

Draft Minutes of a meeting of Sutton on the Forest Parish Council held on Wednesday 15 January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Grey Village Hall.

Present: Councillor Shearman (in the Chair)
Councillor Anderson
Councillor Matthews
Councillor McMeekin
Councillor Rankin

In Attendance: District Councillor Watkins (Hambleton DC)

Apologies: Councillor Gray, Sue Bracewell (clerk), and
County Councillor Patmore (NYCC)

Declarations of interest:
There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of meeting held on 13 November 2019:
The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2019 had been circulated. These were proposed as a correct record by Cllr McMeekin and seconded by Cllr Rankin.

Matters arising:

- (a) Dogs in the recreation ground. It was agreed Cllr Shearman would buy a post and ask Rob Delaney to erect it on the recreation ground behind the pub. The notice to be arranged by Cllr Gray will be mounted on this post. **Action: Cllr Shearman, Cllr Gray**
- (b) Installation of VAS equipment. It was agreed to proceed with acquisition of signage by SWARCO, subject to a satisfactory legal agreement with the Highway Authority and securing volunteers to manage and maintain the equipment, the cost to be split equally between the Council's precept and its unspent legacy. Cllr Shearman agreed to pursue the legal agreement and speak to possible volunteers. **Action: Cllr Shearman**
- (c) Maintenance update.
 - a. Village nameplates: John Smale has replaced the nameplate on Stillington Road and Cllr Shearman has replaced the nameplate on Carr Lane.
 - b. The village mounting block has been reinstated by Rob Delaney, with thanks to Alan Metcalf for his assistance in lifting and locating it.
 - c. Work to the jubilee oak has been completed, with thanks to Rob Delaney. Cllr Anderson reminded members the lower branches would need pruning again in the Spring. Cllr Matthews suggested one local tree surgeon, and Cllr Anderson, two more, who could be approached: Sam Dickson, John Clark and Tony Woodliffe. Contact details for all three to be passed to the Chair. **Action: Cllrs. Matthews and Anderson.**
- (d) **Moor End.**
Project Manager. The meeting discussed briefly the need to define the job and possibly appeal for candidates through the Parish Newsletter.
Footpath. Cllr Shearman reported a visit from Christine Withyman, concerned about the state of the footpath on which she had laid some bricks. Recently laid chippings were not considered adequate but the meeting decided to defer any action until the ground had had an opportunity to dry out following recent exceptional rainfall.

Tree work. Cllr Shearman reported that he and John Smale were disappointed with the quality of work undertaken by TCV and Mr Smale has written to TCV about this. Pending a response, TCV's bill for £2000 has not been paid.

Public Participation: There were no members of the public in attendance.

Report from North Yorkshire County Council: Cllr Patmore sent her apologies

Report from Hambleton District Council:

Cllr Watkins reported on progress with Hambleton's first crematorium and on a visit to Allerton Waste Recovery.

Finance:

2/20 The following payments were approved for payment, proposed Cllr Anderson, seconded Cllr Matthews.

28.11.19	BACS	130/19	S Cummings	Painting	600.00
11.12.19	BACS	150/19	J Smale	Name Plates	240.00 40.00
11.12.19	BACS	30/19	D S Marwood	Grass cutting	152.00
16.12.19	BACS	150/19	York Christmas Trees	Village Christmas tree	120.00
20.12.19	BACS	20/11	ALCC subscription	Clerk's membership	40.00
20.12.19	BACS	20/19	SLCC	Clerk's membership	92.00
20.12.19	BACS	150/19	Rob Delaney	Maintenance	266.00
28.12.19	276	80/19	S Bracewell	Clerk's expenses	108.21
28.12.19	BACS	120/19	Grey Village Hall	Room hire	225.00
1.1.20	BACS	70/19	HMRC	Clerk's pay	131.40

3/20 The financial update had been circulated and was noted. Cllr Shearman asked members to note two further payments, the sum of £214 to Rob Delaney for ironwork for the jubilee oak (including an extra £16 for finials not included in the original estimate) and the other to A.W. Scarborough for £105 for flailing the verge along Goose Green.

Clerk's salary: An increase to point 12 on the local government clerk's pay scale was approved, proposed by Cllr Matthews and seconded by Cllr Rankin.

4/20 Highway Performance – Carr Lane

Members agreed lack of communication from the contractors had caused unacceptable problems for the bus company and many of its passengers. The quality of the work was also poor and unlikely to last. Although the contractors had said they would be returning 'in the New Year' no-one knew when this was likely to be or the extent to which the poor workmanship would be remedied. Cllr Patmore's intervention on the Council's behalf was appreciated. It was agreed that further action would not be taken pending a report from Cllr Patmore regarding her discussion with the Highways Director. However, if this was unsatisfactory, Cllr Shearman would write formally to NYCC Chief Executive, with copy to the Leader, summarising the reasons for our dissatisfaction and seeking an explanation as to whether, so far as the quality of work was concerned, the contractors had complied with the terms of their contract and, if not, what the County Council proposed to do about this.

Action: Cllr Shearman

5/20 Sewage problems – Carr Lane

Members had been circulated with a copy of an e-mail sent to the Chairman by Yorkshire Water in December. The Authority acknowledged 'misconnections' in the area; it did not acknowledge fault although it was investigating a possible engineering solution. Given the likely cost however, it offered no guarantees. Members were not content to allow the continued discharge of water, fair or foul, on to the highway but agreed to await the Authority's promised update on or before 23 January 2020.

6/20 Planning update:

The planning update, as circulated, was noted.

Report from village organisations:

- (a) Village Hall: Cllr McMeekin said the Committee hoped to welcome a new member at its meeting in January but no-one, so far, had come forward to be treasurer.
- (b) Newsletter: There was nothing to report.
- (c) Thirsk and Malton Constituency Committee: There was nothing to report.
- (d) Easingwold and Villages Forum: As no-one attended either this or the Constituency Committee, Cllr Shearman asked whether we should drop these from our agenda. Cllr. Watkins however encouraged members to attend the Forum which had interesting speakers and shared useful information. She said minutes of meetings were circulated to all parish councils whether they attended or not. Cllr Rankin suggested we ask our clerk to circulate these in future. **Action: the clerk**
- (e) Playing Field: Cllr Matthews said all the new equipment was now installed and there were no further plans at present.

Any Other business:

Cllr Matthews said he was approached by a walker on Huby Road recently who complained about the unsafe state of the footpath between the cemetery and Tumbledown (slippery with mud and algae). There was also mention of the two houses, unoccupied and falling into disrepair at the far end of Huby Road. Cllr Shearman undertook to make some enquiries about the footpath and ownership of the houses.

Action: Cllr Shearman

Date of next meeting :

Wednesday 11 March 2020 at 7.30pm.