



# Sutton-in-Craven Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Sutton-in-Craven Parish Council held in the  
Senior Citizens Centre, North Street on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009

## Present

Cllr. Whitaker (Chairman), Cllr. Morrell, Cllr. Hart, Cllr. Joy, Cllr. Wilkinson, Cllr. Bretan, Cllr Herpe, Cllr Marchant and Cllr Smith

Mrs D Emmott, Clerk to the Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

Cllr. Barrett and four members of the public attended.

## **108/09/2009** Apologies for absence

Cllr Hawkins

## **109/09/2009** Public Participation

### Request from Village Committee to have the Main Park Gates widened

Mr Young (Village Committee) proposed that the widening of the Main Park Gates would benefit the entire Village making it much a safer place to enter and exit, not just for the larger rides on Funday but for other events which may take place in the future.

The possibility of an entrance opposite the church was also researched, the cost is £15,000 more than to do the Main Park gates.

## **110/09/2009** Declarations of Interest Member

Cllr. Hart abstained from planning observations.

## **111/09/2009** Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman proposed Cllr. Bretan, seconded Cllr. Marchant

## **112/09/2009** South Craven County Council Report

Cllr Barrett reported that with regard to the Clerks Report Agenda item 7, North Yorkshire Highways are prepared to request through Bradford Met that a 'unsuitable for coaches and wide vehicles' signs, to be placed at the top of the Ellers .

A width/weight restriction would need to go through the normal channels (advert/consult etc) and a suitable alternative route should be available. Agreement from the police would also be needed.

New signage (width and height sign) for the arch at Hall Drive is currently being arranged.

## **113/09/2009** Craven District Council Report

Cllr Hart reported that the alternate weekly waste collection scheme was voted through at Craven District Council Policy Committee Meeting. There was a call for greater public consultation which was voted down.

Choice based lettings . A new scheme being introduced in how the council allocates the letting of social housing in the district. It will mean anyone from North Yorkshire can apply for social housing in this area.

## **114/09/2009** Clerks Report and Correspondence

### Sent/To

#### a Infrastructure Audit For The Area of Craven Outside The National Park

Feedback from the Parish Council was returned to James Ellis, Craven District Council.

#### b Changes to the Waste Collection Process

The invitation for Mr Paul Florentine, Waste Recycling Manager or a colleague to attend a Parish Council Meeting to advise of the outcome, answer any questions or concerns about waste collection arrangements and provide information on recycling was accepted and dates of future meetings supplied.

An Officer will be attending October's meeting.

#### c Mencap

Letter to Mencap, Wakefield informing that their application for a donation was unsuccessful. It does not meet the criteria for donations which includes village based organisations.

#### d Dropped Kerbs

Letter to two residents and Sutton Pharmacy informing that the extent of the dropped kerb on Park Lane had to be limited to take into account the drainage channel and the gradient required for safe wheelchair access.

## Received/From

### 1. Playground Equipment

The Crutch straps and links on the toddler and tyre swings are in need of replacement due to wear and tear. This was advised by the RoSPA Inspector. Quotes obtained from Parkdale Play and Playdale Playgrounds Ltd. It was **resolved** that 8 x Split links £5.16 each and 8 Crutch Straps £19.90 each be purchased from Playdale Playgrounds Ltd.

### 2. Fencing around the Under 6's play area

Residents have approached the Council to have the under 6's play area fenced off. To make it more secure for young children and prevent dogs, vermin etc from entering. Three quotes for Metal fencing, three quotes for wooden fencing and two quotes for recycled plastic fencing were obtained.

It was **resolved** that the clerk discuss the quote from M. Armstrong Fencing (metal) in further detail and look into the possibility of funding opportunities.

### 3. Sutton Village Committee – plan circulated

To consider a proposal from the Village Committee to widen the existing main gates to the Park to allow large vehicles carrying attractions access for Funday. "This would include widening the vehicular access point by relocating the stone pillar on the left as you enter the park, then have extra pieces in a matching design added to the original gates, painted to match and then the gates re-hung. Tarmac would be made good as required. The Fairground is prepared to take out insurance cover on the playing field to repair the cost of any damage if required. The wagons are designed to go on to soft areas of land the weight displacement is carried evenly per wheel."

The park gates and railings have been in situ since 1912 and are the original features. Councillor comments included: "The moving of the stone pillar is likely to cause it to break, a new pillar would then be required which would not match with the other original pillar. The symmetry of the park would be altered. The middle of the gates would be off centre to the path. Larger heavier vehicles could have serious impact on the structure of the path. The proposed tarmac would be too close to the newly planted trees causing damage."

It was **resolved** that the request be refused. 1 vote for, 7 votes against and 1 abstained.

### 4. Community Speed Watch

Steve Scott, Crosshills Safer Neighbourhood Sergeant "I've obtained definitive costings for a Pro Laser speed gun and submitted a funding application to Craven Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership based on those figures. The Partnership has asked that I obtain agreement from the Parish Councils in writing that you are prepared to support the scheme with funds. The amount I require based on the figure I've obtained is £200.83 per Parish. This is broken down from: Full cost + carriage £3615

Funding bid to Partnership of 50% leaving £1807.50 divided between the nine Parish Councils which make up South Craven."

It was **resolved** that confirmation be given in writing that the Council are prepared to support the scheme with funds.

### 5. Survey for Parish and Town Councils from North Yorkshire County Council - circulated

"The questionnaire seeks your comments as a parish council on your satisfaction with the Highways and Transportation Service and how you feel we are performing. We will use your responses with those of the Citizens' Panel to establish how we are performing and to help us better meet the needs of North Yorkshire residents and businesses."

The questionnaire was completed by Members and forwarded to Business and Environmental Services at Northallerton.

### 6. Audit - Annual Return

The audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 has been certified by the External Auditor (Mazars) and the necessary documentation displayed on the notice board. (Regulation 12 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003)

### 7. Archway – Hall Drive

Letter from a resident concerned about the damage being done to the archway (listed building) which spans Hall Drive. "Over the years it has been hit several times by lorries damaging the stonework. The latest occurrence happened on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2009. A driver attempted to drive his lorry under the arch and gouged a small section out of the stone work. If had not been for the speedy intervention of a neighbour who spotted the lorry, the whole arch could have toppled down. I fear that unless something is done, the arch may suffer irreparable damage and somebody could be seriously injured or killed."

North Yorkshire Highways, Cllr. P Barrett and Craven District planning have been informed.

Highways have agreed to have a Bridge Height Warning sign erected on the approach to the arch.

8. **Craven District Council - Planning Decisions**  
Demolish Garage And Erection Of Two Storey Extension And Single Storey Extension To Rear, 34 The Hawthorns – Granted.  
  
Two Storey Side Extension And Single Storey Rear Extension, Meadow Croft, America Farm – Granted.  
  
5 x Trees -Crown Lift And Clean Through. 3 X Trees – Crown Lift, Clean Through And Draw Back From School, St Thomas Church, Main Street – Granted.
9. **West Lane**  
Residents have reported that trees on the verge of West lane from Bankfoot Farm down to Cranberry Farm including the Pinfold are causing problems of bad visibility for drivers.  
North Yorkshire Highways have been contacted Reference 213664.  
**Temporary closure of West Lane, Sutton in Craven Notice No 394**  
Notice that from 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 until 11 September 2009 inclusive, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed along West Lane, Sutton in Craven due to tree works.  
The closure will be put into effect when necessary by means of the erection of notices and signs.
10. **Footpath alteration outside the Chemist**  
Following the lowering of the kerb which was requested by residents to enable wheelchairs, mobility scooters and pushchairs better access to the pavement. A letter of complaint has been received from a wheelchair user.  
A letter was forwarded to the resident explaining that the aim was to help wheelchair, mobility scooter users who had problems accessing the pavement due to the kerb. The work was done in full consultation with the Chemist owner/staff, with further measures for wheelchair access to be undertaken by the owner of the Chemist.
11. **Footpath No. 24 Beck side**  
Complaints were received about No.24 footpath Beckside being badly overgrown. The clerk contacted Public Rights of Way at North Yorkshire County Council and they have agreed to send someone out to deal with it. Reference 35155.
12. **Wet Ings Lane/Gatering Lane**  
A resident complained about the increase in the amount of cars entering Gatering Lane near the School and having to reverse back down because of miss direction of satellite navigation..  
North Yorkshire Highways were contacted to see if a sign could be erected. This will be added to their list and completed if enough funds are available if not it will be budgeted for next year.
13. **Dog Bin – Wet Ings Lane**  
The dog bin is now back in situ on Wet Ings Lane.
14. **Park Drive**  
White lines, 10m either side from the Junction are now in place.
15. **Crag Nook Delph**  
Bird boxes, parts of the picnic table, a gate and tree branches have been broken and burnt on a fire. The main gate post is loose and the chain no longer secure the gate.  
The Police have been informed.  
It was **resolved** that the Park Keeper be asked to re-secure/replace the post and attach a new lock with two keys. One key to reside with the clerk and the other with Cllr Herpe.
16. **Airedale and South Craven Area Forum**  
To be held at Glusburn Institute 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2009 3 – 8 pm. The Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) will be on hand to discuss housing issues at the Forum organised by Craven District Council to give local residents the opportunity to meet public service providers.
17. **Draft Upper Aire Flood Risk Management Strategy**  
Letter from Environment Agency “Our draft Strategy will soon be submitted for approval. When we have the approval in place, the Strategy plan will be adopted and we will begin to look at short term flood risk management measures in further detail. This will involve more detailed consultations with our professional partners and the public. With regard to the Glusburn Beck flood cell, I can confirm that the village of Sutton in Craven will be included in the more detailed study of this area in the short term.”

18 **Countrywise TV Series**

ITV who produce the Countrywise series filmed in and around Lund's Tower for a one-hour special on Yorkshire and Lancashire. This took place the 7<sup>th</sup> September. Permission was sought and granted.

19 **Playbuilder Briefing Event**

Information from Bruce Dinsmore with regards to the North Yorkshire Play Builder funding scheme. This scheme is looking to invite submissions for year two of the scheme.

There is a Playbuilder Briefing on September 10, 2009 from 4 to 7.30 pm at the Crown Hotel, Boroughbridge, North Yorkshire, YO51 9LB

Craven District Council is unable to offer support for play projects but you will be able to receive support from NYCC who are the lead on this project.

20 **Ellers Road**

Letter from a resident regarding problems caused by Heavy Goods vehicles and luxury Coaches who are now using the Ellers almost on a daily basis guided there by Satellite Navigation Systems.

The resident's boundary wall has been severely damaged again in the last week the second time in three months.

The Clerk forwarded the letter to the Highways department at Skipton and Cllr. Barrett. (see South Craven County Councillor report)

21 **York & North Yorkshire Cultural Conference**

To be held at the Scarborough Spa on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 9:30am – 2:30pm.

The Conference is open to anyone who works in or with culture in York and North Yorkshire: council officers and members with responsibility for sport, economic development, tourism or culture, tourism partnerships, accommodation providers, creative businesses, cultural agencies, business support and training providers, sport agencies, members of networks that develop culture and regionally.

**Training**

22 **Councillor Skills**

Craven District Council, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 7.15pm to 9.45pm. Cllr Smith and Cllr Bretan have agreed to attend. The sessions will cover procedures and powers of councils; the responsibilities of councillors; understanding council finance and working in partnership.

**Planning Training**

Craven District Council is still going ahead with the planning training (probably in two sessions) at a later date. Over the last few months the staffing situation in the planning department has meant that there has been no spare time to put into organising the event.

23 **2009 Review and Invitation for evidence from Parish Councils**

Craven District Council recently appointed two new members to its Independent Remuneration Panel (three members, third member retained for continuity purposes).

The Panel's remit includes considering whether parish councillors should receive allowances – any recommendation(s) they make would apply to all parish councils.

The panel is inviting Parish Councils for their views on whether or not parish councillors should receive allowance, whether or not an allowance would help them with their roles/duties.

In responses they will consider supporting evidence – respond why/why not an allowance should be paid.

Following supporting information would be useful

- Average number of hours / week for a parish councillor
- Parish council chairman
- Range/type of work involved such as council meetings, sub-committee meetings, other activities
- Skills involved such as developing planning knowledge
- Details of any special responsibilities Rang of parish councillor – employed/retired, male/female etc (whether an allowance may encourage a greater community/skills mix)

In summary main information sought:

- Should an allowance be paid or not paid (with supporting reasons either way)
- If so – how much, for what and to whom (all members or just chairman etc)

It was **resolved** that the overall Parish Council view is that Parish Councillors should receive no allowance other than claiming expenses. The role is explained when applying to be elected or co-opted and councillors serving the community do so voluntary because they wish to give back to the community.

**115/09/2009** **Planning Applications**

66/2009/9811 - Two Storey Side Extension And New Access Road Across Field To Front Of Property, High Pole Farm.

**No objections**

66/2009/9899 – Removal Of 2 No. Internal Staircases And Separating Wall And Reinstatement Of 1 No. Staircase. Replacement Window To Rear of Elevation Along with Removal Of Mullion, Prospect House, North Road.

**No objections**

**116/09/2009** **Members Community Reports**

Cllr Hart presented the Council with a fixture sheet from Sutton Junior Football Club for matches to be held in the park.

Cllr. Morrell reported a footpath in Lothersdale at the weir near the reservoir closed. The clerk to contact Lothersdale Parish Council.

Cllr. Hart requested that a Public Rights of Way officer be invited to the meeting to discuss progress on the footpath through Ravenstones.

**117/09/2009** **Finance**

1. **To agree payments in accordance with the budget listed in the report – see attached schedule**

It was **resolved** to agree to the payments listed in the report.

**118/09/2009** **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the Council will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Choice Based Lettings

A new way of allocating social housing.

Under Craven’s current system, when properties become available to let they are offered to those at the top of the Craven District Council/Craven Housing Joint Waiting List and applicants only have a limited say in where they live. Through Choice Based Lettings, registered housing providers advertise their vacancies and people who have applied to the scheme are invited to bid (express an interest) for the individual properties they would like to live in as they become available. Bids are then prioritised in order of housing need. The property is then offered to the first eligible person with the highest priority at the top of the shortlist. The Government is committed to ending the use of traditional points based allocation schemes and introduced a target for all Local Authorities to operate Choice Based Lettings by 2010.