



The monthly meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 12th October 2016** at Castleton Village Hall.

Present

Councillors: P Reeves, G Banner, P Caffry, J Day, P Stonehouse, R Findlay, Borough Cllr C Pearson. J. Preston (Clerk) and one member of the public (in part)

1. The future of Public Conveniences in Danby & Castleton

Mr Nick Edwards and Mr Paul Thompson, Operations, Transport and Countryside Manager, Scarborough Borough Council attended and briefed members regarding SBC's ongoing review of the public conveniences within the Borough. Following the recent review, Cabinet had rejected the recommendations made and therefore further discussions were taking place. SBC are required to make significant budgetary savings and on the basis that there is no statutory obligation up on the Council to provide PC's this was an area being considered where potential savings could be made. Ref Danby & Castleton PC's the ongoing agreement between SBC and the DGPC was signed in January 2007 and could be terminated by either party with 28 days' notice. As with other Parish Councils in a similar position SBC were exploring the possibility of DGPC taking over the ownership and complete management of the PC's in Danby & Castleton and as an incentive a one of grant of up to £5K per unit for upgrade / refurbishment was being made available. A decision was required by DGPC by the end of October. Questions were posed re business rates (PC's likely to be completely exempt in the fairly near future), the involvement of NYMNPA in discussions (keen to be involved). After Mr Edwards and Mr Thompson had left the meeting members discussed the situation at length. It was felt the offer of £5k was seemingly generous but in reality little could be achieved with this sum of money. Taking over the facilities would place a significant financial burden on the DGPC – additional water rates, business rates (in the short term), and increased insurance premiums. There were also concerns regarding the possibility of future upgrades being required if legislation were to change and also the provision of disabled access / facilities etc. The facilities were primarily used by visitors and not residents therefore increasing the precept to finance involvement was considered inappropriate. Following discussion members resolved not to take over ownership of the PC's in Castleton and Danby – decision to be conveyed to SBC by the Clerk.

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Hudspeth, Cllr Rudsdale & Cllr Dodsworth.

4. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held 31st August 2016 were accepted by resolution as a true record and signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising

From the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 31st August 2016 (for information / update on outstanding actions).

The Clerk advised all highways issues had been reported and a responses received.

Ref repositioning the defib unit no response had been received from the Village Hall Management Committee so this matter had not yet been progressed further. (Chair offered to contact the VH committee secretary directly.)

No reply had yet been received from Mr / Mrs Robinson re refurbishment of Parish seats – Clerk to follow up and also correspond with Mr Taylor.

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

Cllr Stonehouse reported that it had not been possible to complete the nomination ref the Queens's Award for Voluntary service as those being considered did not meet the set criteria.

6. External reports

Police Report published on the web page and circulated to members in advance of the meeting. No Police rep' present – report not discussed.

Cllr Pearson gave an interesting verbal presentation in respect of new legislation ref the potential for community involvement in the provision of affordable housing. (Further information available from Cllr Pearson in required)

7. Accounts

Council resolved to settle all outstanding invoices, cheques signed accordingly.

8. NYMNPA 'Local Plan'

Members indicated they had all considered the documentation produced by the NYMNPA but none had formulated a response. The Chair reported that she had gone through the document in detail and had drafted her own thoughts. The Chair agreed to circulate her document for consideration by members with a view to it being adopted as a formal response from the DGPC although individual responses were still of value and sought by the NPA. The Clerk advised that posters advertising the plan / consultation had been put up and a link to the documentation was on the PC web site. To be an agenda item for the November meeting.

9. Planning

NYM/2016/0711/CU Application regarding change of use from cattery to a mixed cattery / kennels and managers accommodation (no external alterations) at Valley View Cattery & Kennels, Castleton.

Members resolved to support the application – local business venture.

NYM/2016/0699/FL Application in respect of the erection of a groundkeepers storage shed at the Bowling Green, Castleton (wooden structure extending the existing pavilion).

Members resolved to support the application – enhancement of a well-used community facility and improved security for the storage of equipment.

10. Rural Action Yorkshire

Community-led Housing in rural North and East Yorkshire. Members formulated a response to RAY led Parish Council Survey (on line questionnaire – Clerk to submit)

11. The future of rural Post Offices

The Chair advised members that Post office Services had publicised their intention to introduce a mobile Post Office which would visit Danby twice per week for less than two hours per visit – this seemed to suggest the future of the Post Office in Castleton was in jeopardy (although this was not mentioned by Post Office Services). There had been a period of public consultation but this had not been widely known about / advertised and the deadline for response had lapsed. The issue had been widely discussed at the Northern Area Parish Forum Meeting where it had been agreed that NYMNPA would voice concerns with all MP's in the National Park Area, therefore there was no requirement for the DGPC to act further – Noted.

12. Overgrown footpath – Ainthorpe

Footpath from near to the Fire Station in Ainthorpe towards Danby School has become overgrown with grass encroaching on both sides making pushchair and wheelchair access difficult to say the least. Clerk to report to Highways and if they are unable to take on the necessary work the Village Caretaker is to be tasked.

13. Correspondence

(a) Closure of telephone kiosks in Comondale, Westerdale, Ainthorpe, Danby and Castleton – notices have been posted in the afore mentioned kiosks indicating that due to very low usage the boxes were to be decommissioned. Members acknowledged that usage statistics did not support any effort to campaign for the kiosks to remain BUT poor (if any) mobile phone connectivity in Comondale and Westerdale was a major concern especially in respect of defibrillator usage. Clerk to respond accordingly.

- (b) Correspondence received from Historic England re the possible 'listing' of the War Memorial in Comondale village – information re ownership sought. The DGPC does not own the memorial (which apparently was erected by way of public subscription) and is not responsible for maintenance and cleaning. Clerk to respond accordingly.
- (c) Correspondence from C/Cllr Heather Moorhouse requesting information regarding the 'Adoptee' of Danby Railway Station. Members had no knowledge of anyone fulfilling this roll. Clerk to respond accordingly.
- (d) Correspondence received from NYMNPA & Harlequin as part of the consultation process ref the upgrading of infrastructure at the telecommunications site on The Howe, Danby Low Moor. Noted – no response necessary.

14. Items reported by Parish Councillors

Cllr Findlay informed members that at a recent meeting of the Westerdale Village Hall Management Committee it had been agreed to no longer recharge the DGPC ref electricity usage for the public conveniences (metered to the Westerdale Village Hall) costs would be met from Westerdale Village Hall funds. The Chair expressed her gratitude.

The Chair advised members that she and Cllr Banner had attended a YLCA meeting in Scarborough (no update required).

There had also been attendees (in addition to the Chair) at the Northern Area Parish Forum (no further update as to discussions necessary – Local Plan and future of Rural Post Offices having already been mentioned).

The Chair had also attended and provided brief updates regarding a meeting of the Scarborough & Whitby Village Halls Network which had been facilitated by RAY. Attendance at the Coast & Moors County meeting (issue ref North Yks Fire and Rescue – info separately available if requested) and attendance at an all-day event (together with B/Cllr Pearson) in Hutton Rudby ref new housing in rural areas. (mentioned at item 6 above - info separately available if requested.)

The Chair expressed her disappointment that again there had been no Police representative at the meeting (stance supported by all members) – Clerk to contact PC Mortimer NYP Rural Task Force and request attendance at the November meeting.

Castleton Village Hall – involvement of the DGPC as Trustees

The Clerk brief members in respect of the meeting jointly attended by members of the Castleton Village Hall Management Committee and members of the DGPC (ie Cllr Reeves, Cllr Stonehouse, Cllr Rudsdale and the Clerk). In the briefest of terms, the VH Management Committee is very keen to seek a substantial grant to fund refurbishment of the hall but this cannot be progressed until a properly constituted management system is put in place. Action on the part of DGPC will be required subsequent to a formal approach from the Village Hall Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Date of next meeting - Wednesday 9th November 2016.