



SHAROW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting

DATE: Monday 20th November 2023
TIME: 7.00pm
LOCATION: Sharow Village Hall
PRESENT: Councillors Robert Forber (Chair), Alison da Costa, Gemma Escott, Chris Gilbert, Paul Humberstone, Gary Simpson, Chris Thomson
CLERK: Nick Reed (minutes)
IN ATTENDANCE: 14 Members of the Public [MoP]

23.37	Declarations of interest and requests for dispensation There were none.
23.38	Apologies and reasons for absence There were none, all Councillors being present.
23.39	Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th September The minutes were APPROVED as a true record of the meeting, and signed as such by the Chair.
23.40	Ongoing issue from minutes not related to other agenda items
23.401	Dishforth Road / New Road development – A representative from V&A Homes reported that the discharge of conditions regarding highways and drainage has now been signed off by North Yorkshire Council’s highways department, with traffic management plans now being prepared so that work on the highway can take place, perhaps in early 2024. They confirmed that an application for variation of conditions regarding Section 106 contributions on affordable housing and community contributions has been made, and that negotiations are ongoing between V&A and NYC. A discussion ensued, and bearing in mind several comments from parishioners, the Council RESOLVED to submit the following statement to NYC planning: <i>"While acknowledging changing economic circumstances since the granting of this planning permission, Sharow Parish Council would wish to see Section 106 contributions retained at the highest possible level. It is important that a development of this size relative to the parish fits into and contributes to the community of which it will become a part. The Parish Council would like and expect to be consulted once a concrete proposal has been reached between V&A Homes and NYC for the variation of Section 106 monies."</i>
23.402	In response to another question from a MoP, the V&A Homes representative confirmed that Back Lane would not be used as a regular access route to the site for heavy vehicles, which would enter via the Dishforth Road entrance once it was formed, and likely “dig their way in” in order to form it. Half Moon pub – The Council heard that there have been no developments regarding the two appeals ongoing, one against the refusal of a Certificate of Lawful Use for the building as a dwelling, and one against the enforcement notice requiring them to reinstate a full pub set-up. The Council reiterated that once a date was set for the hearing/s, it would be helpful for as many parishioners as possible to attend and show the strength of feeling for the retention of the Half Moon as a public house.
23.403	Vehicle activated signage – The Clerk reported that the sign and posts were now on order, after a delay caused by various issues at the company providing the sign. Installation is expected before the next Council meeting.
23.404	Pedestrian access to Bluebell Bank via Sharow Lane – The Council heard that there had been no response to its letter to the landlord about this matter, nor to various communications from parishioners. It is possible, although the process is protracted, that this access could be declared a public right of way. To do this there would have to be proof that it was used as a public footpath continually since the early 1980s. Anyone with personal knowledge of such longstanding usage (especially with photos etc) should contact the Clerk per the letterhead of these minutes.

23.41	<p>Questions or comments from members of the public not related to other agenda items</p> <p>Various MoP raised the following issues, which were discussed fully:</p> <p>The Dishforth Road chicane, which is regarded by as being wrongly positioned, and poorly signposted when approaching from the west (Ripon/A61) NYC Cllr Brown agreed to report these views to the county's Highways department, and to check the progress of an independent report commissioned by NYC into the placement and orientation of the chicane;</p> <p>And, the condition of: the narrow pavements on Dishforth Road from the play area to the A61 roundabout; Sharow Lane; and New Road. All are made more dangerous than ever by fallen leaves, and Dishforth Road and New Road exacerbated by faulty / non-existent street lighting. The Clerk has contacted NYC to ask for urgent help with these matters, and the Council reminded all residents that it is the responsibility of every property owner to ensure that their hedges and foliage do not encroach into or over pavements or the carriageway.</p> <p>In response to a question from a MoP, Cllr Forber said that defibrillator training was planned for 21st May 2024</p>
23.42	<p>Report from principal authority councillor</p> <p>NYC Cllr Nick Brown reported that the first of his parish forums for the parishes within his area was to take place on 28th November. He had met with Yorkshire Water to discuss a number of issues within this and nearby parishes, and read a statement from Cllr Carl Les, Chair of NYC, on the steps being taken to consolidate and develop the new authority, noting that a major service restructure was planned over the next year.</p>
23.43	<p>Planning applications and decisions</p> <p>There were neither any new applications to consider, nor principal authority decisions to note.</p>
23.44	<p>Financial statement and approvals for payment</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments: Parish Clerk (October/November salary, and expenses/training); Autela Ltd (£48.32+VAT, payroll admin qtr 2); TWM Ltd £3,837.04+VAT, purchase of VAS); North Yorkshire Council (£500+VAT, posts for VAS); Yorkshire Local Councils Association (£133.60, Cllr training); Schofield Sweeney LLP (£950+VAT, legal advice re Half Moon); and Sharow Village Hall (hire for this meeting) £30.</p> <p>The Council's cash book balance following these transactions was NOTED as being £1,772.50, with well over £1,000 of VAT due for reclaim.</p>
23.45	<p>Budget 2024-25</p> <p>Noting the need to replenish reserves following extraordinary expenditure this year on VAS and the Half Moon campaign, the Council RESOLVED to approve the budget as circulated, with a rise in precept of £1.130, or £2.34 per elector.</p>
23.46	<p>St John's PCC</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to make a Section 137 donation of £800 towards the maintenance of the public areas of St John's churchyard.</p>
23.47	<p>North Yorkshire Council draft housing strategy</p> <p>The Council noted this draft document and did not feel the need to comment on it as a body.</p>
23.48	<p>Caretaker tasks</p> <p>There were none beyond contracted works, although the Clerk was asked to enquire about the timetable for planter management.</p>

23.49	Correspondence
23.491	NYC: Noting the need for a new local plan to replace the seven held by the former authorities, and that this process would take the duration of the current council (until 2027) to complete.
23.492	MoP: Enquiry about a property in Sharow called "Woodside". Sadly the Clerk's enquiries have found no such property in any parish record. MoP: Noting that a 5G mast is shortly to be erected near the trig point to the north of St John's Church.
23.493	V&A Homes: Noting that the names Turner Drive, Oak Drive, and Half Moon Way have been accepted
23.494	by NYC for the new development, and that one of these names was a suggestion by a Sharow Primary School pupil and a suitable prize would be given to the pupil/school.
23.495	MoP: Comment about the poor surface of Lowfield Lane. <i>{Clerk's note; only the first 125m of this is adopted, at "category 6", and NYC report that there are "no actionable defects".}</i>

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date of next ordinary meeting: TUESDAY 16th January 2024 (please note change of date)

SIGNED: (Chair)

DATE:

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