



## Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

**Present** – Sarah Whitney, Neil Armstrong-Nash, Alec Robertson, Sue Sharp, Andrew Sharp, James Brierley, Paul Booth-Burke, Cecilia Colver, Lesley Zimmerman, Sam Johnson, Keith Farrar, Alison Farrar, Jan Buczak, Vicky Buczak (Chair); also Richard Ormston (Councillor), Ken Miller (renter of land off Back Lane), Amanda Lay (cat owner)

**Apologies** – Guy & Yvonne Wilman, Richard & Sue Calvert, Michael Colver, Robert Calder, Wendy Hoare

Meeting commenced at 18.30.

### **1/ Agree last minutes**

Agreed.

### **2/ Vote on voluntary registration of village green**

We are grateful to both Neil Armstrong-Nash and Sam Johnson for research and input regarding possible registration of parts of our village green to Thornton Steward Parish Meeting. These are currently registered to North Yorkshire County Council, and they are inaccurate (refs. VG28 and VG30). If registered to our Parish, we get more control: not only would we have a stronger position in cases of attempted Adverse Possession, we would also be able to grant rights, e.g. for driveways across the land. We would continue to be covered for Public Liability by our existing Parish insurance.

Neil explained that the process of registration would be in two parts: first, establishment of accurate maps to delineate the lands to be registered, and second completion of application forms which would involve contact with Land Registry and North Yorkshire County Council, maybe with some external advice.

Neil, Sam and Sue and Andrew (owners of The Cottage) proposed that the maps required would cover the existing VG28 and VG30 areas, updated for inaccuracies and also to cover the unregistered land in front of The Cottage. Sam is a Chartered Surveyor, and suggested he could perform the necessary map work pro bono. Neil also thinks we could get help with the application forms without charge.

The Meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of starting the process of registration as above to the Parish. To this end, the Parish will formally ask Sam to perform the mapping work, with input from Neil, Sue and Andrew and would be very appreciative if he could do so without charge. The maps, once completed, will be made available to all villagers to examine, should they have any concerns about the delineation of village green lands

adjacent to their properties. The next step would be a vote to proceed further at the next village meeting in May.

### **3/ New signatory required for investment account**

Keith Farrar obliged, duly witnessed by three others present.

### **4/ Update on Thornton Steward Social Group**

Vicky briefly covered the activities of the Social Committee and events planned. These have been communicated by notices and e-mail distribution, and can be viewed on the village website, or via facebook. First Saturday of each month meetings are at the Institute at 7.30 pm.

- [Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March: Quiz Night – very positive comments from some who attended]
- Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Games Night
- Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May: Wine Tasting
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June: Jubilee Theme

In addition, there will be coffee and cakes at the Institute on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March to mark Mothers' Day, at 10.30. Prior to this, villagers are invited either to attend the Church service at 9.30, or to help pick litter from 9.30.

Jubilee celebrations at the village will commence on the evening of Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June with the lighting of the Thornton Steward beacon, and end on Sunday afternoon with a Jubilee street party/lunch.

The beacon will be lit at 9.45 pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Arklow Hill. The Stubbs, owners of the land, are asking villagers to stay well away from the site and view the lighting from the village. Sue and Richard Calvert are inviting villagers to view the lighting of the beacon from their garden, and are proposing drinks and nibbles also – a very big thank you to them!

Vicky and Cllr. Ormston informed the meeting that a Jubilee fund is available for our Parish, to the tune of £1000 (minimum) to £2000, provided that the money is spent on items which would help bring the community of the village together. To claim this, Vicky is applying for a marquee and music system; and for apple trees (see point 5) and possibly heaters (see point 6).

### **5/ Vote on planting some apple trees/trees, at the entrance of the village by the bench, as part of Jubilee celebration**

Lesley Zimmerman proposed planting 3 apple trees or so in the area around the bench which is seen at the junction when entering the main part of the village from the Thirn direction. In time, the fruits from these trees would be for general village use. The meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of this idea. But first, Lesley will check with the landowner; and other agencies (e.g. Local Highway Authority) may need to be contacted for approval. As mentioned above, funding for the trees is being applied for.

Sue Whitman also suggested planting more daffodils around the village, and again this suggestion was warmly welcomed.

### **6/ Discussion re replacing one heater that does not work in the institute**

At the meeting, only one of the 4 heaters was working, for reasons unknown. Jim has called an electrician to fix or advise otherwise. After that, we (as a village) will need to decide whether to replace the entire heating system at the Institute, considering that the current ones are noisy and possibly inefficient, and that the Institute is being used more. As noted above, money may be available (for at least one new heater) via the Jubilee fund.

### **7/ Insurance for conference chairs in the village institute**

Jim will check with the Institute insurers that the new chairs are definitely covered.

### **8/ Update on Unauthorised development and mis-use of agricultural land at Back Lane**

Ken Miller, the Parish Clerk and our Councillor have all made representations as agreed at the last meeting to Planning at Richmondshire District Council, but nothing has happened other than being given a reference number for the complaint.

Ken was also representing Rob Calder, who owns land next to the agricultural land in question, but could not attend the meeting. Rob and Ken have spent many hours on the phone to Planning and other agencies, offering to meet any representatives they might send, but to no avail. The Parish Clerk received a letter promising a site visit and an expected response by end February, but this has not been forthcoming.

In the meantime, the installation of the unauthorised static caravan on the property is becoming more entrenched, possibly already connected to water and sewage. Rob and Ken are concerned that Planning are simply not going to stop the site becoming an illegal commercial enterprise, with the owner avoiding paying their dues.

It was generally agreed that Planning are failing in their duties in this case. Cllr. Ormston confirmed that there is no Planning Enforcement Officer. The meeting agreed that the Parish Clerk should now formally write to our MP to complain about the failure of the Planning Department. Cllr. Ormston recommended that this letter of complaint be copied to Bart Milburn, planning manager for Richmondshire District Council.

Vicky will need input from Ken and Rob, detailing their attempts to get Planning to act, and the failures of Planning. She will then write to our MP as discussed.

### **9/ AOB**

- Lesley Zimmerman will offer her cards (featuring village scenes) for sale at the Institute, proceeds to benefit village projects.
- Vicky confirmed that our current insurance will cover village events indoors and outdoors, including the lighting of the beacon, but that risk assessments will now be needed for each event, which she will supply.

- The damage to the Church wall at the front has been fixed without charge, courtesy of a waller known to Richard Calvert. There is further slight damage at the back now, and this will be referred to Richard, Keith Farrar Also knows a stone waller that could help but he would charge.
- Anyone in the village concerned about a pothole or other road damage is encouraged to report it directly using [www.northyorks.gov.uk/report-online](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/report-online) (other problems can be reported here also)
- Vicky has contacted the company responsible for grass cutting in the village, and was promised the first cut would happen this week or next.
- Amanda Lay informed the meeting of a serious threat to cats: one of her cats was found caught in a trap, enticed there with fish. (Both the Police and RSPCA are now involved in this case.) She noted that several cats had gone missing in the village over the last year or so, suspecting that they were being trapped in similar fashion. Amanda had distributed fliers about this to several households, and now her warning will be posted on the village noticeboard.
- All villagers please note: the noticeboard on the outside of the old bus stop is for public use: there is a key on a string right next to this board, so just use this to open the front to add a notice.

Thanks to all who attended. The next meeting will be late May.