

Skelton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: c/o, 10 Long Furrow, Haxby, York YO32 2WF
☐: 07842 889 146 clerk@skelton-york.gov.uk www.skelton-york.gov.uk

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Skelton Parish Council held on Thursday 28th March 2024 in Skelton Village Hall at 1930.

Present:

Councillors: Cllrs. J. Watson, C. Linfoot, J. Linfoot, K Hayton, N. Lansell and L. Mansell.

Ward Councillor: Cllrs. E. Knight and A. Hook

Members of the Public 3

Clerk: Colin Ellis

23/119 Chair's welcome.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

23/120a To receive and note apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

Apologies received from Cllr. T. Stead.

23/120b To consider the approval of reasons given for absence.

It was RESOLVED to accept Cllr. T. Stead reason for absence.

23/121 To receive any declarations of interests not already under the Council's Code of Conduct or a member's Register of Disclosable Pecuniary interests.

None received.

23/122 To resolve to adjourn the meeting to hold the Open Forum to include: -

1. To receive February 2024 report from North Yorkshire Police.

It was noted that no report had been received for February.

2. To receive a report from the Ward Councillors.

Cllr Knight referred to the Church Lane grass verge condition (on agenda later) and was still investigating whether it would be possible to make it one directional and so far as the A19 layby north of Skelton was concerned (on agenda later) whilst it had been cleared of litter, it was now just as bad. Various solutions were discussed recognising it was not an easy problem to solve.

3. To receive the Litter Picker's report.

Litter Picker reported that on Sunday 3rd March he cleared a pan of rice deposited at the base of the Sycamore Tree in The Orchard near the substation. Dog fouling was still prevalent throughout the village and that two wooden bollards down Brecks Lane was now laid down (rotten) -originally placed to stop vehicles being driven down the lane.

4. To receive resident's questions.

a. To receive any update on the untidy driveway at 2 Grange Close and environmental health issues

It was resolved to note that the environmental issues had been reported to CYC, but no response had been received. The Planning Enforcement Officer has restated his intentions in going to revisit the property at the end of this month and will consider service of another untidy land notice in an attempt to deal with some issues at the front but unfortunately there is no quick fix for these kind of problems and there are also a lot of issues with this property that go beyond the scope of powers he has to tackle untidy land. There is also the issue of overgrown vegetation at the front and whilst he can request it to be cut back within an untidy land notice, once it has been cut back the notice is spent and does not impose any continuing obligations on the owner to conduct future maintenance. As such, if no maintenance is conducted the vegetation grows back within a few weeks and is back where it all started. He was hoping that the prosecution pursued last year for noncompliance with the previous notice served would prompt the owner to either sell the property or maintain it and may be when a further warning letter is sent this year and he realises the process has started again it will prompt him to take action but obviously can't guarantee it.

b. To receive any update on the state of the litter in the A19 layby north of Skelton.

It was RESOLVED to note that CYC had reported that the litter had been cleared but as reported by Cllr. Knight it was just as bad.

c. To receive update on Church Lane resident's concern about the condition of the grass

verge.

It was RESOLVED to note that CYC had inspected the condition of Church Lane but considered no action was necessary.

d. To receive update on the owner's hedge at 1 Grange Close obstructing the footpath.

It was RESOLVED to note CYC had written to the owner of the property with a view to cutting back the hedge.

e. To receive update on reported ASB.

It was RESOLVED to note that following reporting incidents to the Community Safety Officer CYC that a police presence had been observed by residents during the day/night and that the ASB incidents had reduced.

f. Trees back of Ratcliffe Court

Resident raised the issue that the trees at the back of Radcliffe Court needed attention by cutting back. It was far from clear who is responsible, YHA, CYC or Parish and the Clerk was requested to try and find the responsible owner.

23/123 To approve and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Skelton Parish Council held on 22nd February 2024 as a true and correct record.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Skelton Parish Council held on Thursday 22nd February as a true and correct record of the proceedings and were signed by the Chair.

23/124 To receive information on the latest ongoing issues and decide further necessary action on village and playground matters to include: -

1. To RESOLVE to ratify the decision to rescind allowing Cllr. Stead to fell the Ash tree nearest to the Oak Tree."

It was RESOLVED to rescind the decision allowing Cllr. Stead to fell the Ash tree nearest to allow the Oak Tree and that this should be reviewed later in the year and after the bird nesting season as it was considered that there was no imminent danger.

2. To receive progress update on resurrecting Community Speed Watch Initiative.

The Chair reported that a police professional attended on Saturday 23rd March to undertake training on the use of handheld speed guns to which Councillors and members of the public had been invited. 7 in total attended the training. The initiative had now become operational, and the first roadside exercise had been conducted with 15% of passing traffic being recorded as exceeding the speed limit down Moorlands Road. Further roadside exercises had been arranged. It was considered beneficial if a Facebook message be posted inviting more residents to accept the opportunity in joining this initiative.

3. To receive celebrations for the 80th D Day Anniversary on 6th June 2024.

It was RESOLVED to note that an 80th D-Day Flag of Peace had been purchased. It was also considered that lighting the beacon should take place at 9.15pm on 6th June and this should be firmed up at the April Council meeting.

4. To consider and decide on the competitive tendering quotes received and options for applying grant funding to replace the path at the pond with lighting options and decide on further action.

The Clerk reported that the competitive tendering process had commenced meeting 3 contractors to quote for the work. In addition, and as a supplement, the provision of installing lighting down the path is being explored with a recent meeting with CYC to explore the best solution, conventional street, or solar lighting. The Clerk was also exploring the different avenues in obtaining grant support including a possibility that the CYC may be able to contribute towards the project. It is likely that the quotes received will need amending to provide for a drop kerb both sides of Park Close and for a ducting to be set into the path to allow for any lighting and that the contractors would need to be licensed to undertake work on the City of York Council's adopted highway. There is also the cost of a license to allow for a drop kerb. It was RESOLVED to note the progress to date and that this project is work in progress.

5. To consider and decide on the quotation from Earth Anchors to provide for a new Notice Board on the Pasture.

It was RESOLVED to accept Earth Anchors quote totaling £1329 to provide a new notice board on the Pasture and accepted a quote from LJD Construction of £580 to remove the existing notice board, infill the ground and erect the new notice board. It was also RESOLVED to ask LJD Construction to lay flags in front of the noticeboard.

6. To receive progress and decide on any further actions required regarding dog fouling identified down pond path and throughout the village.

It was RESOLVED to accept that there was little action that could be taken to prevent dog fouling taking place throughout the village, it being the responsibility of owners to pick up and use the

bins that are provided at locations throughout the village.

7. Geese – mess and health hazard – consider and decide on any strategy for 2024 (deferred from August 2023 meeting)

Following some discussion on this emotive issue it was RESOLVED to defer to the April council meeting and for the issue to be monitored in the meantime.

8. Bench – west side of The Green (back to Pyramid House) – consider and decide on any action to repair (deferred from August 2023 meeting)

It was RESOLVED no further action be taken.

9. Instead of a parish newsletter, consider and decide on the option to produce a Welcome letter to new residents.

It was RESOLVED to be a good idea for a welcome letter be addressed to new residents and that Councillors were asked to help the Clerk identify any new residents to the village.

10. To consider and decide on a warning notice and/or lifebuoy for the pond.

It was RESOLVED to purchase a lifebuoy with an open housing cabinet, accessories, and a below ground fixing post from Southern Ropes for a cost of £217.50, noting this would have to be self-erected in a location at the pond to be identified. It was also RESOLVED to purchase a warning sign “Danger deep water” which again would need to be fixed to a post.

11. To consider and decide to order a free portrait of King Charles III for the Village Hall.

It was RESOLVED to order a free portrait of King Charles III to be exhibited in the Village Hall.

23/125 Financial Matters and Governance

1. To receive the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring report as of February 2024.

It was RESOLVED to approve the financial reports as of 28th February 2024.

2. To receive and consider the Income and Expenditure Report and Cash Reserves Forecast to end of 23/24.

Under Financial Regulation 4.8 it was RESOLVED to note the “material variances” to budget contained in the Income and Expenditure Report presented by the Clerk together with the anticipated forward forecast to the year-end including level of cash reserves.

3. To note Double Taxation Award from City of York Council for 23/24 totaling £11285.37 with implications on the grass cutting contract because of reduced double taxation allowance from 24/25.

It was RESOLVED to note the level of Double Taxation received for the year 23/24 but have been advised that following the decision of the Executive Member for Environment and Climate Emergency on 27th February 2024 the City of York Council will be changing its grass cutting frequencies and future double taxation payment will mirror these changes. General recreation areas, verges and churchyards will now be paid at a rate of 6 cuts per year (instead of 10). Sports and games areas will be paid at a rate of 7 cuts. For Skelton Parish Council this effectively means that whilst the grass cutting contract is for 15 cuts having been previously allowed 10 cuts for the payment of double taxation Skelton Parish Council will now only be allowed 6 cuts for the double taxation claim in future years which on current figures will not be able to claim back about £1700 next year. For the year 24/25 the Budget for double taxation is £10600 so this decision will impact on this income stream which we will need to manage during 24/25. The Parish Council will need to decide for future years whether to maintain the grass cutting at 15 cuts and fund the additional to the double taxation claim (this could impact the precept) or proportionately reduce in line with City of York decision. It was RESOLVED to note the change in the double taxation allowance for grass cutting for future years with the Parish Council needing to address when considering the next grass cutting contract.

4. To note the following receipts

a. Rowley & Sons Funeral Directors: Interment Ashes Robert Mapplebeck	£ 140.00
b. CYC Double Taxation Award 23/24	£11285.37
c. Bank Interest Barclay's Dec 23-Feb 24	£ 172.25

TOTAL £11597.62

4. To confirm the following payments of invoices: -

a. Salaries, oncosts, and mileage- February	(BP) £ 1104.31
b. home working allowance Clerk- February	£ 26.00
c. Giffgaff monthly charges- February	(DC) £ 6.00
d. Clerks' printer contract allowance - addtl printing February	£ 32.50
e. Microsoft Business Basic 365 monthly charge – January 24	(DC) £ 12.36
f. Skelton Village Trust – Contribution to printing conservation leaflet	(BP) £ 55.00
g. Business Stream – Cemetery Water Charges Nov 23-Feb 24	(DD) £ 22.47
h. Sleightholm Landscapes – Thinning out trees play area	(BP) £ 474.00
i. Castle Tree Surgeon – Pollard Willow tree and fell Elm	(BP) £ 680.00

j. Contribution to Easter Egg Hunt prizes	(BP) £ 26.75
TOTAL	£2439.39

It was RESOLVED to confirm payment of the above invoices.

To approve the following payments:

a. Salaries, oncosts, and mileage- March	(BP) £ 1114.92
b. home working allowance Clerk- March	£ 26.00
c. Giffgaff monthly charges- March	(DC) £ 6.00
d. Clerks' printer contract allowance -	£ 30.50
e. Microsoft Business Basic 365 monthly charge – February 24	(DC) £ 12.36
f. Card Factory – Postage Stamps	(DC) £ 18.00
g. Home Bargains – Stationery	(DC) £ 24.49
h. F&M Keys – Key ring and tags	(DC) £ 5.25
i. Tesco – Stationery	(DC) £ 10.70
j. Chair's allowance – Afternoon Tea – Ricardo	(DC) £ 58.64
k. Newton Newton Flags Ltd – Flag of Peace 80 th D-Day	(DC) £ 28.80
TOTAL	£1335.66

It was RESOLVED to approve payment of the above invoices.

5. Clerk's report for noting on 2024/25 Government Revenue Support Grant Settlement for Local Authorities with probable future implications for the Parish Council.

It was RESOLVED to note the Clerk's report presented to Council on the 2024/25 Government Revenue Support Grant Settlement with the probable future implications for the Parish Council.

23/126 Planning

1. To consider a response to the following planning applications: -
 - a. **24/00337/FUL – 52a Fairfields Drive, Skelton, York YO30 1YP – Variation of condition 2 of permitted application 23/01762/FUL to alter the plans and elevations. – Comments by 22nd March. – No objection**
 - b. **24/00460/FUL – 15 Pasture Close, Skelton, York YO30 1GZ – Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory – Comments by 9th April – No objection**
2. Other planning issues.
 - a. **Application by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) plc. for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement Project (Yorkshire GREEN) Project. Electric Lines - A proposed reinforcement project comprising a new 400kV and 275kV electricity transmission connection and associated development. Project location approximately 2km to the northwest of York, extending 36km south to Monk Fryston substation** The Secretary of State as the decision maker under s103 and s104 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) has decided that development consent should be granted and therefore has made an Order under s114(1)(a) of PA2008.

b. 22/02020/FULM - A1237 York Outer Ring Road A19 Roundabout Up To And Including Little Hopgrove Roundabout York Improvements to the A1237 York Outer Ring Road including dualling of existing carriageway, improvements to roundabouts, provision of 5.1km shared use cycle and pedestrian route, signalised crossing facilities for active travel users, 2no. overbridges and no.6 underpasses for pedestrians and cyclists with ancillary development including sustainable drainage measures, flood compensatory storage areas, woodland planting/landscaping, habitat creation, noise barriers, revised field accesses, associated infrastructure and earthworks. To be considered at Planning Committee meeting A on 19 March 2024 at 2.30pm. Recommendation by officer: approval. (Confirmed subsequently approved by CYC)

23/127 To consider correspondence received and decide action where necessary to include: -

1. To receive emails from YLCA: -
 - a. White Rose Updates, Law and Governance and E-training bulletins.
 - b. Training Programme April-September 2024
 - c. Councillor Development Framework Training 2024
 - d. Request village photographs that can be used in annual review publication – required by 22nd April - It was RESOLVED to allow appropriate photographs of the village be sent to YLCA to be used in the annual review publication.
 - e. NALC and SLCC joint sector survey on Martyn's Law standard tier consultation- extension to deadline.
 - f. YLCA. Assets Training Day Talking Tables – Saturday 27 April
2. To receive emails from NALC.
 - a. Recommend that councils adopt a gov.uk domain to protect emails and passwords.

- 3. To receive emails from City of York.
 - a. Residents update – March 2024.
 - b. Business update – March 2024.
 - c. Election for Mayor of York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority – Pre -election period started 26th March 2024.
 - d. City of York Council – Publishing meeting agendas and minutes for parishes

4. To receive emails from other organisations.

a. HaveYourSay Consultation on North Yorkshire’s all-age draft substance use strategy – consultation open until 30th April.

b. Yorkshire in Bloom regarding 60th anniversary of the National Britain in Bloom campaign.

23/128 To receive reports from the Council’s representatives on external bodies and to consider any action.

a. York YLCA Branch Meeting - Noted next meeting Thursday 6th June Dunnington Reading Rooms at 7pm.

b. Kyle and Ouse Internal Drainage Board. – No report

c. Village Hall – No report

23/129 To receive Councillors request for items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council.

The Chair reminded Councillors to let the Clerk have any items for the next agenda before the deadline.

23/130 To consider exclusion of the press and public from the discussion of item 23/131 by virtue of S.1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 due to the nature of the following business to be transacted being prejudicial to the public interest.

It was RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the discussion of item 23/131 by virtue of S.1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 due to the nature of the following business to be transacted being prejudicial to the public interest.

23/131 To receive recommendations from the Staffing Committee: -

1.To note the automatic incremental salary increase from 1st April 2024 for the Litter Picker.

It was RESOLVED to note.

2.To review the performance of the Clerk over the last 12 months and the appraisal conducted by The Chair.

It was RESOLVED to note that a review of the clerk’s performance during the last 12 months had been conducted by the Chair endorsed as being most satisfactory.

3.To review the salary increase from 1st April 2024 for the Clerk.

Following the conclusion of a satisfactory performance review, it was RESOLVED to note and approve a salary increase be awarded from 1st April 2024.

23/132 To confirm that the next meeting of Skelton Parish Council will be held on Thursday 25th April at 19:30 with the Annual Parish Assembly preceding at 7pm.

It was RESOLVED to confirm that the next meeting of Skelton Parish Council will be held on Thursday 25th April to be preceded by the Annual Parish Assembly at 1900 hours. A subsequent meeting of Skelton Parish Council will be held on 23rd May, being the Annual Meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 2102.

J. Watson

Signed -----Chair Skelton Parish Council

25/4/24

Date-----