

Minutes of meeting held 20th November 2024

Present: Councillor Ronnie Smith (chair)

Councillor Wendy Knight

Councillor Jan Wylie

Councillor Ray Worsdale

Kathleen Allison (Treasurer)

Dee Lynn (Clerk)

A representative from Hunton in Bloom and a member of the public present.

1. Apologies for absence: Councillor Robert Wyatt.
2. Councillors' declarations of interest – none
3. Minutes of the last meeting held 18th September '24 agreed as a true and accurate record proposed Cllr Worsdale seconded Cllr Knight.

4. Actions from previous meeting:
 - (i) Quoits team tree planting request and beck clearance, further to the last meeting volunteers have cleared the beck of plant growth as far as the edge of road. At the Highways meeting (see 8(ii)) Cllr Knight had sought advice on responsibility for clearing the accumulation of silt in the drain under the road and was advised to contact Highways. The matter of the tree planting to be carried forward as agreed at last meeting deferred until the drainage matter resolved. Cllr Wyatt
 - (ii) Costings and permissions for repair work to grass "triangle" kerb edges, on behalf of Cllr Wyatt Cllr Smith that advice from Highways confirmed it was for Hunton to progress these works. A list of NYC approved contractors has been obtained and discussions with Catterick council who have similar but larger scale works to arrange whether a joint tender might be of benefit. It was agreed to seek 3 quotations for the works from the approved contractors list and to specify two levels of work to be quoted for. Cllr Smith
 - (iii) Quality of road surfacing near quoits pitch, this raised with Highways by Cllrs Wylie and Knight and it has been reported to Highways maintenance, Cllr Wylie to send follow up email.
 - (iv) Tree survey, a detailed tree survey report has been received and circulated. It gives RAG ratings for the trees and recommendations for necessary works. A lot of trees are affected by ivy growth and it was agreed this could be addressed by volunteers at village work days. The cost of the survey was £640

- + vat, previously agreed. Funding to provide for tree maintenance in the future to be detailed in the precept.
- (v) Persistent flooding at the Arrathorne junction, Cllr Knight updated the meeting that Highways representative had confirmed the work would be done by the end of 2024. Support had been sought from NYC Councillor to try and progress a resolution to this long- standing issue but had not been forthcoming.
 - (vi) Noticeboard replacement (village) and refurbishment (parish council, options for replacement of the village noticeboard have been explored including quotations previously circulated. It was agreed that alongside replacement of the village noticeboard the pc noticeboard should be cork lined and repainted to match. It was proposed to accept the offer from a resident to make a noticeboard at a cost not expected to exceed £100, proposed Cllr Wylie seconded Cllr Worsdale.
5. Police report, this had been requested but not received.
6. Local planning applications – none received.
7. Matters arising from NYC – in the absence of Cllr Tom Jones no information was available.
8. PC business / maintenance
- (i) Hunton in Bloom – the HIB representative advised that two residents were digging out the trench around the Greenacres island bench ready for the grit and soil. The soil and grit will now be ordered, the potential hazard at the site will be clearly marked until the trench is filled in, planting will be completed in due course. A HIB newsletter will come out by end of year and a coffee morning in the new year is planned.
 - (ii) Feedback from Highways meeting including “20’s plenty” Cllr Wylie updated that Highways will put out a consultation letter to all properties affected by the area of the proposed “20 mph” limit in early 2025. Consultation with the police has taken place. Cllrs Knight and Wylie reported the meeting with Highways had proved very informative and useful. The Localities Liaison Office Peter Cole will be a future point of contact. The new proposed parish portal will allow for individual councillors to have individual accounts to enable them to report issues, Cllr Knight noted good communication between councillors would be important to avoid duplication and potential confusion. Noteworthy from the meeting was the information given about road gritting and the sheer scale of this is impressive. A big issue for NYC Highways is underreporting of matters eg potholes, blocked drains and information on how to do this is to be publicised. The ongoing issue of the road edge “drop off” along Bedale Road was raised by Cllr Worsdale and Cllr Smith agreed to email Highways. Action Cllr Smith
 - (iii) Feedback from NYC liaison meeting attended by Cllr Smith, this was a useful meeting and the following issues had been raised by Cllr Smith with Mark

Codman, parish council succession planning – how NYC could assist, playpark inspections, precept, local bus service especially given Catterick Care Integrated Care Centre development, NYC planning, parish councils and .gov.uk domain names, and relationships and communication with NYC elected representatives, role of parish liaison service. Agreed a letter to be sent raising communication issues - Clerk.

- (iv) Precept 25-'26 dealt with under finance.
- (v) Playpark inspection, 3 quotations have been obtained for the annual inspection which is now due, after discussion it was agreed to request Park Lane Playgrounds based in Knaresborough undertake the inspection, and information on their availability to complete to be sought – clerk.
- (vi) Village newsletter, a draft newsletter had been circulated in advance of the meeting by Cllr Knight and the content was approved, arrangements for distribution agreed. Cllr Knight was thanked.
- (vii) Parish council website, parish council domain name, enquiries had been made into the benefits of a .gov.uk domain name for Hunton and the costs involved, central government grants of £100 are available toward the cost. Discussion was held as to the merits and benefit of such a change and the expense. Advice has been sought from current website support and will be circulated, in summary councillors and Treasurer could have email addresses created *****@huntonpc.org.uk for a cost of less than £2.50 per month. This was agreed as a cost-effective development, proposed Cllr Smith and seconded Cllr Wylie.

Cllr Wylie is liaising with website content support to keep website up to date.

9. Finance including precept '25-'26

- (i) A finance report had been circulated by the Treasurer and expenditure to date detailed. The Treasurer then outlined the proposed precept for '25 – '26 using the same headings.

Recommended increases in costs or spend were highlighted and discussed, as follows:

Donations to Patrick Brompton churchyard maintenance and the Methodist chapel, increase by £100 to £400 to be equally shared, proposed Cllr Smith seconded Cllr Worsdale.

Donation to British Legion increase by £20 to £70 – agreed

Clerk's expenses increase by £50 to £100 – agreed

Miscellaneous expenditure to be detailed to include recommended maintenance works following tree survey, and repairs to cinder house.

Some reductions in costs or savings identified.

Membership of Yorkshire Local Council Association affiliated to National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has been recommended by NYC previously and would provide a good source of advice and information for the parish council on its duties and responsibilities. This would be especially of benefit as new councillors and parish council support are to be encouraged.

Membership was agreed at an expected cost of £140 proposed Cllr Smith seconded Cllr Knight.

Payment arrangements for the computer software fee of £60 need to be updated – Cllr Smith to arrange with Cllr Wyatt.

Repairs to the cinder house, ridge tile replacement and pointing, as cost of works expected to exceed £100 in accordance with Financial Standing Orders 2 further quotations to be sought in addition to the one already received – Cllr Wylie agreed to arrange.

Subject to the discussions above the Precept for '25-'26 was recommended to be £6400, proposed Cllr Wylie seconded Cllr Worsdale.

- (ii) Any items of expenditure incurred since 18/09/24 requiring approval – none
- (iii) Monies owing from NYC for grass-cutting, the Treasurer confirmed that an invoice has been raised for this.

The Treasurer was thanked for her report.

Dee

22/11/24