

Littlethorpe Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 19:30 on Monday 11 March 2019 in Littlethorpe Village Hall

Present: Cllr Spoors, Winterburn, Gray, Orme, Laugher, County Cllr Harrison, Borough Cllr Atkinson, David Duthie (Clerk), and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies: There were no apologies

2. Declarations of interest: None further to those on the Harrogate Borough Council website

3. Chairman's remarks:
 - 3.1 Littlethorpe Parish Council (LPC) exists for the benefit of the people and parish of Littlethorpe. Its Councillors are, without exception, dedicated to trying to ensure, that within their very limited powers, the parish is a good and pleasant place to live; that its heritage is respectfully preserved for future generations; and that the village environment is protected and allowed to thrive.
 - 3.2 Littlethorpe Parish Councillors are volunteers who give much of their time to Council business and to other parish related non-Council business, which is still for the benefit of the Community. As well as meeting formally every two months, a regular exchange of emails takes place on a variety of matters. Other duties include: emptying dog waste-bins, planting bulbs, litter picking, and organising events such as the Annual Parish Meeting.
 - 3.3 Councillors represent LPC on other bodies such as the one responsible for Quarry Moor Nature Reserve, Ripon City Quarry Restoration and Aftercare Committee, and the Village Hall Committee.
 - 3.4 The Council generates new ideas for improving the look of the village and preserving its heritage, such as the island at the junction of Mankin and Littlethorpe Lanes; a new bench in the same area to celebrate Jack Laugher's Olympic triumph; improvements to the Pinfold including the recently un-earthed Parish Boundary Stone. Almost without exception such improvements are financed by grants from various sources.
 - 3.5 All of the Councillors' contact details are readily available on the Village and Borough Council websites, and on the Council notice board. Parishioners should feel that they can make contact for advice or information. Sometimes, this leaves us open to abuse such as a couple of years ago when we received an email from a parishioner who used his Company's email address to accuse us of being in the pockets of local land-owners. That was a libellous statement, completely without foundation and was to do with a local footpath (not even a right of way). We decided to let the matter pass.
 - 3.6 Probably the most contentious issue dealt with by the Council is that of Planning. Despite Littlethorpe Parish Council having no powers in this area, it is consulted by the Planning Authority, which is Harrogate Borough Council, and asked to give its opinion. Whether the Planning Authority takes any notice of the Parish Council's opinion is open to question. Nevertheless, it is still our duty to make an honest comment and to take into account the effect on the village and its residents. LPC wants to ensure that the village thrives and that new people are

Clerk: David Duthie, Pottery Lane Farm, Pottery Lane, Littlethorpe, RIPON, HG4 3LS
E-mail: clerk.littlethorpe.pc@gmail.com Phone: 01765 676640 / 07736 022155

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able to buy or rent property, but that any new building retains the character of the village and doesn't overwhelm it, as has happened with other villages in the HBC area. Small, sensible developments are usually not objected to, providing they adhere to this, and do not increase road safety problems - particularly as we are on a major cycling route, not to mention an ideal route for walkers.

- 3.7 Whenever a planning application is made and an individual councillor feels that because of a personal interest, whether to do with (say) the position of their own property, or their relationship with the applicant that might affect or be seen to affect their judgement, that councillor will abstain from voting on the matter. In my 3 years as a member of the Council I can assure you that whenever there has been such an issue, the Councillor has abstained. It is possible that the best way to object to or support a planning application is for individual residents to use the normal channels to express their opinions to the Planning Authority.
- 3.8 Littlethorpe Parish Councillors are all volunteers and rarely, if ever, seek any expenses – often forking out of their own pockets. We want to make a positive contribution to the Parish and Community. We do our best. Without sufficient willing volunteer councillors, the Parish Council would cease to exist and would be combined with a neighbouring one – and we surely don't want that. Residents who feel aggrieved in any way should attend the Council meetings and express their opinions, rather than criticising councillors on their doorsteps or in the street, as has happened occasionally in the past.

4. County Councillor's report.

- 4.1 Fatal collision inspection report, A61 28 Dec 18. Highways officer recommended considering moving bus stop, changing signage and road markings, extending lighting, and will fund any alterations.
- 4.2 Street lighting fault to be attended on Pottery Lane this coming week.

5. District Councillor's report.

- 5.1 Budget is in preparation.
- 5.2 District plan: 637 the new housing target, likely to be an oversupply. Report of Local Plan still not returned, and will be open for consultation when it is.
- 5.3 Old district building sale has fallen through, with lost deposit by purchaser.

6. Responsible Financial Officer's report

Income and Expenditure

- 6.1 Clerk's salary February, March £329.60

Following expenditure was approved:

- 6.2 Clerk's salary April, May
- 6.3 YLCA training: end of year returns and responsible financial officer training, Doncaster 19 Mar 19, registration £86.25 travel £56.70
- 6.4 SLCC regional AGM and training, Helmsley 30 Mar 19, registration £30 travel £29.70
- 6.5 Pinfold boundary stone plaque, £448.20 (North Yorkshire grant received already)

7. Correspondence.

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- 7.1 10 Dec 18 Streetlight No 1 Pottery Lane not working. Light No 2 Littlethorpe Lane now repaired.
- 7.2 4 Jan 19 Relative of resident of Quarry Park with proposals to improve road safety on A61 South of Ripon. Response 3 Feb 19.
- 7.3 18 Jan 19 parksoperations@harrogate.gov.uk offer of bulbs or wildflowers
- 7.4 21 Jan 19 Notification of Parish Consultation Meeting, Whixley, 18:00 19 Mar 19
- 7.5 1 Feb 19 Notification of civic celebrations for Yorkshire Day in Whitby, Thursday 1 August
- 7.6 1 Feb 19 Proposed review of the Localism Act and Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- 7.7 22 Feb 19 Letter from Compliance Officer, Place Shaping and Economic Growth, Harrogate Borough Council. Complaint has been received regarding noise from Morrison's supermarket. Complainant has been asked to monitor noise for two weeks and submit a report.
- 7.8 25 Feb 19 Harrogate Borough Councils web pages for Parish Councils and interests of Parish Councillors have been changed.
- 7.9 5 Mar 19 Skipton and Ripon Area Constituency Committee meeting, Ripon community house, 10:00 14 Mar 19

8. Planning

- 8.1 17/095090/EIAMAJ Land Comprising Field At 431401 469281 Planning Application Consultation. **Response B:** Objection
- 8.2 18/04475/FULMAJ Demolition of 1 dwelling and erection of 37 dwellings. Land Comprising Field At 432266 470194 Littlethorpe Road Ripon North Yorkshire. Alterations to design of proposed properties and boundaries. Before planning committee 12 Mar 19.
- 8.3 18/04238 (Revised Scheme.). Moor End Farm Littlethorpe Ripon North Yorkshire HG4 3LU. **Response A:** No objection.
- 8.4 19/00119/FUL Erection of a dwelling. Land Adjacent to Long Meadows Littlethorpe Lane Littlethorpe Ripon North Yorkshire HG4 3LG. **Response B:** Objection. **Decision:** Permission refused 8 Mar 19.
- 8.5 19/00336/FUL Demolition of existing buildings; Erection of 5 dwellings. Grange Farm Littlethorpe Road Littlethorpe HG4 3LG. **Response C:** No objection or support, but comments and safeguards
- 8.6 19/00422/FULMAJ Erection of 2 no. single storey extensions; Alterations to fenestration; Creation of additional car parking; Extension of property boundary. Morrisons Harrogate Road Ripon HG4 2SB. **Response C:** No objection or support, but comments and safeguards
- 8.7 19/00957/PBR Prior notification for conversion of agricultural building to form 2 no. dwellings with associated building works. Land Comprising Field At 431951 468256 Knaresborough Road Littlethorpe North Yorkshire. **Response B:** Objection
- 8.8 Tree Preservation Order 8/2019 - land comprising field at grid reference 432074 469537, Littlethorpe Lane, Littlethorpe effective 19 Feb 19 for 6 months.

9. Public Time (15 minutes)

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9.1 Bellwood Hall application for 150 houses. Ripon City Council have 300 excess of dwellings beyond their plan and the City Council opposes this development. Further development East and South of the bypass is not required. Without a district plan for the Borough, pressure for a decision early may be sought by the applicants. The reliance on road transport and proximity to Quarry Moor SSSI are further reasons to refuse this application. Next available planning meeting is 2 April.

Action: Representative to attend planning meeting if 17/095090/EIAMAJ scheduled

9.2 Littlethorpe Lane has two stretches of hedge that have not been trimmed. Branches protrude into roadway. 12 West View and field for 5 new houses border the hedges.

9.3 Knaresborough Road hedge also not cut on the Eastern border.

Action: the Clerk

10. Boundary stone in pinfold

10.1 Boundary stone and plaque now in place in pinfold. Invoice for £448.20 received for payment.

11. Road drains within the Parish

11.1 Drains have been emptied and flushed clear on Littlethorpe Lane.

12. Potholes

12.1 Images of potholes on roads within the parish have been reported with their positions using the NYCC portal. Road edges are also in disrepair.

13. Land to the West of Littlethorpe Triangle

13.1 Fenced off piece of grass verge extends into field and contains a hydrocarbon monitor. Previous installation of a soakaway in the ground had been monitored. NYCC engineer will investigate site and structures below it and will report to Chairman.

14. 1919 Littlethorpe Peace Celebrations

14.1 For information, 19th July 1919 there was a peace celebration within Littlethorpe. Information presented to the Parish Council included documents from the time. For display on the website.

Action: the Clerk

15. Village Hall Committee Report

15.1 Village Hall committee have requested Parish Council provide a nominee for the coming year: Cllr Laughher nominated

15.2 Heating of the hall. New control system has received complaint and increased markedly the cost of heating. Supplier, tariff, and Nest now known.

15.3 Commuted sum to be used to change heaters.

15.4 AGM changed to 20 May 19.

16. Alderman Spence Committee Report

16.1 Meeting 16:30 30 Jan 19 Mayor's Parlour, Ripon Town Hall:

16.2 Repairs authorised to children's playpark.

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- 16.3 Chippings to be playground grade. Removing material from SSSI problematic. Chippings from material on site would be suitable if no yew or thorns.
- 16.4 Finances under review.
- 16.5 Car plates and gate requiring constant maintenance.
- 16.6 Safety report referred to HSE to discover if action necessary or desirable.
- 16.7 'Friends of Quarry Moor' to be established to raise awareness and funds.
- 16.8 The Hut. Condition and rental reviewed. Not on Littlethorpe Parish Council's register of assets. Quarry Moor Development Association runs hut that is a temporary building. Obtaining funds as part of West Lane development could lead to replacement.
- 16.9 Next meeting 16:30 27 Mar 19.

17. Ripon Quarry & Aftercare Report

- 17.1 Meeting 6 Dec 18
 - 17.1.1 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust take over 18 Mar 19
 - 17.1.2 Footpath and boundary complete
 - 17.1.3 Canal Field now renamed Canal Reedbeds
 - 17.1.4 Littlethorpe Flower Meadow filled with wildflowers
 - 17.1.5 Ripon City Wetlands borders Renton's Bridge with gate access
- 17.2 Grand opening 1 May 19

18. Dates of future meetings.

- 18.1 11:00 6 Apr 19 Litter pick
- 18.2 19:30 29 Apr 19 Annual Parish Meeting
- 18.3 1 May 19 Opening of New Quarry Nature Reserve
- 18.4 13 May 19 Annual General Meeting, Parish Council Meeting
- 18.5 8 Jul 19 Parish Council Meeting

19. Meeting closed 21:18