

Summary Notes of (ORDINARY) Parish Meeting for August 2020

As a point of procedure, it is noted that the July meeting of Camblesforth Parish Council was held as a remote meeting managed by Zoom, due to ongoing restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Date of Meeting Wednesday, 26th August 2020

Time of Meeting 1900

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parish Cllrs Cllr Neal Yates (Chair): Cllr Denise Kempton: Cllr Neil Ball: Cllr Kevin Wild: Cllr Joyce Boyes

District Cllrs Cllr Mike Jordan

Parish Clerk Andrew Crabbe

Apologies None received

1. Present and Apologies (*Chair to confirm quorum*)

Chair welcomed Cllrs to the first ever Zoom (remote) meeting of Camblesforth Parish Council and thanked all for making the effort to get to grips with this new way of holding meetings.

Clerk noted the non-attendance of Cllr James Neale and confirmed he had not received any apology.

1(a) Cllrs to consider applications for co-option of Cllr (*All*) – this item will be closed to any public in attendance

Cllrs noted the application of Stephanie Coleman for the vacant role of Parish Cllr following the resignation of Cllr Eileen Neale – several Cllrs made statement in support of Ms Coleman and commented that she was already active in village / school matters. Cllrs voted unanimously to support the co-option of Ms Coleman to the Parish Council and asked the Clerk to progress this.

Clerk confirmed that the appointment would take place from the September meeting and that he would contact both Ms Coleman and Selby District Council to confirm the above co-option.

2. Declarations of Interest (*Chair*)

District Cllr Jordan advised Cllrs that he wished to declare an interest on planning matters as he was a member of the SDC Planning Committee. This was duly noted by Cllrs.

Cllr Wild also declared an interest in a planning item and would therefore leave the meeting at this point this was discussed by Cllrs.

3 Report from District Cllr Jordan

Cllr Jordan complimented the Parish Council on the success of holding a remote meeting.

Cllr Jordan advised / updated Cllrs on the proposed changes of local government structure - Selby, Ryedale, York and Scarborough were proposing to set up a 'Unitary Body' based in York which would mean a devolution of power from County down to District and even Parish Councils – it could mean the latter would have more responsibility for such areas as roads, acknowledging Camblesforth's recent frustrations with NYCC's response on concerns raised. The other alternative was the creation of a 'Super Council' centred around NYCC – Cllr Jordan continued that regardless of which Selby DC would disappear in its current form, and new wards and boundaries would be created. Proposals in the form of bids needed to be submitted to the Government by end of September

Cllr Boyes advised that she felt the districts are better off as they are.... However Chair felt that devolution would benefit the area due to the fact that the Selby District was quite remote from Northallerton and it was easy to be ignored..... Chair continued that he had observed the 1041 had seen a considerable improvement in maintenance not previously seen, but this had in the interests of NYCC due to increased publicity from the closure of the A19. Chair advised he felt that if a local unitary body / Parishes were in charge of roads then things would improve.

Cllr Jordan also advised Cllrs that Paul Welburn had now resigned, and as elections could not be held due to the pandemic, he would continue singularly until next year.

4 Financial Report for July (Clerk)

Clerk shared the monthly financial report on screen – Clerk commented that the PC was spending a lot at the moment - £4k in July and £12k in August – this however was all budgeted for and expected. Clerk pointed out the forecast budget was £18k and the second precept was due shortly. No concerns were raised by the Clerk who confirmed that the finances of the PC were stable and solvent.

Cllr Boyes noted she felt the money spent was well spent and she was aware of many residents commenting on the flower baskets and new playground equipment. The report can be seen as appendix 1 at the end of this report.

5 Planning applications (Clerk)

PROPOSAL: Change of use of land from agricultural to residential
LOCATION: 5 Barn Elms, Camblesforth, Selby
OBSERVATIONS: Cllr Wild asked to confirm the intent of the application was to change from agricultural to residential - Clerk and Chair confirmed their understanding this was the case however this did not mean a building / structure – and it would be a garden extension.

In light of this Cllrs had no observations or concerns with the application

PROPOSAL 50MW ground mounted solar farm and associated infrastructure

LOCATION: Land adjacent to Camela Lane, Camblesforth

OBSERVATIONS: Cllrs discussed how it was felt that regardless of the view of the Parish Council, the development would proceed as it was part of the green economy and the bigger UK energy strategy. Chair continued that although it was unsightly and very large (150 hectares) it was only affecting a limited no. of villages and individual properties directly.

Cllrs discussed how the development might also result in some financial benefit for the village.

Cllr Boyes commented that she generally was against building on farming land which could never be used again, however she felt solar panels were a better option than housing or windfarms. Cllr Kempton agreed and noted that the development had first appeared on social media some months previously and the (general resident) consensus was that it was better than housing.

6 Matters arising – to consider new and on-going issues and decide further action if necessary:

Ongoing

6.1 Update and discussion on issues of concern with the A1041 – speeding, diversions and blind spots

Chair advised Cllrs that all the current concerns with regard to the A1041 remained unresolved and that he was bitterly disappointed at the response from NYCC / Highways on the matters. To remind Cllrs, the issues were:

- A blind spot at the junction from Mill Lane onto the A1041, with cars coming around the bend on the 1041 risking collision with cars leaving Mill Lane.
- A loose manhole cover on the 1041 causing a considerable noise nuisance for residents living alongside the road 24/7
- Concerns for speeding vehicles, especially lorries, which are even mounting pavements on occasion
- Related to the above, the increase of traffic due to the closure of the A19 and the A1041 being a designated alternative route by Highways.

Chair noted the Clerk's recent correspondence in which Highways had declared they did not feel there was sufficient evidence for a reduction in speed, or that the blind spot was an issue. The issue with the pot hole was still being looked at by Highways who advised the difficulty would be in closing the road for repairs

Clerk confirmed he had emailed the SDC Cllr responsible for Highways (Cllr Metcalfe) and had received no response and that he felt frustrated with the response of all parties involved – no one seemed interested in resolving the concerns of the Parish Council and he had a view that it wasn't until someone was seriously injured or killed before they actioned anything.

Cllrs discussed how to get Camblesforth residents involved and ensure that they understood the Parish Council was doing everything it could – Cllrs agreed that that it would be a good idea to use social media as a vehicle for informing residents of issues and concerns and what the Parish Council was doing.

Cllr Boyes agreed that social media would be useful but also noted the Parish Website contained a lot of this information – Clerk agreed but advised he was disappointed with the level of ‘hits’ on the website (residents accessing the website) – last year the PC had received criticism about the website and had now purchased a up-to-date / ‘state of the art’ website, but people were not using it.

Chair continued that in light of Highways comments that the Parish Council’s request for a concave mirror opposite Mill Lane had been refused due to the fact the road did not meet the criteria required, he proposed to speak to the landowner opposite the junction and ask for his permission to put up a mirror on private land. Cllrs agreed with this proposal which they felt reflected they had residents’ interests at heart more than Highways.

6.2 Update and discussion on allotment issues – requests for bee keeping and fly tipping (All)

Clerk noted that a tenant on the allotment had requested permission to keep bees on the allotment – Clerk continued that this was not covered in the allotment agreements – Cllrs discussed and agreed there was no issue with this and in-fact might benefit other tenants / local resident’s gardens whose crops / flowers would be pollinated by the bees.

Cllrs also agreed to a new lock and keys being issued – it was noted that the padlock had been damaged in February but it had not been possible to get a replacement and a sufficient number of keys at the time. Clerk reported that he had not received any issues with the allotments being left open, however Chair advised he had received request for the allotments to be locked.

New

6.3 Discuss and agree format for September meeting in light of ongoing pandemic and guidance (All)

Clerk noted that some Parish Councils were meeting again however these were generally held in larger venues – his concern was that both ERNLLCA and NALC were advising to continue with remote meetings – if Parish Councils wanted to hold physical meetings then a risk assessment would be necessary to ensure social distancing and other safety measures. It was noted that Selby DC were also continuing to hold meetings remotely. Clerk continued that in light of the above his recommendation was that the Parish Council should continue with remote meetings and as the Government had recently passed legislation legalising remote meetings until April 2021, he believed this would be a long-term arrangement for the foreseeable future.

Cllr Boyes noted that if the meeting could be restricted to just Cllrs then it would be possible to socially distance, however if the meetings attracted as many residents as previously, social distancing would be impossible in the village hall.

Cllrs agreed unanimously that future meetings should be held remotely and monitored each month, keeping an eye on Government / Local Government body guidance.

64 Concerns with overgrown greenery on Drax Road (Cllr Ball)

Cllr Ball raised concerns with overgrown trees and shrubbery along Drax Road, and that it appeared no cutting had been done for at least two years in places – Cllr Ball noted the worst section was from Brigg Lane to Croft Road junctions (both sides) and lorries were now knocking branches off. Cllr Ball continued that in many cases the tree trunks had disappeared under branches which were encroaching onto the paths making it difficult to walk along.....also power cables were close to being touched by the tree tops.

Clerk reminded Cllrs that this matter had been raised in the previous year and Drax, Highways and Northern Powergrid had all denied responsibility for the greenery along the road, and that is how it was left due to Covid hitting the country.

Clerk continued that he had written again to Drax following Cllr Balls latest concerns and Drax had asked for details on where the overgrowth was. Clerk now had this clarification and he proposed to provide this to Drax – if their subsequent response was unsatisfactory to Cllrs, the Clerk recommended escalating the matter and writing to the local press on the matter on behalf of resident's.

Cllrs agreed to this recommendation.

7 Any Other Business or matters raised by Cllrs

7.1 CCTV

Chair advised that he had spoken to a security expert who had recommended repositioning of one of the cameras to ensure more effective cover of the park, particularly the all-weather pitch. Chair felt this was a good idea as most of the historical vandalism was carried out in this area.

The CCTV was due for a service and the Chair recommended inviting the Company (Ryther Alarms) who had installed the camera to quote on moving one of these and compare this with the quote from the security expert the Chair had been speaking to.

Cllr Kempton noted residents had expressed concern about anti-social behaviour on the park carrying on past 1.30am and she supported any measures to try and address this. Chair noted that he had captured the particular incident in question and that it appeared none of those involved were from the village.

Clerk confirmed he would speak to Ryther Alarms when they came out in September for the servicing.

7.2 Anti-Litter Campaign

Clerk noted that he would be posting notices as part of Selby District Councils anti-litter campaign – Cllrs unanimously agreed this was a good scheme and the Parish Council should support it.

7.3 Christmas Lights

Cllr Kempton reminded Cllrs that before the pandemic the Parish Council was looking at a Christmas Lighting scheme using donated scaffolding poles from a contractor at Drax, and asked if this could be revisited.

Clerk replied this was one of the things which had been impacted by the Covid Pandemic and he would contact Drax and see if this could be actioned now – if the contractor was still in business!!

7.4 Pavement Repairs

Cllr Ball advised that he was aware that NYCC were currently carrying out repairs on pavements in the district, but he wasn't aware of anything for Camblesforth. Clerk advised this was also an issue previously raised and Highways had advised that they needed details of where pavement repairs were required – Clerk suggested that if Cllrs could do this and if possible, take photos, he would collate and send onto Highways.

There been no further business, Chair confirmed the end of the meeting at 2045

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 16th September – to be held remotely by Zoom

Signed as a true record Date
Neal Yates – Parish Chairman

