

Minutes of the Meeting of Thornton - le - Moor with Thornton - le - Street Parish Council held on Wednesday 28th July 2021 at Thief Hall, Thornton - le - Moor at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors: A. Wond (Chairman) B. Stockdale (Vice Chairman) P. Pybus and Cllr Andy Robinson (HDC Councillor) **Clerk:** D. Robson

Attended by six members of the public.

1. Apologies and Approval for Absence: J. Barker

2. Police Report received for period 20th May to 27th July 2021

A police representative was unable to attend the meeting, a report was received that revealed there had been 1 Auto crime and 1 other crime including Drugs. No other details included.

The report also contained information focussing on road safety, targeting the 5 worst offensives as North Yorkshire enters the busiest months for crashes. The police are hoping the scheme will reduce the number of incidents as they are expecting this year to be worse as people are choosing to holiday in the UK instead of abroad.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 were approved by A. Wond and B. Stockdale.

4. Matters Arising

a. Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer Role

The PC welcomed the new clerk that started on 1st July. A meeting with the previous clerk to discuss the finances is planned for tomorrow.

b. Purchase of commemorative plaque for Thornton – le – Moor Defibrillator

The brass plaque has been ordered and will arrive shortly.

c. Black Swan, Thornton – le – Moor, Community Right to Bid update

HDC notified that the community has not put forward a bid to purchase the pub leaving the owner free to sell the pub on the open market.

5. Resignation of Parish Councillor

After 34 years' service Denis Sturdy has retired from the PC. The PC decided this length of service needed some recognition and asked for ideas on how this can be achieved. Any suggestions should be given to the Chairman.

This has left a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The councillors will produce a flyer to be posted through the letter boxes of residents within the parish. (Especially targeting those that have joined the parish within the last 18 months) An advert will be placed in the News and Views publication distributed locally. This is an effort to promote some interest in recruiting new parish councillors.

Clerk to inform HDC of the vacancy.

6. Planning

a) Granted

21/01226/FUL – May 2021. First floor extension above garage and kitchen to form bedroom with en – suite. Ivy Cottage, Main Street, Thornton – le – Moor. **HDC Granted**

21/01254/TPO – July 2021. Works to trees subject to tree preservation order 2017/02. The Hawthorns, Main Street, Thornton – le – Moor. **HDC Granted**

b) New Applications

21/01478/FUL – July 2021. Construction of one new dwelling (land North – West of The Old School) and one replacement dwelling (in place of Corn Cob Bungalow) with detached garage to serve The Old School and the proposed new dwelling. Corn Cob Bungalow (and land North West of The Old School) Main Street Thornton – le – Moor.

The PC support the replacement dwelling at Corn Cob bungalow but are concerned about the back land new build proposal in terms of the precedence it may set and the linear character of the village.

Clerk to respond to HDC expressing support for Corn Cob but highlighting their concerns about the back lands construction.

7. Thornton – le – Moor Church Yard Grass Cutting

At present the Church yard grass is cut by volunteers within the village but due to declining numbers and the lack of new volunteers the chairman proposed that the PC take on the cost of getting this cut commercially by contractors. (14 cuts a year) with a quoted cost of £2200 a year, this would mean an increase in council tax per household within the parish of £10 - £12 per year.

The PC decided that they should explore other options before asking the community if they support this idea. The PC will consult with the church council and explore other options first. Discuss at next meeting.

8. NYCC Councillor Update

No update received by Cllr Robert Baker.

9. HDC Councillor Update by Cllr Andy Robinson

Cllr Andy Robinson briefed the council on the latest projects from HDC. He reported in the last meeting that HDC had got a new fleet of electric bin wagons, he wanted to make it clear that it is only the part of the wagon that lifts and empties the bin that is electric.

HDC made an application to the football foundation towards a £500,000 grant for the construction of a 3G football pitch at Sowerby Football Club.

A new server was installed in the CCTV room that monitors car parks throughout Hambleton.

The new crematorium at Thirsk has suffered a setback due to the weather and not been able to acquire materials, it is anticipated to open in Jan/Feb 2022.

The chief financial officer resigned due to the restructure of the council. HDC have to have someone appointed to this role with a minimum of 5 years' experience. The new temporary Chief is employed with a wage of £150,000 a year working 3 days a week. Other options were available but HDC opted to employ a temporary chief.

The government made the decision to restructure the local council, replacing the eight councils currently operating under the two – tier system to form a single council. It is understood that existing boundaries will remain the same. Elections will take place in May 2022 with the new system operating in April 2023.

10. Public Questions

The main focus of questions related to the recent announcement of the local council restructure. The public enquired if the seminar to discuss the next step of the restructure scheduled today had taken place, there was concern that HDC does not appear to be planning their expenses/funding with the new restructure and transitional period in mind. Other comments included, there isn't any willingness shown by the council to meet the local council. When is Cllr Baker planning to attend the PC meeting and give everyone a formal update?

Unfortunately Cllr Baker was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Cllr Robinson explained that the restructure of the council had only recently been announced and the council will not know the implications this will have until they are briefed with more information. Which is why it appears to be business as usual. It is thought that in due course when more information is available Cllr R. Baker will update the PC.

Another matter raised the question why can't TLM and TLS have their own newsletter as the current News and Views publication is too general for the wider community. The chairman explained that he and the other parish councillors don't have the time to commit to producing a newsletter.

There was concerns that tonight's parish council meeting wasn't advertised enough. The chairman replied that it has been advertised the same way as always. On village notice boards and on the minutes of the previous meeting.

A member of the public raised concern over the upkeep of Butterfly Bank as the regular volunteer resigned due to ill health. The chairman asked the council if they knew anyone that may be interested in taking over. Unfortunately it is another example of lack of volunteers to help with village tasks. The alternative is for the PC to pay for it done commercially with the cost passed on to residents.

11. Finance

Approval of costs:

Laptop repair £34.99

Renewal of Liability Insurance – Zurich Insurance £112

12. Date and Time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at **8.00pm** on **Wednesday 29th September 2021** at **Thornton - le - Street Village Hall**, Thornton - le - Street, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 4DS.

Signed by Chairman:

Date: