

**Minutes of the Meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7pm in  
Weaverthorpe Village Hall**

**Present:** G Downes, T Thomson, J Mason, A Milner, S Taylor, F Shellard (Chairman), J House (Clerk)  
There was one member of the public present.

**Apologies:** G Perry, M Rowland

**1 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies and their reasons were received as noted above.

**2 Matters to be raised by members of the public**

No matters to be raised

**3 To approve the Minutes of the meeting of Weaverthorpe Parish Council held on 20<sup>th</sup>  
January 2020**

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**4 Matters arising from the above Minutes**

The Clerk wrote to the food bank as requested on 21<sup>st</sup> January, inviting them to talk at our AM in May, asking for a poster about their plans to send a delivery service and also to ask if we could publish the details of their proposal in the Warbler and no reply has been received. The Clerk also wrote to the Head Teacher at the school supporting her efforts to stop unsafe parking on Sherburn Road. The letter was made public to the parents.

**5 Finance and Governance:**

Three payments were presented for approval:  
Weaverthorpe Village Hall for hire of the Hall - £72  
HMRC £67  
YLCA £130

After these invoices have been paid the balances at the bank will be:

Current Account	£2990.78
Reserve Account	£6841.17
Total	£9831.95

If we receive the invoice for the street lighting before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 this will be for £8234 (Incl. VAT)

As it is the end of the financial year in two weeks, we need to adopt Yorkshire Internal Audit as our internal auditor for 2019 / 20. As previously minuted in November 2019, they are still cost effective. Yorkshire Internal Audit were adopted as the Internal Auditor for the Financial Year 2019/20.

The year end accounts will be finalised at the end of March and sent to Yorkshire Internal Audit for auditing.

Tom has confirmed he will continue to administer the web site, so the Clerk has written to Luttons PC to ask for a cheque for £130 as their (50%) share of his costs.

## 6 Correspondence

A notification from passenger transport at NYCC to say that Service 190 will go ahead with no changes following their review. Information was posted in the March Warbler.

A newsletter was received from Ryecat which has been posted on the website.

The Clerk responded to the consultation on extra funding for rural bus services.

Advice for Cold Callers from YLCA, it was agreed that this would be posted on the website and the link put in the next Warbler.

Letter from Wetherby District Lions Club informing us that the Great Yorkshire Bike Ride will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

Email from Rev Andy Bowden that the Church at Helperthorpe will have a special service on VE day – Sunday 10th May and church bells will sound throughout the Valley.

A letter was received from the contractor to Highways England regarding the Sked Dale closures. The Clerk believes that it was received because he asked AREA4 Highways for details after seeing an article in the Gazette and Herald. The detail of the letter was discussed and it was noted that there are many inconsistencies in the information being presented. Therefore, the Parish Council agreed the following wording to be sent to the Contractor requesting more information.

*“Thank you for forwarding the letter to residents about the works to be undertaken by Highways England on the A64 at Sherburn and in particular the closure of Sked Dale. Weaverthorpe Parish Council have asked me to write to you concerning the letter and the works.*

*We assume we received the letter following an enquiry we made to our local highways office after seeing an article in the local press.*

*The letter states that the letter had been sent to residents, and we assume that the residents of Sherburn are the recipients. Other than some disruption to those residents joining the A64 during the duration of the works, that will be all they suffer. The closure of Sked Dale which is a busy road used by many residents of Weaverthorpe and other villages in the Great Wolds Valley is however much more disruptive, but no consideration has been given to the residents of those villages. People living in the villages in the Great Wolds Valley probably amount to around 700 people who use the road to access, Malton, Pickering and Scarborough.*

*Whilst it is too late now to do much about it, your letter is vague as to the actual dates of the closure and it would be helpful in terms of communication and highway safety, if some signage can be erected to inform people of what is scheduled to happen. Your letter also states the works will take 8 to 10 weeks, but signage has already been erected saying it will take 16 weeks.*

*Additionally if you can let me know any additional information, I can arrange for it to be placed on the Valley website and sent to people electronically.”*

An email has been received from Groundwork who administer the Tesco bags of help scheme saying that Tesco are suspending the voting on schemes to “reduce physical touchpoints for both colleagues and customers”.

Discussion followed on this subject and it would appear that we are to receive some funding from this scheme and will be notified in the next couple of weeks.

## **7. Details of any Planning Applications received and responses:**

There were no new planning applications or correspondence from RDC on Planning matters.

The email request sent to RDC in October 2019 was finally replied to by RDC Planning, in early February, explaining that the reason that an amended officer's report was loaded to the planning web site over a year after planning permission was granted was because the conditions listed were not recorded properly. This was after three requests had been made for an answer to our enquiry.

**Vellco:** The Clerk wrote to A Windress regarding the landscaping proposals put forward to and agreed by RDC. The main concern was that there was virtually no screening being planned to the northern boundary of the site. 31 trees are proposed for the boundary along Rarey Drive, and 5 trees along the boundary of the properties on Main Road. Both boundaries are almost the same length (160 metres vs 155 metres). A meeting was requested to discuss this but the reply from A Windress merely states "I will pick this up with Vellco as the delivery of the scheme progresses". This is not acceptable as it will get lost and then they will fall back on RDC approval. Further correspondence is required requesting that it be addressed now. Suggested wording was put forward as follows:

*"Thank you for your short email reply dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020, regarding the lack of screening to properties along Main Road.*

*The PC discussed this reply at our meeting yesterday, and find it unacceptable in terms of an answer to the problem and your assurances to the RDC Planning Committee that you value the public perception of your client.*

*Can we please therefore ask that you give us some indication of what will happen with the problems highlighted in our email of 29 January 2020?"*

The Council agreed the above text to be sent to Vellco's Consultant.

Incidentally we have not received an update from Cllr Tracie Middleton on her endeavours to raise the other Vellco issues. She did send an email whilst the Clerk was off sick saying she was meeting with the Chair of the Planning Committee.

## **8 Police Matters**

There is a CAP meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

## **9 Street Lighting:** The street lighting is complete apart from the light outside West End House. The Clerk did have to expedite the work and it is not clear when we will get invoiced. The Clerk received a reply to say the crews will be in the Ryedale area this week, but the work was carried out in the first week of March.

The Council gave permission for the Clerk to delay the VAT refund until the invoice has been paid in order to get the VAT back into the accounts as soon as possible. The Clerk will have

to make a statement to that effect to the auditor, and the VAT refund will become part of next year's accounts.

The clerk has received two complaints/comments about the new lighting, one from Rarey Drive saying that the lights are not bright enough and the second to say that the light outside West End House is not working. The reason for the latter is it is not connected as yet.

**10 Phone Box:** Following the signing of the agreement at the last meeting, the Clerk progressed the adoption of the box through BT and received a reply as follows:

"Thank you for your email and interest in adopt a kiosk.

I am afraid that this kiosk is not available for adoption. This is because the District Council objected to the loss of telephony when we carried out a consultation to remove it.

I am sorry my response cannot be more favourable."

The reply to the consultation which as the Clerk had reported before was sent on the 3rd working day after the date requested was sent by email for the attention of Mr G Housden, was as follows:

"Further to your letter of 7th October 2019 on the above subject, apologies for this late submission which was due to annual leave.

Weaverthorpe Parish Council have discussed this subject and plan to adopt the call box (47 on the BT list) with the telephony and electrical equipment being removed by BT."

When the above email reply was received from BT, on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020, the Clerk, sent an email to G Housden at RDC as follows:

"Weaverthorpe Parish Council replied to your request on the consultation on phone boxes during the last quarter of 2019 and stated that they wished to adopt the phone box (01944 738271)(no. 47 on the BT list).

We have just received a message from BT to say that the box cannot be adopted because the District Council objected to the loss of the telephony in a recent consultation.

Could you explain why we were asked for our views and they have not been reflected in the District Council's reply to BT "

No reply has been received to that latest email and it is almost 2 months since it was sent. An earlier email to G Housden about Vellco was followed up by an email requesting the courtesy of a reply some months ago, but this RDC employee clearly thinks he does not have to reply to emails, as is the culture of his department. The email reply to the Vellco query, referred to earlier, was only received after three requests had been made.

The Council agreed that we raise a formal complaint about the RDC Planning Manager ignoring correspondence sent to him. The complaint is to be made to the Customer Service Lead or via our District Councillor. Suggested wording is as follows:

*In October 2019, Weaverthorpe Parish Council received a letter from the Head of Planning, Mr G Housden regarding a consultation with BT over removal of phone boxes in Ryedale.*

*The Parish Council, replied to that request, on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The reply was as follows: "Further to your letter of 7th October 2019 on the above subject, apologies for this late submission which was due to annual leave.*

*Weaverthorpe Parish Council have discussed this subject and plan to adopt the call box (47 on the BT list) with the telephony and electrical equipment being removed by BT."*

*No reply was received from RDC, so we assumed that our comments had been received, noted and included in the reply to the consultation to BT.*

*The Parish Council therefore continued to rely on the assumption that BT would be notified of our intention to adopt the phone box and entered into an agreement with a group of residents that are taking the lead on refurbishing the phone box for community use, and keeping the phone box in a respectable condition which will complement its position at the edge of our Village Green. We should add that at present the phone box is in a very deteriorated state, due to the lack of maintenance it has received over many years.*

*Having finalised our position with the Residents we contacted BT on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to start the adoption process. We received a reply from BT a few days later as follows:*

*“Thank you for your email and interest in adopt a kiosk.*

*I am afraid that this kiosk is not available for adoption. This is because the District Council objected to the loss of telephony when we carried out a consultation to remove it.*

*I am sorry my response cannot be more favourable.”*

*Upon receipt of that unexpected news, the Parish Council sent an email to G Housden on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 as follows:*

*“Weaverthorpe Parish Council replied to your request on the consultation on phone boxes during the last quarter of 2019 and stated that they wished to adopt the phone box (01944 738271)(no. 47 on the BT list).*

*We have just received a message from BT to say that the box cannot be adopted because the District Council objected to the loss of the telephony in a recent consultation.*

*Could you explain why we were asked for our views and they have not been reflected in the District Council's reply to BT? “*

*No reply has been received to this request.*

*It is well accepted in the public perception of RDC and in particular the Planning Department, that it is almost a waste of time corresponding with RDC because the culture seems to be that RDC do not reply to communications sent to them. Indeed, recent experience has proved that. We should add that our communications have been by email and although “read receipts” have not been sent, we have not received any messages to say that they have not been delivered.*

*We therefore, as a result of this complaint, would request that time is not wasted explaining why our views were not forwarded to BT, in terms of Weaverthorpe Parish Council's intention to adopt the phone box. Instead we would request that RDC write to BT to put the matter straight, in order that we can progress with our plans to have a respectable phone box in our village which will be maintained in a state of good repair. We would also request a copy of that communication.*

The Council agreed the above wording for the complaint to RDC.

## **11 Tree Survey**

After much effort we have received three quotations from tree experts to undertake a survey of the eight trees that we need for insurance purposes.

Two surveys were from Barnes Associates for £354 (incl VAT) for a survey identifying any problems with the trees, £504 (incl VAT) for a full survey from the same provider and the third from J Clayton (ex RDC Countryside Officer) for £175 (no VAT).

The Council agreed to go ahead with the quote from J Clayton.

### **Empty Properties in Village**

S Taylor raised the issue of a number of empty dwellings in the village in light of the increasing awareness of homeless people and asked if the Council could approach RDC in any way to get these properties utilised instead of just standing empty.

There are currently 4 properties in the village which have not been unoccupied for a number of years.

As part of the same subject the Chairman had been approached by the developer who is building two properties at the west end of East Bank to raise awareness of the effect that the Local Needs Occupancy Conditions are having on selling new properties.

The first property was finished over a year ago and has not sold due to the local occupancy restriction, and the second larger property was sold to a couple from Sherburn who have pulled out on advice from their solicitor due to the local occupancy rules.

RDC have indicated that they may be able to waive the local occupancy conditions on the first property due to the length of time it has been on the market.

There will be a site visit by Kevin Hollinrake MP and a representative of RDC in early April to discuss the issues. The meeting will take place at noon on the 9<sup>th</sup> April. Chairman will attend and extended an invitation to any other members who wanted to attend and put their views forward.

The Clerk was asked to draft a letter to Ryedale District Council regarding both the unoccupied dwellings in the village and the difficulties with Local Needs Occupancy Rules.

The Meeting closed at 8pm

The date of the Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was changed to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF WEAVERTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2020 AT 8PM IN WEAVERTHORPE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Same attendees as above

The meeting was called to discuss what actions might need to be taken in light of the Government Guidance on the present coronavirus outbreak.

It was agreed that the Council will follow advice and guidance given by YLCA as to any changes to proposed meetings and that the Council would comply with any legislation that is in place or to be introduced with regard to any changes.

Tentatively if it is not possible to hold meetings, we will utilise conference call facilities to hold meetings remotely which can be extended to members of the public if necessary.

For the foreseeable future the Clerk as the responsible Financial Officer will have delegated powers to make decisions on anything that arises but will use existing channels of communication to inform members of the Council of any difficulties that arise.