

BELLERBY PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 23rd March 2009

MINUTES

The meeting was attended by the clerk, Cllrs Hutchinson, Jameson, Rycroft and Weedon together with 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2009

Cllrs approved the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes

Cllr Rycroft had received an estimate for the footpath to Leyburn from Peter Fishburn of Bikers. The estimated cost would be £315,000.00 if the footpath is to be put on the roadside of the wall, this figure does not take into account the cost of any work to the wall. It had been suggested that the cost, with the necessary work being done to the wall, would be around £400,000.00. However, if it possible to put the footpath inside the wall, the eventual figure could be as little as one tenth of these prices.

It is hoped that the Ramblers Association will agree for an existing footpath in one field to be moved from crossing the middle of the field to a new position just inside the wall. This would mean that the whole footpath to Leyburn could then be inside the wall, which would keep costs down.

North Yorkshire County Council had written to confirm that it supports the footpath project.

Cllr Hutchinson had prepared a letter to send North Yorkshire Police in response to their most recent letter. Cllrs approved the letter and Cllr Weedon, as Chairman, is to sign it.

4. The Chairman's report of Parish Council activities in the last year

The Council has met on 7 occasions during the past year and the attendance of Members has been good.

As in previous years, the Council has scrutinised various planning applications without there being any contentious items.

Cllrs have been busy taking forward projects, namely the footpath to Leyburn and the alterations to the 30mph signage.

It is disappointing to report that the request for alterations to the 30mph limit signs has fallen on deaf ears and the Parish Council has again written to the Chief Constable asking for the decision to be reviewed and in support of this request the Parish Council has submitted various extracts from the Department of Transport's own guidelines on the setting of speed limits. Hopefully this will bear fruit.

The Parish Council has been trying to set up a meeting with the Senior Highways Engineer together with County Cllr Harrison-Topham in order to review the erosion of the village green and the general state of the village roads. The last arranged meeting did not take place and the Chairman is now waiting for a new date from County Cllr Harrison-Topham. **Since this was written, that meeting has now taken place. See item 9.**

After the flooding that took place last year, the Parish Council realised that alleviation works were necessary to stop this happening again. Cllrs were very thankful to Richmondshire District Council for supplying sandbags to help stop water ingress to houses.

The Chairman has been pursuing funding to enable a feasibility study to be undertaken by a Consultant Engineer for works to alleviate the flooding that was experienced last year. A consultant is in place ready to go, but unfortunately the Parish Council doesn't have the £8000.00 needed to pay for the study. All avenues have been tried to get money but to no avail, The Chairman is now trying the European Union to see if they have funds for this type of exercise.

The new recycling system put into place by Richmondshire District Council seems to be progressing satisfactorily although there have been one or two teething troubles.

The bad weather put a strain on the supplies of salt for gritting the roads, but the village has been well served by NYCC with the bins being filled on two occasions after just a single request.

The village came second in the Best Kept Village competition for the second year. The Parish Council has raised one or two queries with the judges relating to their view of the village.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the clerk for all her hard work throughout the year.

5. Public speaking and question time

None

6. To receive quotes for the 2009 grass-cutting season

Only Horton Landscaping had replied with quotes for the forthcoming year, these quotes were:

Playing field	£47.50 plus VAT per cut
Village greens and verges	£75.00 plus VAT per cut
Village hall	£17.50 plus VAT per cut

Last year's quotes from Mac Plant Hire were £45.00, £95.00 and £10.00 plus VAT respectively.

In an effort to keep costs down for the Village Hall Committee and the Bellerby School Charity, the Parish Council will pay all 3 invoices each month and reclaim the VAT and then recharge for the village hall area and the playing field without the VAT.

7. Authority to pay

None

8. Correspondence

Bellerby had been invited to take part in the Calor Gas Village of the Year competition. Cllrs agreed to enter this.

The clerk had renewed the Parish Council's membership of the Richmondshire Small Parish Insurance Scheme, as this was still far cheaper than any commercial insurance would be.

Richmondshire Community Safety Partnership had written asking if the village had any request for their mobile speed matrix machine. The clerk is to ask for it to be used in the village as soon as possible.

Helen McArthur had written to Cllr Weedon confirming her resignation as a Parish Councillor. Cllr Weedon thanked her very much for her time with the Parish Council.

9. Report on the recent meeting with Mike Woodford and County Cllr Harrison-Topham

It was agreed that Highways would repair the stone edging of the village greens next to the roads, but that the Parish Council would have to pay for any edging not adjacent to the public highway.

10. Planning matters

An application for full planning permission had been received for "Conversion of Barn to Form Dwelling (Revised Scheme to Include Single Storey Extension to South Elevation to Form a Garden Room) at Glebe Barn, Church Street". Cllrs had no comment to make on the application.

11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – date to be confirmed. **This has now been set as Monday 11th May 2009.**