

Horton in Ribblesdale Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 23 May 2013

Present: Cllrs Hilary Bowman, Wilf Fenten (Chairman), Sheila Fleming, Gary Middleton, Avril Palmer, Richard Pattinson

Clerk: Mr I Fleming

In attendance: 11 members of the public.

Also Present: Cty Cllr Richard Welch, Mr I Croucher and Mr A Elsdon from Network Rail for Item 11.2.1

Item 1. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Sheila Millman.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the statutory annual meeting of the parish council and explained that that certain procedural items would need to be dealt with before turning to the matter of main concern.

Item 2. To elect a Chairman of the Council

Councillor Fleming was proposed by Cllr Fenten and Cllr Pattinson was nominated by Cllr Palmer. **Resolved by majority that:** Cllr Fleming be elected Chairman.

Cllr Fleming thanked the outgoing Chairman for all his hard work on behalf of the council.

Item 3. To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office

Duly signed, received and witnessed by the Clerk.

Item 4. To elect a Vice Chairman of the Council.

Cllr Fenten was proposed by Cllr Bowman. There being no further nominations **Resolved that:** Cllr Fenten be elected Vice Chairman.

Item 5. To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda items and their nature and to receive, consider, decide and record members' requests for dispensations

Councillors were reminded to declare items as/if they arise during the meeting. The Chairman outlined the rules and statute governing the declarations of interest and reminded Councillors that they should have regard to whether any person or persons acting reasonably and in full possession of the facts would consider that a disclosable pecuniary interest existed for a Councillor on a particular matter.

No requests for dispensation had been received.

Item 6. To appoint representatives to outside bodies

Resolved that: this item be carried over to the June meeting and that all current appointments remain in force until then.

Item 7. Public Participation

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that in view of the considerable interest in the matter to be considered under Item 11.2.1 that this Item be brought forward and dealt with under Item 6.

The Chairman invited Mr Croucher to explain the purpose of the development presently taking place on the railway embankment to the south of Horton station that had caused so much local consternation.

He explained that he would be the main contact within Network Rail for issues arising from the development. There were currently two local maintenance depots at Armathwaite and Gargrave. The plan was to rationalise these by building a new depot at Horton in Ribblesdale. The purpose of the depot is to provide a facility for the workforce to sign in at the start of the working day, receive orders, take lunch when working locally and to sign out at day's end. This would not be a 24 hour operation, but would be operational from 7.30 in the morning and mainly habited early morning, lunchtime and early evening.

The Chairman invited those present to voice their concerns and a summary of these is as follows:

- why was Horton chosen when other sites would have caused less impact
- why was no consideration given to the requests set out in the National Park Authority letter of 27 May 2011 that Network Rail consider a more traditional style and that NR consult with the parish council and local residents regarding the MDU
- the development is totally out of keeping with the concept of the conservation corridor, ignores the National Park purposes when making the decision and carrying out work to build extensively in the conservation corridor and the National Park and gives undue bias to the needs of the NR business plan.
- residents have no faith in the statement of short working hours
- the proposed lighting scheme is highly intrusive and far exceeds the lighting provision in the entire village
- everyone has a duty to preserve the beauty of the national park landscape and NR has been totally insensitive by erecting an eyesore in a conservation area
- a main footpath on the 3 Peaks walk crosses the access route to the MDU and walkers will be vulnerable
- access in winter is hazardous
- past experience has shown that there is insufficient water pressure in the area in the event of fire
- the development has had a serious detrimental affect on properties to the west of Cragghill road including loss of light and privacy

It was requested that the Council contact YDNPA planners and ask them to use article 4 consideration to have the development moved to a less sensitive location such as Ribblehead.

In response to specific questions Mr Croucher explained that NR had consulted with YDNPA planning officers and that Horton was the preferred location for the MDU. The lighting scheme had been amended so that 3ft bollards would now be placed along walkways rather than flood lighting.

During discussion the following points were made by councillors:

- NR had not followed their own code of conduct in notifying neighbours of work that will greatly disturb or inconvenience them
- there had been no notification of the development to the parish council nor any consultation
- it was a pity that the letter of 27 May 2011 from YDNPA planning officer had not been copied to the council
- there was a strong likelihood that at least two members of the community would seek a judicial review of Network rail's compliance with relevant codes, legislation and other statutory requirements

It was **resolved that:** Network Rail be requested to provide written evidence before our Annual Parish Meeting on 20 May that they have fulfilled the duties outlined in the Environment Act 1995 CS62(2) and that the Clerk is authorised to find out from YDNPA planning officers what can be done to stop or modify the work in progress including Article 4 considerations.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a phone call earlier that day from the Chairman of the

National Park Authority who had expressed his concern about the matter, asked for full briefing from his officers and would attend the APM on 20 May.

The Chairman thanked Messrs Croucher and Elsdon for attending the meeting.

Item 8. To approve the minutes of the meeting of 8 April 2013

The minutes of the meeting of 8 April had been tabled in due time before the meeting.

Resolved that: they be approved as a fair and accurate record and should be signed as such by the Chairman.

Item 9. To receive reports for information only

The Clerk reported that the annual accounts had been drawn up, balanced, audited and these, together with the internal auditor's report were before councillors.

A paper detailing proposals to be submitted under the Ingleborough Dales Landscape partnership had been prepared, submitted to YDMT and copied to councillors.

Repairs to Newhouses lane had been carried out by both NYCC Highways and contractors presumed to be working for the timber transshipment company.

Item 10. Finance and administration

10.1 To approve the Financial Statement and authorise bills payable

Cllr Fleming declared a discloseable pecuniary interest in a claim for expenses submitted by the Clerk and left the meeting. The vice Chairman took item 10.1. in the Chairman's absence.

Resolved that: the Financial Statement for May 2013 as appended to these minutes was a true and accurate record of the Council's financial position and that all due payments be authorised.

Cllr Fleming returned to the meeting.

10.2 To consider any other financial matters

10.2.1. To note the cash book entries for April 2013

Duly noted.

10.2.2 To receive and approve the annual accounts and internal auditor's report for f/y 2012/2013

The audited annual accounts for 2012/2013 were laid before the Council. A vote of thanks to the internal auditor, Frank Lane and to the Clerk, was recorded and the Clerk instructed to write to Mr Lane. **Resolved that:** the final accounts and the annual governance statement be approved, signed by the Chairman and sent for external audit.

10.2.3. To sign the annual financial return for the year 2012/2013

Duly signed by the Chairman, received and witnessed by the Clerk.

10.2.4. To sign the annual Governance Statement

Duly signed, received and witnessed by the Clerk.

10.3. Administration

The Clerk informed Councillors that using his delegation to make purchases of an urgent nature he had acquired a back up drive for the Council PC. This had been timely as the PC had developed a terminal fault a day after taking a full backup of Council data. Consequently the Clerk had sought and received exceptional authorisation to purchase a new PC and expenditure on this item had been approved under Item 10.1.

Item 11. Planning Matters

11.1.1 C44/215B full application for erection of a front porch 1 Chapel Lane

Following brief discussion **Resolved that:** Planning officers be informed that the application be recommended for approval.

11.1.2. To consider any other applications received prior to the date of this meeting

None received.

11.2. Decisions and other planning matters

11.2.1. to receive a verbal report from the Clerk and to discuss the development presently taking place on the railway embankment to the south of Horton Station

Dealt with under Item 7.

12. Village Environment, burials, Rights of Way and Highways

12.1. to give further consideration to the Visitor and Traffic Management Plan

Cllr Fenten observed that the plan is for parishioners to take forward, but that the Council must maintain a watching brief on its consideration and implementation. He asked whether a committee of the Council should be established to set up a task and finish group comprising all interested parties.

It was agreed to discuss this at the APM following the presentation of the plan by consultants.

Item 13. (No item 13).

Item 14. To respond to correspondence received

Action taken by the Clerk on all received correspondence was noted.

Item 15. To report on matters of information not included elsewhere on this agenda and to raise items for future agendas

Cllr Palmer asked that the gate presently preventing access to Sunnybank quarry be removed when work was not in progress. The Clerk to contact Horton Landscaping to arrange this and establish when work would be completed.

Cllr Fenten asked that NYCC Highways be contacted about replacing the rumble strips at Selside.

He also reported on a meeting of the CDLP steering group that had considered the full draft HLF submission. This was deemed worthy, but far too wordy so a summary had been prepared and adopted.

It had been agreed to include both Settle and Ingletton in the partnership area, but allocate no funding to any projects in these built up areas.

Cllr Middleton reported that he had received comments from residents about the camp site. The Clerk to find out where work on the required camp site management plan now rests and to report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Fleming had attended a school Foundation Governors meeting that had considered funding for repairs to the school roof and other refurbishments. These proposed works seemed affordable.

The Clerk reported that he had met with a development officer from Rural Action Yorkshire and understood that RAY had received funding to enable the officer to work for three months on helping to establish a management group for the development of Beecroft Cottages. It was planned to mount an exhibition at the Gala on 1 June and if sufficient local interest was forthcoming to hold a meeting on 15 June to formally establish a group. If this could be achieved then further grant might be available to extend the period during which the development officer might work with the group to help it secure funding to take forward the development of the cottages.

Item 16. To confirm the date of the next meeting scheduled for Monday 10 June 2013.

Duly confirmed.

The meeting closed at 20.55

Signed.....

Date.....