



SHAROW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting

DATE: Monday 17th July 2023
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Sharow Village Hall
PRESENT: Councillors Robert Forber (Chair), Alison da Costa, Paul Humberstone, Gary Simpson
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: Two Members of the Public [MoP]

23.11	<p>Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none</p>
23.12	<p>Apologies and reasons for absence Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Gemma Escott, Christ Gilbert, and Chris Thomson.</p>
23.13	<p>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th May, and of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on the same evening The minutes were APPROVED as a true record of the meetings, and signed as such by the Chair.</p>
23.14	<p>Ongoing issue from minutes not related to other agenda items</p>
23.141	<p>Dishforth Road / New Road development – A representative from V&A Homes reported that the next phase of development involving the formation of the estate entrance off Dishforth Road is waiting on technical approvals regarding drainage from Yorkshire Water, which has been received, and NYC Highways, which has not yet. Once the latter is received a Section 278 agreement will be signed. They added that a meeting with Simon Warwick regarding the management of hedgerows and vegetation on site had been positive, with comments passed on to V&A’s ecologist.</p>
23.142	<p>Half Moon pub – The Council heard that, with the appeal against refusal of planning permission of change of use dismissed, the owner has now applied for a Certificate of Lawful Existing Use [CLEUD] on the grounds that he claims to have lived on site continuously for four years. If this is proved then NYC is required to grant the certificate. The Council RESOLVED to approve expenditure necessarily agreed between meetings of £2,635+VAT for legal fees to cover: legal advice on the matter; drafting of an objection to the CLEUD application; and drafting and witnessing a statutory declaration by the neighbours of the pub stating that four years’ continuous inhabitation had clearly not taken place. Meanwhile NYC has served the owner with an enforcement notice to reinstate those pub features which have been removed, and absent an appeal which has not yet been forthcoming the deadline for compliance with the notice is 1st August. The Council noted comments from a MoP expressing concern over the level of fees paid and the viability of the Half Moon, but reiterated firmly its belief that the pub’s previous lack of success as an evening-only wet-led business was no guide to its potential as an all-day multi-purpose community hub including a traditional pub offer in the evening. Furthermore, unlike with the previous change of use applications, legal advice was necessary to ensure the Council was correctly objecting to the CLEUD; had the advice been different the Council would not have been able to object.</p>
23.143	<p>Dishforth Road chicane – Four Councillors and a MoP had met officers from NYC Highways on site, but no common ground had been reached during a somewhat heated meeting. Noting that despite the Parish council’s strongly-held concerns about the chicane there was no immediate prospect of a change of policy by NYC, the Council agreed with a suggestion that an academic study, perhaps by a MSc candidate or for a dissertation, might offer a fresh angle on this issue. <i>ACTION: Clerk to investigate possible ways to develop / support such a study</i></p>
23.15	<p>Questions or comments from members of the public not related to other agenda items</p>

	<p>The issue was again raised of overgrown hedges and foliage impeding the already narrow pavement between the Village Hall and Sharow Cross. It was noted that management of hedgerows and foliage encroaching on highways and footpaths is the responsibility of the landowner.</p> <p><i>ACTION: Clerk to liaise with NYC Highways to inform potential enforcement action on the landowner</i> <i>ACTION: Cllr Forber to approach the landowner independently of the above</i></p>
23.16	<p>Report from principal authority councillor There was none, NYC Cllr Nick Brown having sent his apologies.</p>
23.17	<p>Planning applications and decisions The Council considered ZC23/02235/TPO, for various works to a trees subject to protection orders at "Tully's Oak", Fairlawns, and RESOLVED that it supports this application.</p>
23.18	<p>Financial statement and approvals for payment The Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Parish Clerk (June/July salary, and expenses/training including £40 to the Information Commissioner's Office for annual GDPR registration); DTMS Ltd (play area inspection) £120+VAT; T. Atkinson and Sons (noticeboard maintenance) £56.50; Sharow Village Hall (hire for this meeting) £30; and Schofield Sweeney LLP (per item 23.142) £2,635+VAT. The Council's cash book balance following these transactions was NOTED as being £4,981.17, with a VAT126 repayment due in mid-August.</p>
23.19	<p>Vehicle Activated Signage [VAS] The Council considered authorising expenditure of £4,327.04+VAT (including £2,000 NYC members discretionary grant) on a VAS unit moving between sites at the east end of the village (corner of Dishforth Road and New Road) and the centre of the village (Dishforth Road by the play area). The Council RESOLVED to agree this expenditure.</p>
23.20	<p>Commuted sums The Council RESOLVED that £267.46 for security lights at Sharow Village Hall was a suitable expenditure from the commuted sums held over from the former Harrogate Borough Council. <i>ACTION: Clerk to inform NYC</i></p>
23.21	<p>Caretaker tasks The Council agreed to ask the Caretaker to spray the weeds at the foot of the church wall, and to remove nettles from the hedge on facing the car park by the play area fence.</p>
23.22	<p>Correspondence</p>
23.221	<p>North Yorkshire Council: Proposal to name the streets on the new estate as Half Moon Way, Oak Drive, and Turner Drive. The Council supported these proposals.</p>
22.222	<p>PKF Littlejohn LLP: acknowledging receipt of the Council's declaration of exemption from external audit.</p>

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE:

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