

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The normal monthly meeting held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 7.40pm in the Scorton War Memorial Institute.

Present: - Cllrs Rafelt, Threlfall, Harper, Calvert, Richardson, Terry & Robson, North Yorkshire Cllr Les, 3 MOP

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

- 1) Apologies. PCSO Brown, Alan Coe (REMS)
- 2) Declarations of interest. Cllr Richardson declares an interest in item 9 (Field View planning). Cllr Rafelt declares a personal interest in item 14 (Donation).
- 3) Approval of minutes dated 2nd April. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.
- 4) Crime Report. PCSO Brown sent April report, clerk forwarded to Cllrs.
- 5) Matters raised by the members of the public. None.
- 6) Updates from North Yorkshire Councillor, Tarmac representative, Save Scorton Lakes, Scorton Surgery.
Save Scorton Lakes: Two representatives attending; a pop-up stand had been set up at the wind vane, where volunteers asked for comments, addresses, signatures. Over 100 people visited the stand in only a few hours, some from quite a distance away. People stated that they like the uniqueness of the area, with the high density of wildlife, and visitors seem keen to support the lakes. The Facebook page now has 2500 friends, some of the photography is remarkable; Cllr Richardson likes the varied character of the contributors on the Facebook page. The website is being updated currently. Lots of meetings/walk abouts planned: RSPB, Naturalists. Cllr Terry thanks for all the work they do. Email received from a member of the Local Access Forum, suggesting that Scorton contacts Natural England in relation to the proposed application. Clerk to ask for this email to be sent to Save Scorton Lakes.
Tarmac Scorton Lakes. Alan Coe sent a report: Reserve continues to flourish, with high visitor numbers. Species numbers are on the increase; water levels are low. General maintenance is being carried out by REMS which includes waste removal, grass cutting, cutting back along walkways, fencing repairs, signage, gate management and security, responding to issues and public communications. Other actions include tree guard removal, pathway improvements to ensure wheeled users can access the lakes, some deteriorating trees removed, pot holes to South car park, fence work at North car park, two new waste bins positioned and the dog watering bowl has been repaired. Darlington & Teesside Naturalist Field Club are organising a field trip and they will submit their results to the national centre (ERIC). Visitor numbers were logged over the Easter weekend at the North car park = 500 cars.

North Yorkshire Cllr Les. Local Plan going for consultation, the call for sites has gleaned 1700 sites so far, although these will not all be suitable for development. NY is required to build 4000+ homes/year, this number is from the National Planning Policy. Boundary Commission consultation is running currently too. Locality budget has been reduced from 10K to 5K this year. Bin collection changes, with 4 day working, changes to start early June. Residents will be notified

- 7) Updates from previous meetings. None
- 8) Accounts

Balance at 14/5/2025 £19,391.44 (Internal controls checked by Cllrs)

Incoming:

- Feast Committee (Donation for VE day celebrations) £100.00
- NYC (Precept 1st payment) £9250.00

Outgoing:

- Tesco (Mobile phone contract) £7.98
- BT (Broadband) £49.09
- Cut Price Wholesaler (VE Day tablecloths) £34.74
- V Raven (Wages April) £691.57
- Unity Bank (Charges) £6.00
- I Threlfall (Windsock repairs & cemetery bench: Screwfix, Gilly's, Glenwood) £91.05
- I Threlfall (VE Day: Lidl, Dot's Café) £91.45

9) Planning items

- Application for modification of agreement under S106 ref: 20/00770/OUT level of affordable housing provision and car parking spaces (Re-consultation on the draft S106 agreement). No objections.
- FPP for attached double garage on east elevation at Field View, Bolton Road. Cllr Richardson declares an interest. No objections.

Granted: FPP for reconfiguration and extension + creation of annex at 4 Beaufighter Close.

Correspondence: Email received from MOP requesting a donation towards a new school roof. Cllr Rafelt declares a personal interest. Debate follows. Concerns raised: not budgeted for, are we responsible for school building works, some questions raised about the need of a new roof, double taxation, potential requirement for school extension in near future, changing the working relationship with the school and setting a precedent. Other comments: felt that the school was at the heart of the community and that the PC represents that community, understand the requirement and that the school would have assessed the need appropriately, also that a one-off payment wouldn't set a precedent. It is understood that £20,000 needs to be raised locally. MOP who requested clarifies that this is a personal request. It was resolved for the clerk to contact the school and discuss, a request would need to be from the school, also more information is required before a decision can be made. Clerk to agenda in June. Cllr Rafelt suggests that other local Educational charities may be able to support. Cllr Les replies that this may be a possibility, as is funding from the Locality Budget. SWMI supporting with the July Domino Drive to be hosted by the school. Cllr Les leaves.

- 10) Items for next edition of Scorton & District Times. Feast, Gig on the Green, School summer fair/new roof, Community Speed Watch, Open gardens, look back at VE day, Save Scorton Lakes, Scorton Lakes contact information, Save our Swale.
- 11) Safety review. NYC – play equipment inspection. Reports now issued every 3 months unless anything high risk, no notifications received.
- 12) Feedback from meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk. Cllr Threlfall & clerk attended the Garrison Integrated Care Centre, Healthwatch were also attending. The CGICC will open 2026 and building work is on schedule. GP out of hours service will be housed here, and OOH Dentistry, other dentistry will be MOD, X-Ray facility. Discussed the transport difficulties, with two buses needed to get to the Garrison. CGICC will attend the YLCA Branch meeting in June.
- 13) Report relating to minor parish issues since last meeting. MOP queried about grass cutting in Westfields, this is not an area we cut. Informed resident. NYC/resident, weed killing query about Glebe Meadows estate, this has not been carried out by NYC or PC contractors and remains a mystery.
- 14) Correspondence. NYC – Local Plan consultation briefing sessions, 15th & 19th May, Cllrs have email link to join the Teams meeting. Let's Talk Skills consultation, Cllrs to complete individually. Local Government Boundary Commission – Electoral review consultation. The proposed area is a much larger, rural area and concerns were raised about residents being less represented, as the proposed area is vast. Previous cohesion with adjacent parishes may be lost. Clerk to reply. YLCA Richmondshire Branch meeting revised date 17th June, items Cllrs would like to agenda are the Boundary Commission changes and the Local Plan/planning in relation to decisions being made remotely and with little local knowledge. Richmond Rotary Club – Best kept Village, request for background about village to advise judges. Clerk to notify them about Jubilee Green, Glebe Meadows and Westfields. NYC – Changes to refuse collections, to start early June. NYC – Stags Way, road restriction 24th June – 4th July, on website and PC Facebook page.
Cllr Calvert queries if NYC will put in the white 'H' lines for the accesses to the North of the school, clerk to query. Discussion about the overnight stay on Bridge Green and some areas missed on Bridge Green beckside cut. Clerk to discuss with contractors.
- 15) Date of next meeting – 25th June at 8pm
Meeting closed: 21.10