

**Skipwith Parish Council Meeting Minutes on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7pm**

**Present:** Councillors Mike Ward (MW), Chairman, Kate Baxter (KB), Jonathan Radway (JR), Andy Bushell (AB), Ian Hatton (IH), Isobel Greatrex (IG), Parish Clerk

Item No.	Discussion	Action by	Due Date
024/24	<b>To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence</b> John Purcell (JP) apologies were received and approved.		
025/24	<b>Declarations of interest not already declared under the council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests</b> None disclosed.		
026/24	<b>Guest Speaker – Mark Hewitt, Conservation Lead, Escrick Park Estate</b> Mark introduced himself by explaining his role is to manage conservation across the whole of Escrick Estate holistically. A forestry management company has been contracted to assist and will include the nature reserve and common land.  He wished to make the PC aware of some forestry work which was due to start on Back Common at the end of September, dependent on the weather. The work had been approved by the Forestry Commission and will involve 35% thinning of the birches and Scots pine. There will be some heavy machinery, but they should not cause too much noise. There will be signs on car parks and entrance points, including Sandy Lane and the Canine carpark, informing the public of restricted car parking and pathways. The removal of all the timber should be completed by Christmas.  He believed that Skipwith village itself would not be impacted by the work.  MW asked if Mark would be able to provide some information for the notice board to improve awareness.		

<p><b>027/24</b></p>	<p><b>Public Session</b>  One member of the public was present.  Cheryl Westoby informed the PC that leaves on the trees down Main Street were obliterating the streetlights at night. IG agreed to ask the Estate if they could resolve the issue.  She also wished to make the PC aware there was a dead tree on the village green. The PC confirmed it was already aware.</p>	<p>IG</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p><b>028/24</b></p>	<p><b>To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024</b>  The meeting minutes were approved. KB proposed and JR seconded.</p>		
<p><b>029/24</b></p>	<p><b>North Yorkshire Councillor Report</b>  John Cattanach, County Councillor, had reminded the PC again that his Locality Grant was available for projects which would benefit the community.  AB updated the PC on his visit to the County Councillor and confirmed that he was open to grant requests from the PC and encouraged it to put in a proposal.</p>		
<p><b>030/24</b> <b>030.1</b></p>	<p><b>Information on the following ongoing issues and to decide further action where necessary:</b>  <b>Recreation Area</b>  In JP's absence, he had provided a written update for the PC.  He was disappointed that it had been extremely difficult to gain interest from potential contractors to do the work. He had decided to ask Hagrapat if they would provide a quote to level the area. KB offered to provide their phone number.  As he hadn't heard back from many of the numerous landscapers and only a part quote from one of them, he had contacted playground installation companies. He hoped to arrange site visits with two of them during the next few weeks and hoped to be in a position in 4 – 5 weeks to enable the PC to review all proposals and quotations.</p>	<p>KB  JP</p>	<p>ASAP  By 17<sup>th</sup> October</p>

<p><b>030.2</b></p>	<p><b>Allotment Update</b>  JR provided three updates regarding the allotments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new tenant, from North Duffield, had been found for the vacant garden.</li> <li>• The oak trees on the Common Road side of the allotments had been pruned back, although the two Corsican Pines on the west side had not yet been tended due to the storm on the date the work was to commence, so he was awaiting a new date.</li> <li>• The water tank was on site, although there were no pallets to put it on, at the moment, but he was following this up.</li> </ul>	<p>JR</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p><b>030.3</b></p>	<p><b>Speeding</b>  Prior to the meeting, KB had provided an update regarding the meeting she and MW had with Darren Griffiths from Highways regarding the left turn to North Duffield. They had discussed several options, including Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), further chicanes, changes to the road junction and red anti-skid paint on the current hatch markings. Darren advised that a VAS would not be cost effective, chicanes would not be appropriate in that particular setting and changes to the junction would cost c.£100,000. The only other option to consider would be anti-skid paint on the current hatch markings at a cost of c.£1,000, and this would have to be maintained every 4 – 5 years. It was agreed that none of these options would be taken forward at the moment but would be reconsidered once the effect of Community Speedwatch was known.</p> <p>KB had previously emailed the PC to inform them about some Community Speed Watch training which was arranged for Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> September for a group of volunteers. Once it is up and running, Cheryl Westoby will be the lead and be able to train any further new recruits.</p> <p>KB informed the PC that the kit to carry out the Community Speed Watch would cost up to £750. This was unanimously agreed and AB seconded KB's proposal. KB will contact John Cattnach to request funding from his community grant.</p>	<p>KB</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
<p><b>030.4</b></p>	<p><b>Village Pond Clearance</b>  KB recommended hiring Hagrapat again to clear the village pond at a cost of £1,750 +VAT. Mark Headley was to supply a trailer and a place for the waste to be taken and she hoped to engage further assistance from someone who could provide a tractor and driver. It was agreed for the work to go ahead late September, if possible.  In KB's absence, JR and MW offered to assist nearer the date.</p>	<p>KB  MW/JR</p>	<p>ASAP  TBC</p>

<b>030.5</b>	<b>Village and Pond Maintenance Strategy</b> JR had circulated the final draft of the village maintenance schedule. It was agreed to place the calendar on the new PC website and at appropriate times on forthcoming agendas.	IG	ASAP
<b>030.6</b>	<b>PC Website</b> IG confirmed the work was progressing well and once a final draft was available it would be circulated to the PC before publishing.	AB/IG	ASAP
<b>030.7</b>	<b>Village Green Christmas Lights</b> Prior to the meeting JR had brought to the PC's attention that one of the trees, with Christmas lights, was dead and needed to be felled and removed. The PC agreed to Toby Johnson's quote of £486, which JR proposed and IH seconded. MW agreed to contact Wright's electricians to remove the lights and electric box in order for the tree to be felled. MW would also liaise with Wright's as there were some lights missing on the notice board. It was agreed to plant the new Christmas tree near to the location of the dead tree as electricians were already available there. MW agreed to liaise with the donor of the Christmas tree so it could be planted early October.	JR MW  MW  MW	ASAP ASAP  ASAP  Before October
<b>030.8</b>	<b>Grit Salt Bins</b> It was agreed to contact North Yorkshire Council to fill the grit salt bins in the village.	IG	ASAP
<b>030.9</b>	<b>Round Up Editorial /Facebook</b> KB volunteered to circulate draft notices for Round Up and finalise to ensure the deadline was met.	KB	Before 26 <sup>th</sup> September
<b>031/24</b>	<b>Planning</b> The PC had responded to two planning applications, namely, Plantation Farm and The Rowans. Whilst the PC had no objections to the redevelopment of Plantation Farm, it did not believe the proposal regarding the industrial aesthetics of the dwellings was in line with the rural setting. Whilst the PC had no objections to the redevelopment of The Rowans, it was very concerned about the potential to accommodate up to 6 vehicles on the site and whether this number was appropriate to the size of the		

	development, as it seemed excessive. The PC also wished consideration to be given to any potential parking on the road, as it is in close proximity to the chicanes at the entrance to the village.		
<b>032/24</b> <b>032.1</b>	<b>Matters Requested by Councillors</b> Warning Sign on the pond (IH) It was agreed not to progress this suggestion.		
<b>033/24</b> <b>033.1</b>  <b>Not on agenda</b>	<b>Financial Matters</b> <u>The following accounts for payment were approved:</u> 033.1.1 York Landscapes – June, July and August grass cuttings £1,080.00 033.1.2 HMRC - £179.40 033.1.3 Parish Clerk’s salary The above was proposed by JR and seconded by AB.		
<b>034/24</b>	<b>Correspondence</b> None		
<b>035/24</b>	<b>To Notify the Clerk of Matters for Inclusion on the Agenda of the Next Meeting</b> None		
	<b>Meeting closed at 9.30pm.</b> The next meeting will be held on 7 <sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.		