

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 7.30pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Rafelt, Threlfall, Richardson, Calvert, Terry & Robson, North Yorkshire Cllr Les, PCSO Brown, Alan Coe (REMS), 5 MOP

Audio recording of meeting by PC, informed attendees, no objections.

- 1) Apologies. Cllr Harper
- 2) Declarations of interest. Cllr Rafelt declares a personal interest in item 7 (Home to School Transport).
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 29th January. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) Crime Report. PCSO Brown attending, brings the January crime report. Cllr Calvert asks about speeding and if we could have the speed strips placed again, PCSO Brown suggests completing the forms from NY Safety Partnership. Cllr Rafelt adds that these have been placed in the village many times and do not show a speeding problem, nevertheless this was some time ago now and may be a good time to reassess. Clerk to complete form highlighting potential speeding on Hospital Road. Resident discusses speeding and is interested in re-starting the Community Speed Watch, PCSO will forward the details. Resident would like to see 20mph signs within the village. Another resident asks about the VAS, Cllr Rafelt explains that these were bought by the PC with funding from NYP, these are moved regularly and will be placed on Hospital Road for the next move; PC will download the figures from these and put on website. Resident also requests that a weight restriction should be in the village, Cllr Les feels this is unlikely as a 'B' road. Resident arrives, is recording meeting, PC asks if anyone objects, none do.
- 5) Matters raised by the members of the public. Two residents discuss the trees on Jubilee Green and would like to see these managed and reduced. This was last completed Spring 2022; PC will review when carrying out our walkabout.
- 6) Updates from North Yorkshire Councillor, Tarmac representative, Save Scorton Lakes, Scorton Surgery. North Yorkshire Councillor Les. Little to report this month. PC correspondence from Reeth PC about Home to School Transport discussed. Cllr Rafelt declares a personal interest as a parent of a new starter. The email highlights that from September new starters will be provided transport to their nearest school, checks carried out and the nearest school from the clerk's address is Risedale (0.3 miles difference to Richmond School). Parents will need to check their address. Discussed with Cllr Les who assured that the offer letter will include information about school transport, he further explains that this decision was not taken lightly, government funding is reducing and so difficult choices have to be made. Discussed with Bolton on Swale School, the headteacher will highlight in the weekly newsletter.
Alan Coe (REMS). Site continues to flourish and has many visitors. The species numbers are down in 2024, this is a national picture and due to the very wet start to the year. Water levels are higher than is usual for this time of year. Richmondshire Climate Action Partnership would like to organise a Wildlife Wander on the site, also Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists Field Club are organising a field trip in June (they will submit their findings to the National database). Dog fouling continues to be problematic; this was highlighted by the Geocache group (very popular site for geocaching), a dog bin has been put in this area. The wildlife corridor fencing has been damaged, this area is not open to dogs, this has happened previously and this corridor may be permanently closed. Dog watering point needs repairs. Tree guards continue to be removed, some fencing work to the windvane area. Chain and padlock removed at Hebridean sheep field, and gate left open, now replaced. Some nature reserves are closing due to the Avian Flu outbreak, two swan deaths recorded currently. Cllr Calvert reports the fence near to the Coast to Coast is down, Alan Coe will repair. A resident asks if any volunteers work at the site, Alan Coe replies no, as this is in the restoration stage (start of 3rd year of a 5 year period).
Save Scorton Lakes. Member in attendance, reports that it's positive that so many are using the lakes and with a wide variety of people with various means of travel/uses. No formal planning application received as yet, but reaching out to organisations and experts in bio diversity who will be able to give advice. Save Scorton Group are becoming more formalised, and planning events/meetings in Spring to update people. PCSO Brown leaves.
- 7) Updates from previous meetings. Accesses around the green, reply received from resident asking about the deregistration of the accesses. The PC has looked at this many times, and as the area is large, a parcel of land

would need to be reregistered as a swap for the land lost. Cllr Threlfall adds that the areas could be dug up, material broken up and re-laid, however this has been looked at in the past and the cost prohibitive. To review. Highways update. Confirmation from Highways that if the PC contractors are working in or nearby the Highways, then the contractors to inform Highways and as a belt and braces approach PC to inform Highways also. Highways add that during the recent levelling work near St Clares View, that cones were placed in the Highways, the Contractor has advised the PC that was not the case.

8) Accounts

Balance at 26/02/2025 £20,041.02 (Internal controls checked by Cllrs)

Outgoing:

- Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.50 (increase from 1/4/25 6.4%)
- V Raven (Wages February) £707.21
- BT (Broadband) £45.19 (increase from 1/4/25 6.4%)
- Mac Plant (Christmas tree & repair accesses) £654.00
- Unity Bank (Charges) £6.00
- NYC (Park inspections) £619.95 (increase from 1/4/25 4%)

Employment contract alteration, sick pay to be 3 months full pay, 3 months ½ pay

9) Planning items

- Application for modification of agreement under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act pursuant to application 20/00770/OUT – level of affordable housing provision and car park spaces. Land off Bolton Road. No objections.
- FPP for a solar farm including associated infrastructure, underground cabling, landscaping and access. Land north of Brompton on Swale. There was some frustration about large planning applications and the PC's powers relating to planning generally. Following discussion it was resolved to reply: Scorton PC objects to this proposal. Whilst councillors appreciate the requirement for other sources of power, we question whether this is needed at this location. This would be the second, large solar farm to be developed in our near locality, the other development at Skeeby has only recently been completed. Councillors are also concerned about the access and egress during construction, and the safety of the roads whilst the work is taking place.
- Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval of 22/00148/OUT for 10 unit residential development including new vehicular and pedestrian access, site drainage, hard and soft landscaping and associated works. Land at Station Road. (Amended)
- Discharge of conditions 1-27 attached to outline approval 22/00148/OUT for 10 unit residential development including new vehicular and pedestrian access, site drainage, hard and soft landscaping and associated works. Land at Station Road. (Amended). It was resolved to reply: Councillors have a number of concerns relating to this amended proposal. Open aspect to the development. Councillors are pleased to see that the current hedgerow is being removed, as all entrances to Scorton are grassed and have an open aspect. To this end, could the new trees and shrubs proposed at the road side of the development be removed. Recreation area. The previous amendment didn't include a LAP and this was a green open space, play equipment is not required in this development. Scorton has many play parks, a S106 contribution instead of the LEAP/LAP would be more beneficial for all residents. Please could this space be returned to an open recreation space? Access/egress. Councillors remain firm in their opinion that the egress and access to this development should be directly opposite Stags Way, this would prevent multiple staggered junctions on that short stretch of road. Additionally, it would link both green spaces thus making the recreational space much safer for residents. Cllr Threlfall adds that this application will go to planning committee meeting and PC should attend. Cllr Les leaves.

Granted: Certificate of lawfulness for proposed alterations to kitchen and bathroom at St Clares View.

10) Safety review. RDC – play equipment inspection. JG, Pod swing, brackets on swing fastenings have been replaced. MC, Flat swing fastenings tightened, seat needs replacing. Baby swing may need replacing. New contact at NYC.

11) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. None attended.

12) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. Resident reported the central tree with the seating and wall surrounding is leaning, Cllr Calvert adds that the wall is secure presently. Cllrs to review at the walkabout to

see if any pruning work could ease. Clerk has taken the notebook out of the defib, this was to record checks – the information is now accurately available via The Circuit.

- 13) Correspondence. NYC – Gypsy & Traveller accommodation assessment. Completed after meeting. CDS Group – Kiplin proposed natural burial ground. Public consultation 27th Feb 3 – 6pm. Clerk helped to publicise and attending, Cllr Terry will attend. Richmond Rotary Club – Best Kept Village Competition invitation. Scorton PC would like to take part, clerk to reply. Residents – Grass verges (Hospital Road), to be assessed during the walkabout, it was felt that other areas needed replacements also. BOS School – Headteacher has chased waiting in layby restrictions. Information request, re: Permit to work in the Highway, previously discussed in item 7, suggesting that the PC are misleading a resident. Resident requests email confirmation about contractor's comments. Cllrs suggest that resident should contact Highways directly. Thank you from a resident who enjoyed reading recent S&D Times.
- 14) Date of next meeting – 2nd April
Meeting closed: 21.05