



Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 1st February 2023

Present – Sarah Whitney, Jim Brierley, Lesley Zimmerman, Michael Colver, Cecilia Colver, Keith Farrar, Alison Farrar, Neil Armstrong-Nash, Yvonne Wilman, Guy Wilman, Jan Buczak, Jane Stollery, Alec Robertson, Sue Sharp, Andrew Sharp, Paul Booth-Burke, Wendy Hoare, Sam Johnson, Vicky Buczak (Chair); also Tom Jones (Councillor)

Apologies – Neil Kern, Ann Kern, Caroline Booth-Burke

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

1/ Agree minutes from last meeting 06 September 2022

Agreed.

2/ Discuss tree survey and action required

Barnes Associates performed the tree survey at a cost of £528 to the Parish. Olivers Tree Services quoted for each item in the Barnes survey, and have performed the work recommended for the three trees identified as Moderate Risk (all the rest were Low Risk).

Vicky suggested that interested amateur tree surgeons in the village may wish to undertake some of the remaining (Low Risk tree) work, though Conservation Area permission may be required first. To this end, a group of volunteers will walk around the tree areas with Vicky to assess what is practical/possible. Thanks are due to Alec Robertson, Keith Farrar, Michael Colver, Andrew Sharpe and Paul Booth-Burke for volunteering. Vicky will check under what circumstances permission needs to be sought for tree work within the Conservation Area.

Thanks to Paul, the wood left by Olivers has been partly chopped up and left behind the Institute for seasoning – it will be unusable for a year or so. Paul suggested that any substantial wood generated by further pruning/felling should be stored at The Pound.

3/ Update on voluntary registration of village green

Sam Johnson has now produced the definitive map of the village green as agreed by all parties – congratulations and many thanks to Sam!

Sam has also been advised by a solicitor that the Parish would struggle to register the green under their name without a paper title to the lands. Even then, the solicitor advised that any title to the lands would be only possessory, which does not establish ownership. Furthermore, granting of easement rights by the Parish (assuming title) would incur costs and substantial administration.

Neil Armstrong-Nash volunteered to seek advice from Land Registry, pointing out that it may be in their interests to help with registration, especially as we now have a definitive up-to-date map.

4/ Update on how Area Partnership Fund has been spent

Vicky informed the Meeting that the 2022 Fund was used for daffodil bulbs, a wooden bench and a defibrillator battery at a total cost of £659, of which the Fund paid £494.64.

The 2022-2023 Fund was used for tree surgery at a total cost of £1,122, of which the Fund paid £708.75.

5/ Update on cost of moving the defibrillator to the bus shelter, and in the interim improving the signs

Vicky informed the Meeting that the cheapest commercial option to establish a reliable defibrillator at the bus shelter would be for Northern Powergrid to supply electricity there at a cost of about £4,000. Costs of installation by an electrician would be on top of this.

An alternative suggested would be to ask a resident to run a cable from their home, for which the Parish would agree to pay a small yearly sum plus cost of installation.

Neither option was accepted by members at the Meeting.

Vicky then illustrated suggested signage to help with the status quo:

- a. Outside the phone box, to indicate clearly where the defibrillator is located
- b. At front of Institute, to indicate that it is at the back of the building
- c. By the defibrillator itself, to give guidance on how to use it

The Meeting agreed that the Parish would purchase such signage, to modern international standards, at a cost of under £100.

Regular reminders about defibrillator location were requested, in Newsletters for example. Vicky also offered to set up a 'Show and Tell' session covering the use of the defibrillator, to be held on the Monday after the Coronation (May 8th).

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

Neil Kern has tried to obtain further assurances from RAF Leeming about limiting aircraft under their control flying over or near the Parish. Although the air base has acknowledged our concerns, they will not give any guarantees. Neil suggested that we could try to take the matter further only by starting a campaign, but that otherwise we will have to live with it. Thanks to Neil for doing as much as he could to help.

7/ Update on placing a bin in the reservoir car park

A bin is now in place just outside the reservoir car park, at a cost to the Parish of £338.40. The Council will empty the bin every two weeks.

8/ Update re Institute and Social Group fund raising

Paul Booth-Burke, who has taken over chairmanship of the Institute Trustees from Jim Brierley, noted that some £1,400 had been raised for the Institute from the recent Auction of Promises. Together with other available money, the Institute is now in a position to contribute £6,000 towards improvements to the Institute building, the priorities being:

- a. Replacement of kitchen roof
- b. Kitchen refurbishment
- c. Extension to incorporate an inside toilet

The Institute will seek to acquire a grant of £14,000 from the Richmondshire Community Investment Fund, making a total of £20,000 for building work. To do this, they will obtain quotes and submit a form through the Parish Clerk.

Paul indicated that in future any money raised by the Parish will be held by the Parish Meeting in the first place, rather than go to the Institute directly. Transfers from Parish Meeting to the Institute will be decided democratically via Parish Meetings.

Alison Farrar, representing the Social Group, explained that a flier for Coronation celebrations will be issued shortly, with formal invitations. The Sunday will feature a Church Service at 11am and Afternoon Tea at 2pm. Other activities during the year will be announced in a Newsletter. Fund-raising will be instigated at future Social Group events.

Sue Sharp recommended setting up a Parish Lottery as part of the fund-raising effort, and kindly volunteered to find out how this could be set up legally and with minimal administration once up and running.

Vicky Buczak called for more members to join the Social Group, in the interests of providing fresh ideas and keeping up the momentum.

9/ Update on grass cutting contract

Vicky informed the Meeting that the quote for this year is about £103 per cut, up very slightly from about £100 last year. The Meeting was pleased to continue with the same company (Farm & Land Services), but asked Vicky to alert them about the newly planted daffodils, and to try to avoid strimmer damage to the more delicate trees. A quote for cutting in The Pound was also provided, but the Meeting deemed this unnecessary.

10/ Agree answers to Draft Parish Charter Consultation

The new North Yorkshire Council requested one reply from our Parish representing the views of the Parish Meeting, so Vicky noted down the agreed responses to each question and will submit them on behalf of the Parish.

11/ Update on dispute over building work on Back Lane

Vicky has written twice to our MP Rishi Sunak, complaining about the ineffectiveness of Richmondshire Planning Enforcement in the first place, and later about being told by Planning that the case had been closed due to alleged lack of evidence supplied when this was blatantly untrue. Rishi indicated he was powerless to intervene further, so Vicky wrote a letter of complaint mid-January to Richmondshire Council Corporate Director Callum McKeon and Planning Manager Bart Milburn.

Mark Lynch, acting for Bart Milburn, informed Vicky that the previous Planning Enforcement Officer (Tracey Horner) had left, and a new one was being hired starting January 30th (named Debbie). Mark promised that he would ensure that Debbie, once up to speed, would contact Vicky and arrange a site visit. Vicky has also acquired the info previously sent to Richmondshire Planning by Ken Miller.

The Meeting applauded Vicky's perseverance in pursuing this case.

Additional Info

Vicky has been informed that there is interest in purchasing a paddock belonging to the Parish should it come up for sale. She will ask for this request to be submitted to the Parish Clerk formally in writing. It could then be discussed at a future meeting.

Some Parish members knew a little about the paddock, for instance that it is being rented currently for a small fee from the Parish, but the title to it and possibly other plots of land are not clear.

To help understand what land the Parish owns and under what terms, Sam Johnson volunteered to look into its registration, and Jim Brierley volunteered to seek information in old filing cabinets. Also, Vicky will contact the current renter (Alex Fawcett) for possible further enlightenment.

Thanks to all who attended, especially to all who have volunteered to help