

Skipwith Parish Council Meeting Minutes on Monday, 27th June 2024 at 7pm

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

Item No.	Discussion	Action by	Due Date
013/24	<p>To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence None required.</p>		
014/24	<p>Declarations of interest not already declared under the council’s Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests MW disclosed that three members, namely himself, IH and JP, had interests in the allotments.</p>		
015/24	<p>Public Session Two members of the public were present. Cheryl Westoby asked if any of the other councillors would be taking over Jeremy Gerken’s position regarding speeding in the village. MW confirmed that KB had already requested an update from Jeremy and this would be discussed in item 018.3 on the agenda. Cheryl Westoby informed the PC that her husband had strimmed the overgrown grass around the village signs. MW asked her to convey the PC’s thanks to him.</p> <p>MW welcomed Andrew Mortimer to the meeting, who wished to ask what the plans were for Scarrow Green as the recent flailing of the brambles around the pond had much concerned him, as many birds and other wild life had been using it as their habitat. MW explained that the maintenance of Scarrow Green had been due in November but due to the wet weather it had not been able to be done. MW asked if Andrew would like to become the official warden for Scarrow Green. Andrew suggested that just a 1 metre cut should be done around the pond to allow the rest of the grass and foliage to grow and arrange for two more wider cuts in March and September. MW explained that the PC is there to consider everyone’s views and that some people would prefer it to be well maintained. The issue was to be discussed more fully in item 018.5 on the agenda.</p>		
016/24	<p>To confirm the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting and the ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 13th May 2024</p>		

	The meeting minutes were approved.		
017/24	North Yorkshire Councillor Report John Cattnach, County Councillor, had reminded the PC that his Locality Grant was available for projects which would benefit the community. AB had arranged to meet with the County Councillor on 1 st July to further discuss this.	AB	1 st July
018/24 018.1	Information on the following ongoing issues and to decide further action where necessary: Recreation Area JP explained that he had still been unable to obtain any quotes to resolve the ridge and furrow issue on the land, as contractors were far too busy in high season, with Toby Johnson needing to re-price. Unfortunately, not even the three benches could be installed as the furrows were too deep and the benches would be unstable and could cause health and safety issues for the public to use.	JP	By 5 th September
018.2	Allotment Update JR provided an update regarding the tree management on the allotments. He explained he had only been able to obtain two quotes as, even with his best endeavours, he had not been able to source a further tree surgeon who was interested. Due to the urgency of the work, and after considering the quotes, he proposed that Toby Johnson should be given the contract. JP seconded the proposal. The proposal was carried. JR informed the PC that the water containers and pallets were due to be delivered within the next few weeks. An enquiry regarding the vacant plot had been received and this was being progressed.	JR/IG JR	ASAP ASAP
018.3	Speeding MW stated that the 30mph signs to be painted on the road had still not been done by Highways. KB to follow up. KB had received an update from Jeremy Gerken. He had emailed Speeding Concerns a few months ago but with no response. KB had emailed them again, asking for advice, and copied in Community Speed Watch. She had emailed that, although North Yorkshire Council did not believe there was a speeding problem based on the recent speed rod data averaging 31mph, speeding was still a problem at the junction leading to North Duffield. In addition, KB volunteered to obtain further information regarding Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). AB was to discuss with John Cattnach the use of the locality grant for purchasing VAS. JR suggested exploring why there appeared to be a blockage in progressing a community speed watch.	KB KB KB AB KB	ASAP ASAP ASAP 1 st July ASAP

<p>018.4</p>	<p>Village Pond Clearance KB was continuing to obtain quotes to mechanically excavate the village green pond in readiness for Autumn maintenance.</p> <p>KB was to circulate the ecology report to the PC.</p>	<p>KB KB</p>	<p>ASAP ASAP</p>
<p>018.5</p>	<p>Village and Pond Maintenance Strategy The PC discussed the draft maintenance schedule and JR committed to finalising the document, with everyone’s input.</p> <p>Further to the earlier comments from Andrew Mortimer about Scarrow Green, the PC agreed to ask York Landscapes to mow the grass just one metre around the edges of the land bordering the road and road track, whilst continuing to mow two metres around the other two edges to allow for access to the bench. In addition, the PC agreed to carry out a larger maintenance programme to Scarrow every two and five years, to allow wildlife to flourish.</p> <p>It was important to note that the PC would welcome any comments from residents once this project had further progressed.</p> <p>Andrew Mortimer requested the PC should consider mowing just one metre around the village green and leaving the rest of the green to rewild and doing the same along all the grass verges in the village. MW confirmed the PC would look at this when the contract was due for renewal next year.</p>	<p>JR IG</p>	<p>By 5th September ASAP</p>
<p>018.6</p>	<p>Village Sign IG confirmed a new direction sign had been ordered by Highways, although they were unable to provide a date when it would be installed.</p>		
<p>018.7</p>	<p>PC Website AB confirmed that the project had commenced and hoped it would be complete during August.</p>	<p>AB/IG</p>	<p>By August</p>
<p>018.8</p>	<p>Village Green Christmas Lights Several ideas were discussed and the Councillors were asked to do some individual research.</p> <p>It was agreed that MW would switch on the existing lights before the next meeting so a final decision could be made regarding any potential installations.</p>	<p>All MW</p>	<p>By 5th September W/c 26th August</p>

018.9	Round Up Editorial /Facebook KB volunteered to circulate any draft notices for Round Up and finalise to ensure the deadline was met.	KB	By 16 th August
019/24	Planning After contacting the Planning Department, IG confirmed that an outline planning application had been submitted to demolish the house at The Rowans, replacing it with 2 houses. No design details had yet been provided. Since the agenda had been published, the PC had received a notice for a planning application from Bridge Farm, York Road. There were no objections from the PC to the proposal to reposition the vehicular entry to the property.		
020/24	Matters Requested by Councillors None		
021/24 021.1	Financial Matters <u>The following accounts for payment were approved:</u> 021.1.1 York Landscapes – Scarrow Green and May grass cutting £888.00 021.1.2 NetWise – new PC website, incl. hosting and support - £940.80 021.1.3 I. Greatrex reimbursement – new PC laptop - £471.48 021.1.4 I. Greatrex reimbursement – auditor gift voucher - £30.00		
021.2	<u>New signatories</u> AB agreed to visit Skipton Building Society and provide them with a hard copy of the last meeting minutes, which was a requirement to finalise the process.	AB	ASAP
022/24	Correspondence None		
023/24	To Notify the Clerk of Matters for Inclusion on the Agenda of the Next Meeting Warning sign on the pond (IH)		
	Meeting closed at 9pm. The next meeting will be held on 5 th September at 7pm.		

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