works. In the longer term, once the Recreation Area project beside the sports field gets under way, a footpath linking Back Lane and Pasture Lane would be added to the list.



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8. 5-year Maintenance Plan
 - 8.1. It was agreed that a maintenance plan for council assets (the Fountain, War Memorial, trees, hedges, benches etc) would be a helpful tool for budgeting. Clerk to draft.
9. Fencing scheme for allotment gardens
 - 9.1. The post and rail design discussed at the previous meeting was agreed to be worthy of becoming the standard allotment fence. Council to be asked to support the construction of a trial section at a Back Lane allotment.
10. Land ownership south of St Peter's lych gate and integration of track improvement work with works planned by the church architect
 - 10.1. Discussion with the church architect had confirmed the viability of the outline plan discussed at the previous committee meeting. The work to include a drain across the lych gate entrance, drainage to accommodate rainwater runoff from the churchyard, a re-grading of the ground from the lych gate to the Bridge Street flower border and a crushed stone track linking the lych gate with Bridge Street. More discussions will take place as the work at 8 Bridge Street approaches completion and the proposed plan will be made public.
11. Revised document on 'how to look after your cobbles'
 - 11.1. The plan had been re-drafted and was almost ready for distribution to affected householders.
12. **Cobbles Project**
 - 12.1. Chairman reported that some further work to extend the re-cobbled area at the war memorial was under discussion but plans were yet to firm up.
13. Agenda items for the next meeting of the Council
 - 13.1. Traffic issues and calming measures.
 - 13.2. Improvements to footways for wheelchair users.
 - 13.3. Erection of allotment fencing trial design
14. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 4 Oct 23