

## Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 23 October 2019

**Present:** 32

**In attendance:** David Adam, Imelda Wallet (Ryedale Community Charter)

**Apologies:** Sue Aherne, David & Gaynor Badham, Melanie Burnside, Jane Dexter-Smith, Richard Kettlewell, David Lis, Peter O'Neill, Andy Watt, Jackie Young

**Ryedale Community Charter** – David Adam and Imelda Wallet gave a presentation to the meeting to gain support for the Ryedale Community Charter. The Charter is a mechanism to express the shared aspects and values of a local community. It will be available to view online from approximately mid of November; printed copies will also be available.

**Minutes of the last meeting** - these were accepted unanimously as being a true record of the meeting held on 10 April 2019.

**Matters arising** – as follows:

**Malt Shovel** – The Chair has written again to Samuel Smith Brewery but to date no reply has been received.

**Northern Powergen** – no further updates

**Bulb planting** – has been completed

**Ampleforth footpath** – The Chairman, with Kevin Kaley, met Laura Kilby a surveyor employed by Ampleforth College and received a reasonably positive response to the establishment of a footpath between Oswaldkirk and Ampleforth along the Hagg. The College will hopefully make a final decision shortly, further updates will be provided to the Parish Meeting when they are available.

**Planning Applications** – four planning applications had been received since the last meeting:

Ref. No: 19/00740/HOUSE Resurfacing of tarmac driveway with resin bonded gravel, installation of stone steps in place of vehicular access, erection of stone wall with railings, installation of 2no. air source heat pumps and associated landscaping  
The Old Rectory Main Street Oswaldkirk Helmsley YO62 5XT Approved

Ref. No: 19/00741/LBC Installation of stone steps in place of vehicular access, erection of stone wall with railings and installation of 2no. air source heat pumps  
The Old Rectory Main Street Oswaldkirk Helmsley YO62 5XT Approved

Ref. No: 19/00605/HOUSE Erection of single storey lean-to side extension  
2 St Oswald's Close Oswaldkirk North Yorkshire YO62 5YH Approved

Ref. No: 19/00480/CAT Fell 2no. plum trees in rear garden  
Weiglia Cottage The Terrace Oswaldkirk Helmsley North Yorkshire YO62 5XZ Decided

## Traffic Issues

**Speed Restrictions** – following numerous emails from the Chairman, Mr Breslin and Mr Parker to Mr Tim Coyne, Improvement Manager for NYCC Highways Department, NYCC has agreed that a 40 mph speed limit be introduced on the Gilling Road to incorporate the residential section of the road prior to the bridge. Whilst the Parish Meeting welcomed this development, the residents at The Barns and Bank Farm still wished to see this 40 mph limit be reduced to 30 mph.

**Speeding** – Mr Coyne and the Chairman have also discussed speeding concerns around the village. Mr Coyne advised that this was the responsibility of the police however he could make some safety improvements in relation to the playground. Specifically, moving the southerly playground sign further up the road and the construction of a barrier to protect the playground entrance.

The road surface at the corner of the Bank was also discussed and Mr Coyne confirmed it was on the list of roads requiring work but at present there was no funding available.

The Chairman advised that he had invited a representative from North Yorkshire Police to attend the meeting. The representative had been unable to attend this meeting but had confirmed their willingness to attend a future meeting.

The Parish meeting agreed a representative from the police should be invited to the next meeting.

**HGV movements** – The Chairman reported that on 17 September 2019 a meeting was held with Simon Thackray, Independent Councillor for Sinnington Ward and a number of Oswaldkirk residents who live on or near the Bank with the purpose of discussing HGV movements. All present had shared their concerns which predominantly related to increased traffic, noise and safety. It was felt the expansion of Ian Mosey Ltd's operation at Blackdale Mill was a major contributing factor and it was identified that the operation may be in breach of its planning permission which places conditions on the hours of HGV movement. The Chairman reported that he had met with Ian and Becky Mosey to discuss the residents' concerns which were received sympathetically. Mr Mosey advised that there had been a significant refurbishment of the operation and requested 6 weeks grace to make the necessary changes to ensure compliance with the planning permission. This deadline is 9 November 2019 after which, if there is no improvement, the Parish Meeting will write to the Planning Department.

A general discussion took place in relation to the above concerns with those present acknowledging that there were significant numbers of HGVs from other operators. Concerns were also raised in relation to the general condition of the road and its suitability for HGV traffic generally.

Councillor Thackray had recommended an Oswaldkirk representative attend the next NYCC Area Meeting for Thirsk and Malton. Questions must be tabled in advance. Professor Nick Cowern confirmed his willingness to submit a question and attend the meeting as a representative of the village. The Chairman asked for a small group to meet and help Nick to make sure all views were represented in the question.

### **Village Website**

As current custodian of the website, Stuart Charman advised the meeting that he is keen to update the software which would enable improvements and greater flexibility of the site. The improvements are cost neutral but an additional one off cost of £60 would be incurred in order to effect the change of software. This was unanimously approved.

### **Village Hall Update**

Roger Dexter Smith, Chair of the Village Hall Trustees updated the meeting on the progress of the village hall alterations. Stage 1 and 2 of the alterations are complete; blinds for the windows are to go up and temporary radiators have been introduced to improve heating. The floor has been renovated but needs replacing due to rotting supports. Stage 3 will include replacement of the floor, updating the heating system and re-tarmac the car park. This work will cost £25-35,000 and will proceed when further grant funding or finance is available. In the longer term it is hoped to introduce a screen and loop audio system. Roger stated that 70% of households in the village had contributed to the work at the hall either financially or by giving their time. He thanked everyone for their support.

The Chair of the Parish Meeting congratulated the Village Hall trustees for the excellent work undertaken.

### **Village Precept**

A letter was tabled from the Chair of the Village Hall Trustees requesting an increase in the grant from the Parish to the Village Hall. The Chair of the Village Hall Trustees clarified that the grant increase was not required because of the refurbishment of the hall but due to the costs of maintaining the village playground (a recent addition to the Village Hall Trustee portfolio). The playground does not generate a revenue and the current grant is insufficient to maintain the facilities. An increase in the grant will be sufficient to maintain the village assets and a further increase would not be sought for a further three years.

A general discussion took place within which the Parish Meeting Chair also presented comments from those not able to attend the meeting. Those present agreed it was important that funding for communal assets within the village came from all residents.

The Treasurer tabled the annual budget for 2020-21 as required by the Local Government Act 1972. The budget detailed all costs incurred by the Parish Meeting (one of which is the grant to the Village Hall) and included for 2020/21 an increase of £600 in the precept to be raised from the village. This increase of the precept would require an additional circa £5.00 payment per Council Tax Band D household (up from £19.72 to @£24.95).

The 2020/21 budget shows an overall shortfall of £475.70, however the Treasurer anticipates annual funding from the National Park Authority which will cover this shortfall. Contingency arrangements are in place should this funding not be forthcoming.

The Treasurer asked the meeting to approve the 2020/21 budget.

Approval of the budget was proposed by Ian Hanley and seconded by Andy Halliwell. Those in favour - 31; those against – 0; abstentions - 0. The budget was duly approved.

### **Any Other Business**

**Bus Routes** – a concern was raised in relation to the changes to the bus service. In particular that the current service is inadequate involving much longer bus journeys to and from York; that the bus journey to and from Helmsley is now unreasonably spaced; that no information was sent to Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting before the changes were enacted; that the change has adversely disadvantaged a large number of villagers of all ages and will seriously disadvantage the older members of the Village in the long term.

It was agreed to make written representation to the local MP and the bus company requesting reinstatement of the previous service. The Parish Meeting Secretary will co-ordinate.

**Operation Christmas Child** – Helen Goodman highlighted the imminent commencement of activities and asked for the support of those present.

**Future Parish Meetings** – David Goodman noted the full agenda and questioned whether meetings should be held more frequently. The Chair confirmed he proposed to hold a further meeting at the end of January 2020 followed by the AGM in April/May. All agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.