



Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 6th September 2022

Present – Jim Brierley, Ann Kern, Yvonne Wilman, Jan Buczak, Andrew Sharp, Sue Sharp, Keith Farrar, Neil Armstrong-Nash, Guy Wilman, Paul Booth-Burke, Wendy Hoare, Cecilia Colver, Michael Colver, Jane Stollery, Lesley Zimmerman, Neil Kern, Sam Johnson, Vicky Buczak (Chair); also Richard Ormston (Councillor)

Apologies – Richard Calvert, Sue Calvert, Sarah Whitney, Carol Brierley, Alison Farrar, Tom Jones (Councillor)

Vicky Buczak (Parish Clerk) chaired the meeting. Meeting commenced at 18.30.

1/ Agree minutes from last meeting 31/05/2022

Agreed.

2/ Discuss and set precept for 2023

The Meeting agreed that £5000 should be requested for 2023: this is double that for 2022. The justification for such a hike includes increased costs associated with expansion of social activities and classes at the Institute; also expected costs incurred in implementing aims of points 3, 4, 5 below.

3/ Update on voluntary registration of village green

Sam Johnson briefly covered the concerns submitted since his initial map was issued. He agreed to iron out remaining queries and amendments with the people concerned (all of whom were present) immediately after the meeting. He pointed out that the map must honour boundaries as recorded by Land Registry, whether in individual dwelling title deeds or existing village green documents such as VG28. Access concerns would be ironed out by solicitors as part of the registration process. We are grateful to Sam for offering to approach one or two solicitors to perform the necessary submission of form FR1 pro bono; otherwise the costs of this activity will have to be borne by Parish funds. In the meantime, Sam will finalise the map and it will be circulated as before.

4/ Discussion and vote re moving the defibrillator to the bus shelter (if an electrical connection is possible)

The Meeting agreed that the defibrillator should be moved as suggested.

Vicky has received an initial budget estimate from Northern Powergrid of some £12000 for the electrical connection. She has requested a more formal quote from them now, which will arrive after a site visit by the company.

There are some possible alternatives:

- Acquiring a product which does not normally need an electrical connection
- Acquiring a product which uses solar panels and/or wind power to provide the electricity
- Approaching the Ambulance Service to ask whether we are eligible for an upgrade (free or at reduced price)

The first option could be costly, not only in terms of initial outlay but also maintenance (manpower and money). The second needs to be evaluated for the location (behind trees which may block sun and wind), and the aesthetics of solar panels/ wind turbines should be considered. Both should be assessed for reliability in adverse weather conditions for the product.

Whichever solution is finally chosen, based on cost-effectiveness and reliability, it is likely that some considerable costs will have to be met through Parish funds.

Vicky will continue to investigate options as needed. She will also consult Maureen Ayre, who maintains the current defibrillator.

5/ Discussion and vote re pruning of trees on the village green

Vicky reported that tree surgeons Tom Hollingworth and Lewis Marshall both advised against pruning mature trees as on village green, unless for safety reasons.

Northern Powergrid already have a plan to prune trees threatening particularly the high voltage wires passing over the village. They will announce the schedule for this shortly. They advise that power to the village will have to be cut off for a while to accommodate this exercise, and recommend that vulnerable residents should register as such by phoning 105.

Some tree branches are pushing against Openreach (BT) wires, but that company does not perform preventative pruning – they claim that is the responsibility of the Council. Vicky has sent an updated request to North Yorkshire County Council.

It has been 6 years since the trees on the village green were inspected and pruned on safety grounds. The recommended time interval between such inspections is about 5 years. Vicky has requested a quote for an Arboriculture Survey from the company which performed the work last time. The costs will have to be met from Parish funds.

6/ Update on planes that are frequently flying over the village

Neil Kern informed the Meeting of the results of his research:

On the one hand, our Parish lies in uncontrolled airspace, and aircraft noise is exempt from regulations provided that the aircraft are flying within governance parameters.

On the other hand, RAF Leeming are keen to help with our noise problems, even if civil aircraft are to blame. First, they have added Thornton Steward to their verification list, so that their pilots will be aware of our location when undertaking flying exercises. Second, they request that village members log what they perceive as nuisance flights, noting registration numbers if possible. With such help, they hope to be able to pin down the perpetrators, and may well bring their influence to bear on them.

Neil has offered to be the main contact for liaison with RAF Leeming in this regard, and has asked that relevant info from Parish members be sent through him. We are very grateful to him for his research and his offer to liaise with the RAF on behalf of the Parish.

7/ Area Partnership Funding scheme: discussion on what to purchase for the village using this and future funding schemes

Under the recent Area Partnership Funding scheme (with tight deadline), Vicky has already asked for a defibrillator battery (£366), a wooden bench (£182.58), and apple trees (£99.75). However, the proposed planting of apple trees has been vetoed by Highways.

The Meeting agreed that the apple tree request should be substituted by one for daffodils instead, and Vicky will put in a request to change the original submission.

Since further schemes are likely to be available in the future, also with short time intervals for application, the Meeting was asked for a priority list of what could be requested in future should this happen. In order of priority, the Meeting chose:

- (1) Tree pruning (see point 5 above)
- (2) Moving defibrillator (see point 4 above)
- (3) Dartboard for Institute

8/ Vote on financial arrangements for village members to acquire old Institute chairs

A few requests for acquiring an old wooden chair from the Institute have been made by Parish members. The Meeting felt that this should be allowed, for a fixed price per chair. Since the chairs belong to the Institute, Jim Brierley will consult with its Trustees to give a final go-ahead and set a price.

Additional Info:

- (a) Back Lane: formal letter sent by Parish Clerk to MP, awaiting final response
- (b) New NY Council: reps invited for 30 minute info session before a social event
- (c) Possibility of creating pond on village common land: info on village media

Thanks to all who attended