



The monthly meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017** at Castleton Village Hall.

**Present :** Councillors: G. Banner (presiding), J Day, R Findlay, P Stonehouse, R Rudsdale, P Caffry, B/Cllr C Pearson and J. Preston (Clerk)

1. **Declarations of Interest** None declared.
2. **Apologies for absence** - Received from Cllr I Dodsworth.
3. **Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were accepted by resolution as a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising**  
The Clerk advised that he had been in touch with a representative from Sanctuary Housing and raised concerns about the process of allocating properties. A subsequent update had been received regarding the property discussed last month and it was reported that the prospective tenant had withdrawn her application at the last minute which had resulted in the house being re advertised and subsequently being allocated to a local couple. A rep from Sanctuary to be invited to a Council meeting to discuss the allocation process and appropriate means of advertising the work of Sanctuary Housing / availability of properties to rent.
5. **External reports** B/Cllr Pearson updated members on a variety of Borough Council related issues:
  - The SBC budget had been fixed and a £2.1 million deficit identified which would mean significant savings were needed. The Band 'D' Borough precept had been fixed at £221.31 with a similar amount identified for policing purposes.
  - Whitby Pier had been identified as being in need of significant repair, surveying was underway and repairs were expected to be undertaken in 2018.
  - Sirius Minerals Plc has commenced various road improvements in advance of their mining operation.
  - The NYMNPA budget (government allocated) was to be increased by 5% year on year over the next 5 years.
  - The Government has released £60 million to be used for Affordable (Community Led) Housing, only three potential sites in the Borough had been identified one of which is in Castleton (£1.86 million available)
  - Closure of public toilets (including Danby) – SBC Scrutiny Board had voted in favour of the proposed closure of various PC it is anticipated that the full council will accept the Scrutiny Board proposal. (Discussed further below)
6. **Accounts** The Clerk presented the monthly balance sheet and members resolved to settle outstanding issues - cheques signed accordingly.  
Grant Application, Westerdale Cricket Club – members resolved to grant Westerdale CC £350 towards the cost of a new scoreboard.  
Membership Yorkshire Local Council's Association – members resolved to renew membership.
7. **Planning**  
(1) NYM/2017/0120/FL. Esk View, Sandhill Bank, Commondale re alterations and construction of extensions and dormer windows together with a detached garage. Resolved no objections

Signed as a true record: .....(Chair) Date: .....

(2) NYM/2017/0169/FL. Application in respect of a subdivision to create 2 self-contained flats (no external alterations) at 11 Abbeyfield Esk Moors Lodge, Langburns Bank, Castleton. Resolved no objections

(3) Proposed "Botton Master Plan" – removed from the agenda (information received from NYMNPA this matter is not being progressed.)

8. **Council Vacancy** Clerk advised that he had received an expression of interest from Ms Emily Watson with regards filling the current vacancy on the Parish Council. Ms Watson was in attendance and addressed members personally. Formal application awaited.  
SBC to be informed regarding the vacancy created as a result of Cllr Reeves' retirement.
9. **Business rates on public toilets** Cllr Banner referred members to an article which had been published in the White Rose Update and members subsequently resolved to write to Robert Goodwill MP lobbying ref abolition of business rates on public conveniences.
10. **Items reported by Parish Councillors**
- Closure of Danby Public Convenience** No formal correspondence has yet been received from SBC but it is expected this will come after the final decision has been made by the full Council. Members agreed that financially the DGPC could not afford to take over ownership / full responsibility for the toilets BUT regarded the provision of toilet facilities in Danby as being very important. Members expressed a hope that the NYMNPA would intervene, resolved that the Clerk should write to Mr Andrew Wilson NYMNPA.
- Cllr Findlay. Gates / cattle grids** Cllr Findlay reiterated what he had explained to Mr Santon at the Annual Parish Assemble. The gates / grids in question were not in place to prevent farmers stock wandering from fields but to prevent stock grazing on common land from straying into the villages and into fields.
- Cllr Caffry** advised that some maintenance had been carried out on an electrical installation on West Lane near to / opposite the Duke William in Danby the contractors have left the site / verge in a state of disrepair. Clerk to investigate and write as appropriate.
- Cllr Rudsdale** advised that a recent road closure near Houlsyke had caused problems because of inadequate signage, further work and another closure was imminent – clerk to contact Area 3 Highways to advise of the previous problem.
- Retirement of Cllr Reeves** Members agreed that Cllr Reeves retirement and service to the community should be recognised by way of a gift and presentation. Suitable gift to be considered and Mrs Reeves contacted y the Clerk to establish if she would be willing to attend in advance of the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**The meeting closed at 9.30pm.**

**Date of next meeting of the Parish Council – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 at 7:00pm**