



The monthly meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 11th January 2017** at Castleton Village Hall.

Present

Councillors: G Banner, P Caffry, J Day, R Findlay, I Dodsworth, P Stonehouse, B/Cllr Pearson and J. Preston (Clerk)

1. **Declarations of Interest** - None declared

2. **Apologies for absence**

Received from Cllr Reeves. Cllr Hudspeth and Cllr Rudsdale were absent but no apology received.

3. **Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held 14th December 2016 were accepted by resolution as a true record and signed by the Vice Chair.

4. **Matters Arising**

- A. Repositioning the defib unit – Mrs Champion has made contact and is allowing access, Mr Eason has been contacted and will move the unit at his earliest convenience.
- B. Highways issues – agenda item (see below).
- C. Duck Bridge – The Clerk advised that he has written (email) to SBC, NYCC and NYMNPA with regards a sign / information plaque at Duck Bridge. The responses received had been circulated in advance. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact NYMNPA to request they fund and erect a suitable sign.

5. **External reports** No reports presented. (Police Report circulated in advance and published on the web site.)

6. **Highways Issues**

6A. The Clerk reported that on Tuesday 20th December he had attended a meeting with Mr Andrew Santon, Area 3 Highways Customer Care Officer. The on-line fault reporting system is working well but there is an issue with feedback, which will hopefully be resolved when a new dedicated Parish Council system becomes available in the near future. In the meantime Mr Santon has agreed to provide personal feedback as and when requested. Ref gullies on Strait Lane these are scheduled for cleaning, the path near Ainthorpe Fire station up towards Danby School will be cleared and a concerted effort will be made to clear gullies in Castleton but some assistance may be needed with regards a leaflet drop to ensure cars are moved. Reporting faulty street lights – following consultation with NYCC any street light fault (irrespective of who is responsible for the light in question) can be reported via the NYCC Customer Care telephone number. NYCC repair all lighting. The issue with regards the mapping system will hopefully be resolved. Grit bins / heaps (particular concerns raised by Cllr Findlay) – the Clerk referred to correspondence received in October 2015, which set out the criteria in respect of the placement of grit heaps and bins. The 2015 letter and attached schedule proved to be very confusing. It was possible to identify some locations as the schedule mentioned some place names but in the main it was impossible to decipher the information because the schedule relied heavily on referring to roads by way of a 'U' number. The online mapping system does not allow guest users to search for the 'U' numbered roads. Mr Santon tried to assist by consulting various hard documents and maps, he also drew a blank but eventually he was assisted by one of his colleagues who showed that he had different additional options available to him, which added the U numbers onto the roads. Without knowing the roads to which the schedule refers it is of little if any help. This issue has been raised with NYCC, in particular with Mr Barrie Mason, The Assistant Director Highways & Transportation. Ref Westerdale Side Mr Santon will have the situation reviewed. Finally Mr Santon offered to attend a meeting of the parish Council to do a presentation to members.

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

6B. Urban Grass Cutting provision for 2017 / 18. Correspondence received from NYCC which set out the two options i.e. (1) NYCC will fund grass cutting of urban highways visibility splays in the Parish in the sum of £336.31, or (2) NYCC will undertake the grass cutting. Members resolved to accept the NYCC offer (option 1 – which is as the Council has operated in previous years, so there is no change to procedure.)

7. Accounts

The Clerk presented the monthly balance sheet and members resolved to settle outstanding issues - cheques signed accordingly.

8. Planning

NYM/2016/0853/FL Application regarding the erection of an agricultural livestock building at Stonebeckgate Farm, Fryup. Resolved no objections.

9. 2017 Meeting Schedule The dates of meetings for 2017 were set – circulated separately and published on the web-site.

10. Annual Parrish Meeting The meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th April commencing 6.30pm in Castleton Village Hall. The format / agenda will be as in previous years and the Clerk will write to interested parties to request written reports. Mr Andrew Santon, Area 3 Highways Customer Care Officer will be invited as a guest speaker.

11. Visit of Mr Goodwill MP Saturday 21st January Members resolved that it was not appropriate to try to influence Mr Goodwill's agenda or the format of the visit. The visit has been advertised locally (on Parish Notice Boards and in the Village Hall) and it was resolved not to advertise the visit more widely (e.g. in the Whitby Gazette) for fear of diverting attention away from issues pertinent to this Parish.

12. Items reported by Parish Councillors

Cllr Findlay – Concerns raised ref 2 issues:- (1) grit bin / heap provision generally and (2) the continued absence of Cllr Hudspeth, which had been raised with him by a member of the public. A lengthy discussion ensued. Cllr Hudspeth has not been at a meeting since June 2016 when she mentioned in passing at the end of the meeting that she would be missing for a considerable time. The subject was not on the agenda and was not discussed formally and no approval for the period of absence was sought. There is no record of the 'chat' in the Minutes but it is believed the Chair may have been aware Councillor Hudspeth was going away. The Council were not asked and have never approved the absence. The Council have met on a monthly basis (with the exception of during September) so there have been 6 meetings during the seven month absence and there has been no contact at all from Cllr Hudspeth during this time. Cllr Banner advised that Cllr Hudspeth was in breach of Sec 85 Local Government Act 1972 - Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings. **(1)Subject to subsections (2) and (3) below, if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority."** It was resolved that in the circumstances the Clerk would seek appropriate professional advice and take action accordingly.

Cllr Caffry informed members that 2 PCSO's had been on duty in Castleton issuing advisory notices in respect of parking issues e.g. adjacent to drop kerbs, in loading bays and partly on the pavement. Clerk to contact PC Mortimer for update.

Cllr Banner read out a letter he had been handed by Cllr Reeves in which she announced her intention to retire as a Parish Councillor effective from 1st April 2017. Clerk to make persons aware as appropriate. No further comment is needed at this time.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 8th February 2017