

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 2nd April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Rafelt, Threlfall, Harper, Calvert, Terry & Robson, Jo Foster & Jen (STAG representatives), 4 MOP

- 1) Apologies. Cllr Richardson, PCSO Brown, North Yorkshire Cllr Les
- 2) Declarations of interest. Cllr Rafelt declares a personal interest in item 4 (Home to School Transport).
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 26th February. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) School Transport Action Group attending to give information about recent changes to the School Transport Policy. Jo Foster introduces herself as part of the core STAG, there are 450 on the Facebook group, and explains that action is required to review the policy. Jen explains her situation, she is a parent whose family is affected negatively due to the changes in this policy. JF goes on to explain that there was a consultation last year and she attended a meeting relating to this, the trigger for this consultation was government policy changes to special needs school transport. Following this consultation, in July 24 North Yorkshire Cllrs voted for the change from catchment school to nearest school (footpaths and bridleways are used to calculate the distance). For 80% of families their nearest school will also be their catchment school, this is not the case in Scorton. This policy came into effect on 1/9/24. 3rd March was the offer day and some Scorton parents contacted STAG prior to this. For some the nearest school will be out of North Yorkshire, this takes the funding for that child out of area. Primary schools are affected also. There are extra rights for low income families. 12% of appeals for school transport will be granted, DofE Policy states that appeals should be assessed on a case by case basis. The admissions policy hasn't been altered to tie in with the new school transport policy. STAG's aim is to bring catchment schools back; they raise questions about the real savings from this new policy. North Yorkshire full council meeting will be 21st May at 10am, STAG encourages attendees (although this will be a closed meeting). STAG looking at a legal challenge of the policy and the appeals process. A Parent and some Cllrs ask some clarification questions. Appeal can be via the website or direct email, furthermore STAG encourage parents to contact Cllr Les & Annabel Wilkinson to explain their situation. Jo & Jen leave, Cllrs thank them for attending.
- 5) Crime Report. PCSO Brown forwarded February and March report, Herbert protocol information put on PC Facebook page.
- 6) Matters raised by the members of the public. MOP has concerns about the number of HGVs going through the village, and feels it's not a main road, clerk will forward the information about the Community Speed Group to him. The co-ordinator will advertise for more volunteers in the next S&D Times. Information from the vehicle activated sign on Hospital Road will be downloaded when next moved, this information will be posted on Scorton.com.
- 7) Updates from North Yorkshire Councillor, Tarmac representative, Save Scorton Lakes, Scorton Surgery. Save Scorton Lakes, no formal application has been received as yet. An ecology survey is taking place. The group continue to meet every 2 – 4 weeks and are taking some legal advice, also looking at the possible merits of designating the space as a Community Asset. Scorton Lakes continues to be well populated and the group are beginning to increase knowledge of the proposals. Receiving online media re: objection letters, which will obviously differ from person to person. Intend to hold an extraordinary meeting when the application arrives, group in contact with other nearby parish councils. The 106 agreement runs out in 20 years, what should the area look like then? The value of this green space is so valuable.
- 8) Updates from previous meetings. None

9) Accounts

Balance at 2/4/2025 £11,177.82 (Internal controls checked by Cllrs)

Incoming:

- MOP (Memorial bench and footing) £728.83
- NYC (Urban Grass cutting) £1135.05
- NYC (Locality funding for replacement of heritage lamp) £500.00

Outgoing:

- Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.50 (increase from 1/4/25 6.4%)
- V Raven (Wages February) £707.21 + £21.00 (Land Registry checks)
- BT (Broadband) £45.19 (increase from 1/4/25 6.4%)
- Maison & Garden (Memorial bench) £469.00
- Purple Creative (Website hosting) £264.00
- Defib Warehouse (Defib pads – BOS) £77.82
- YLCA (Annual membership) £347.00
- Unity Bank (Charges) £6.00
- NYC (Annual grass cutting) £7663.20

10) Planning items

- Variation of conditions No 2 & 23 of planning permission C1/12/00245/CM for the continuation of site operations and restoration on land at Tancred Waste Transfer Station. No objections.
 - FPP for reconfiguration and extension of dwelling and creation of an annex. 4 Beaufighter Close. No objections.
 - Discharge of condition 25, part discharge of condition 7 & 22 relating to external lighting attached to outline approval 22/00148/OUT for 10 unit residential development. Land at Station Road. No objections.
- 11) VE day plans – 8th May. Cllr Threlfall explains that the national lighting of beacons will be at 9.30pm, and asks if the PC want to provide tea and sandwiches prior to this (in the SWMI). It was resolved that this was a good idea. Committee meeting to be arranged to finalise details.
- 12) Date for annual walkabout to be arranged. Monday 9th June & Wednesday 11th June at 7pm
- 13) Safety review. NYC – play equipment inspection. Reports now issued every 3 months unless anything high risk or requires attention. New item: Spitfire Court – bench requires repair (low risk), Cllrs to review on walkabout.
- 14) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. Cllr Terry & clerk attended the Kiplin Burial Ground consultation. Cllr Terry states that there will be 4 stages, a small building, a burial site for 6000+. This proposal is a natural burial site with no gravestones, and likely to hold one burial/week.
- 15) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Cllr Threlfall reported 3 drains completely blocked on Station Road, also one outside The Farmers, clerk reported. MOP requested information re: VAS, information forwarded. Alan Coe has planted some Christmas trees for future use, clerk has sent thanks. Cemetery circular bench to be painted, also wind vane needs new sock and checking. Cllrs, clerk and cemetery chair to meet on 26th April at 10am. Cllr Calvert asks when the grass will be cut, cemetery - Friday and the rest of the village - Monday.
- 16) Correspondence. NYC – temporary 30mph speed limit on B6271 22nd April for 1 week, information cascaded onto PC Facebook page and website. MOP – Grammar School maintenance, email forwarded to PC from Planning Enforcement, NYC. Bolton on Swale defib, MOP asks if this is in service currently, clerk asked Guardian and the defib requires new pads; these have been replaced and now functioning. Harmony Energy – response to our comments about our recent planning response.
- 17) Date of next meeting – 14th May at 7pm
Meeting closed: 21.15