

**MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 22nd JULY 2015, 7:30PM
BRAWBY VILLAGE HALL, BRAWBY**

Present

Chairman	Mrs. Sarah Houlston
Councillors	Mr. Duncan Collinson, Mrs. Karen. Garrett, Mr. Richard Metcalfe Mr. Peter Milner
Apologies	Mrs. Dorothy Ashton, Mrs. Carolyn Swift
Guest	Mrs. Val Arnold, Chairman of Ryedale District Council and Vice Chairman of North Yorkshire county Council

Residents joining

Present

Mrs. Susan Gough, Mr & Mrs French, Mrs, Susanne Everitt

Resident Apologies

Mr John Gillies, Mrs Janet Davis

Parish Council Agenda

2. Matters arising – Salt. Mrs Garrett stated she had had a response from NYCC to her letter which only informed the cost of salt and had not answered her additional questions. This has been followed up with another letter asking for answers to her original questions.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr Milner noted that the date was incorrect and should say 27th May. This will be duly amended and minutes were approved.

4. Presentations From The Floor

Mrs Gough asked that the agenda item regarding potholes include Kirby Misperton to Little Barugh. This was noted as a reading error.

5.i) Planning application number was discussed. Mr. Milner went through previous planning history for the applicant and it was noted that previous unsatisfactory elements had been rectified. The application was approved.

ii) Mr. Milner questioned whether the Working Group On Fracking was a sub-committee, Mrs. Houlston confirmed it was and consisted of herself, Mr. Collinson, Mr. Metcalfe and Mrs. Garrett. It was agreed that the Working Group would have Parish Council approval to respond on behalf of the Parish Council to the Environment Agency Consultation which has been extended to 7th August. Mr. Milner raised that the letter of February 23rd 2015 submitted to NYCC included pertinent elements. Mrs. Houlston asked Mr. Milner if he wished to join the Working Group but he declined.

6. Update On Fracking

i) Mrs. Houlston updated the Council on the reasons why Third Energy's initial application was withdrawn. This was due to it not being validated by NYCC due to many errors and omissions on Third Energy's part, in total nine pages of incorrect material.

ii) The latest planning application has also failed validation with further and additional errors being logged by NYCC. Including :- conflicting descriptions of planning application between press and notices to what was included in application form. Failure to provide landowners with complete and accurate information and other additional errors.

Mr. Metcalfe enquired as to what landowners thought of fracking, the ones he had spoken to were undecided. Mrs. Houlston explained some background issues regarding insurance issues for farmers and that no Bonds are currently in place to protect farmers. Third Energy's insurance is only short term. Mrs. Houlston also mentioned that there is still an issue in differentiating between conventional and unconventional gas extraction methods but that people are becoming more aware. Mr. Miller raised again that the letter of the 23rd February NYCC mentioned some of the issues people are concerned about.

Mr. Milner expressed concern that the leaflets distributed to the residents notifying them of meetings made it look like we were more concerned about Fracking than Parish issues and suggested that agenda items should be included. He also mentioned that he thought the agenda didn't look neat and tidy, Mrs. Houlston stated that that is how an agenda should be written after taking advice from other Councillors for it to be legal. Mrs. Garrett stated that we were concerned about Parish issues which was backed up by Mr. Collinson and Mr. Metcalfe.

iii) Mrs. Houlston outlined the un-redacted Defra report.

iv) The Medact evening was mentioned and informed that all residents had a copy and could go along to make their own minds up.

v) The Information Evening for The Parish is anticipated being held on the 8th September, subject to the planning application being validated. This should give residents time to digest information and come to their conclusions and object/support if they so wish.

7. It was noted that although the C20 had now been resurfaced and new '30' signs put up and marked on the road, there were still serious issues with speeding traffic in Great Barugh. Mr. Milner provided Mrs. Houlston with the correspondence relating to traffic calming issues. Mr. John Gillies along with others, has expressed concern about the speed of traffic coming into the bottom of Great Barugh, Mrs Everitt expressed concern about the traffic coming from the top and Mr. Metcalfe expressed concerns regarding traffic speeding along into Great Barugh from Amotherby direction. Mrs. Garrett also mentioned issues of meeting speeding traffic when overtaking parked cars. Mr. French asked if matrix signs could be looked into, Mr. Milner said that they can be purchased and that David Jackson, from Normanby had information regarding them. Mrs. Houlston to talk to David Jackson and look into cost although Mrs Houlston mentioned that she had correspondence which suggested they started around £1200.00.

Mrs. Gough also expressed concern about the speed of traffic coming into Little Barugh and the number of 'near misses' with parked vehicles. Mrs. Everitt also mentioned that historically it has been down to 'numbers', ie number of accidents and fatalities. Mrs. Everitt suggested that the Fire Service be contacted as it was them that initiated the original Matrix report of which Mr. Milner said the statistics were worrying.

8. The issue of potholes between Kirby Misperton and Great Barugh had been raised by Mr. Paul Ashton. Mrs. Garrett said that Richard Marr from NYCC Highways had stated at a Parish Liaison Meeting that any pothole issues could be reported along with photographic evidence and measurements where possible and they would be looked into. He had also said that potholes could be reported via the NYCC website however this was deemed to be insufficient. Mrs. Everitt suggested that Cllr Lindsay Burr be contacted to see if she could put any pressure on NYCC. Mr. Collinson will take photographs and measurements to be submitted to Richard Marr at NYCC Highways. If we have little response then we will take it Cllr. Lindsay Burr. Mrs. Garrett suggested that a village petition may be a way of swaying the council as it had assisted Brawby with their issues over lack of gritting, this could also be pertinent to the gritting issue for Great and Little Barugh.

9. Parish Correspondence

Coast and Vale Community Action

This was mentioned and was agreed that there were no groups within the Parish that this would affect.

Ryedale District Council Infrastructure Levy

This was noted.

Local Crime Update

A list of recent local crimes have been provided. Peter French of our neighbourhood watch scheme was in attendance and mentioned that about 30 of our residents were currently signed up to the scheme.

Message Maker Displays Ltd

This company had sent information regarding their vehicle activated signs with regards to road safety and traffic calming.

Making Parishes Better Places

We have been approached to supply information to be put on a website for research purposes. Mrs. Houlston said it lists all the Parish Councils in the UK.

10. Finance

i) Public Liability Insurance. Mr. Milner stated that they had never had it before and had previously had disclaimers signed at events. Mrs Houlston said that there is a question over requiring it for meetings/events where the venue already has its own Public Liability. In today's compensation society you have to be careful. The cost to be looked into and research required prior to next meeting as it would be required to be included in the budget for the next precept.

Finance Insurance This was discussed and deemed unnecessary due to the small amounts of money involved.

ii) Sadly, Dorothy Ashton, after many years has decided to resign from her role as Parish Clerk due to personal commitments and time constraints. The Parish Council would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years.

Dorothy's resignation means that we now will require a new Parish Clerk. Mrs. Houlston stated that from information gathered that a Parish Clerk is required to be an employee and therefore should be receiving an hourly rate to be on a legal basis. This was challenged by Mr. Milner who said he had spoken to Anthony Winship, Ryedale Council Solicitor regarding the issue and explained that we are only a small Council and had asked about the issue of a clerk being an employee. Mr. Winship had informed Mr. Milner that if the Clerk and Treasurer are prepared to carry out their roles free of charge and state at a minuted meeting they are willing to do this then that will be acceptable. Mrs. Houlston said that the other option is a Councillor can be Clerk as they are not paid.

Questions were raised over how the Parish Council intended to pay for it, how many hours a clerk would work and issues raised about HR, appraisals, contracts of employment etc. Mr. Milner stated that he thought that the new Councillors were making more of it than necessary and that no-one had ever questioned the running of the Parish Council. Mrs. Garrett interjected and informed the Council that no-one was questioning how the Council had previously been run, the new Councillors had inherited much information regarding Transparency Code, Local Governments Act and information from Good Councillors Guide and YLCA and were just trying to follow the legislation, she did concur that Parish Councils are subject to much red tape and that many local Parishes were in the same situation. Mrs. Houlston reiterated that the information she had been given had come from YLCA and other local Town Clerks. Mrs. Gough suggested that Mr. Milner should respect Mrs. Houlston and how much work the new Councillors had put it since they started and praised them for their efforts so far. The Council were in agreeance that for such a small Parish, such additional costs do seem unnecessary.

It was resolved that Mr. Milner would approach Mr. Winship to request that he confirm in writing that we could go ahead with a Clerk being paid an Honorarium without being an employee. The matter to be re-visited at the next meeting with any response from Mr. Winship.

iii) Update on website. Mrs. Houlston reported she had been informed that once Ryedale Council training day has ended, Councillors are left to their own devices in

running the website. Mrs. Garrett reported she was waiting for a response from the IT department as to when their next training day is. The cost of hosting the website is still not confirmed by Ryedale District Council. Mrs. Garrett will report back with further news. The cost of the website hosting for 2016 will need to be included in the precept.

iv) Mrs. Garrett stated she had had a reply from NYCC and that the cost of salt was £90 inc VAT for 2 refills per bin. It can be obtained elsewhere for around £110 either in small bags or large 'Jewson' type bags. Mrs. Garrett said she was waiting for a further response answering her original questions regarding why residents should have to pay for salt, especially when Little Barugh is not on a gritting route and is a school bus route. Mrs. Garrett said she would report back at the next meeting as and when a response arrives from NYCC and felt that it should not have to be up to individual, generous residents that pay for it as has happened previously. It should either be free of charge from NYCC or added to Parish precept.

v) Mrs. Houlston said she had an 'apology' from Barclays as they did not appear to have any records of the original bank mandate. New forms will be required to be completed by signatories and ID taken to branch. Mr. Milner said he would try and find a copy of the original mandate. It was resolved to wait for further news from Mr. Milner.

11. Fundraising.

Options for fundraising/grants were mentioned. Mrs. Houlston mentioned that Paul Cuthbertson from Swinton had offered to give advice on grants to any members of our Council. Mr. Collinson to investigate further.

12. Any Other Matters Arising

Mr Milner expressed concern about finance and where money was coming from to pay for hire of meeting venues, YLCA membership etc. It was explained by Mrs. Houlston that an anonymous donor had offered to pay for hire of venue for meeting for this financial year, Mrs. Garrett said this would be classed as a donation and would have receipts to account for it in the books. As a Parish Council we would need to look at the budget for next year to incorporate such items as website hosting, insurance etc.

Mr. Milner expressed concern about not having the funds for the Queens 90th birthday celebrations in August 2016. Fundraising was suggested by Mr. Collinson who also suggested that there are many families who would like to be involved in community projects and it may be an idea to ask every household via leaflet/questionnaire their thoughts on holding an event to commemorate the Queen's birthday. Mr. Milner was asked if he would like to be involved in doing a leaflet he declined.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm. Date for next meeting TBA.