

## Well Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015, 7.00 pm at the Institute

**Present:** Sarah Sharp (Vice Chairman) Avril Lane, Sydd Perry, Chris Wade, Julia Hamby (Parish Clerk), 10 Parishioners

1 **Apologies** – David Webster

2 **Minutes of the Last Meeting** – these had been circulated to all Councillors following the last meeting and also published on the village website. Accepted as a true record by all those present, these were then duly signed by the Vice Chairman. SS mentioned that DW had received an email pointing out that the June Minutes were not on the website, Julia informed the meeting that she had been having trouble uploading files to the website and was in touch with the company who host the website and they were dealing with this. The June Minutes had been uploaded to the website the day after the meeting but may have been removed during recent work on the website and she would check.

3 **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes**

a) Playing Field – SS read out the following report from DW: Following a very successful official opening of the newly created Well Village Play Area, where all children present were invited to “cut the ribbon” two final pieces of the jigsaw remained to be put in place.

We have been pressing very hard for the payment of £1895 from the Public Open Space contribution from a property development which has been owing for over three years. I am very pleased to say that the Parish Council has now received this payment. It will be used to complete monies owing on the play area.

We now only have to erect our official notice board, and the project will be complete.

It should be recorded that much work has and is being done by a small group of Mothers in running the play area, and that the facility is being very well used, which makes the project all the more worthwhile.

Joan McDonald said that it was lovely to see so many people there and to see children and grandchildren using the field and what a lovely day it had been and she had spoken to a lot of people from the village that she either hadn't seen for a long time or hadn't met in the past. It was a lovely way of bringing the village together. Suggestions were made as to how the field could be used in the future, eg BBQs and so on.

b) TDF – The closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> September has now passed, JH had submitted to applications from Well, one for 50% of the £540 quote for a new village noticeboard and one for 50% of the cost of the entrance gates and fencing for the play area, she had heard that they applications to the TDF fund were undersubscribed so was confident that these applications would go through

c) Dog Bin – now in position, however, it needs to be lowered as it is rather difficult for people who are not tall to reach. JH to contact HDC again to check that it has been added to their emptying round for the bins

**Action: RH/JH**

d) Grass Cutting in the village – JH had not contacted HDC re this, however as the grass was now dying down, agreed to leave until next year and review the situation then.

**Action: JH**

e) Barking Dogs in the village – nothing further to report on this matter

f) POS money for Pear Tree Barn now received and in the bank - £1895.00

- g) Pear Tree Farm – A section 215 notice had been served on the owners to tidy up the site and confirmation had been received from Mr Dozey at HDC that the owners were going to tidy up the site, this was several weeks ago and nothing has happened so JH to chase **Action: JH**
- h) Traffic coming out of Well Hall Farm yard late at night – nothing further to report on this matter
- i) Noise nuisance from Well Hall Farm Yard – JH had written to Gary Elsworth as agreed at the last meeting, she had spoken to him following the letter, and then on the 1<sup>st</sup> September received a letter from Gary that she read out to the meeting. It was agreed to reply to him acknowledging the points in his letter especially the one about a 12-year-old motorcyclist being photographed and request his continued support regarding noise levels on the yard **Action: JH**
- j) The Beck – SS readout the following report from DW: Further to undertakings given at the last Parish Council meeting regarding the lack of flow in the village beck, Mark Sampson and David Webster had a meeting with the manager at Holly Hill, (Colin) to try to find where the water from Holly Hill wood was going.

It was noted that the level of the “tarn” was higher than it had been previously, and so a request was made to the Manager that the outlet be lowered.

Also a small area of water to the north of the Lodge, which it is believed has been formed at the same time as the improved outlet from the tarn was installed, was inspected. It appeared that less water was exiting from this small pond than was entering it.

With this in mind Messrs Sampson and Webster asked that the outlet pipe from the tarn was lowered, thus decreasing the chance of leakage from the perimeter of tarn, and reducing the amount of water up stream in the wood. This has duly been done, which, it is thought, has decreased loss of water from the edges of the tarn.

In regard to the small pond to the north of the Lodge, it was suggested that a proprietary material, consisting of hessian type cloth, coated with sealant cement, be used to line the base of this small pond. This is due to be actioned in the immediate future.

Since last week's rain, there has been a small flow of water in the beck, but this may well be not sustainable. Further monitoring is planned, with the cooperation of the relevant riparian landowners, to investigate whether the downstream area is adequately leak free.

This step by step approach is seen as the most thorough method of restoring the flow of the beck, and villagers’ forbearance is sought as we progress through this process. **Action: DW/MS**

#### 4 Finance

- a) A balance sheet was circulated to the meeting showing a balance of £4331.01 in the account.
- b) JH had also produced another spreadsheet showing the cost of the Playing Field and the funding received, this showed a total cost to date of £44141.64 and total funding (income) of £47852.80. It was agreed that the balance of funding be noted on the balance sheet each meeting and be kept in hand for any future large expenditure. The Playing Field Group would continue with the ongoing maintenance of the playing field and fundraising to cover this.
- c) Precept for next year, agreed that it remain at the same level £1500, JH to notify HDC.

#### 5 Correspondence

Most correspondence now received by email and circulated to the Councillors

- a) JH had received an email from the Musgraves in response to one she had sent to them following a discussion about the carpet gripper strips they had attached to their side of the fence panels adjoining their property and the removal of these strips as they do not own the fence. JH read out the email to those present. These strips cannot be seen from the Playing Field and would cause serious injury to anyone trying

to climb the fence. PCSO McDonald was present and he agreed that they should not have affixed anything to our property without permission. He offered to meet JH and SP at the playing field the following day to have a look and advise on the best course of action.

- b) Parish Liaison Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> November, SS agreed to attend
- c) Clerks & Councils magazine and Community News magazine received

## 6 **Planning**

Consent granted for amendments to Silent Springs application and for removal of a eucalyptus tree at Craigstones.

## 7 **Any Other Business**

- a) Quote for new Village Noticeboard – all agreed that the quote of £540 plus VAT be accepted  
**Action: JH**
- b) JH had received an email from Jean Skinner suggesting an information board to be sited near to the Well on Masham Lane, discussed and agreed that it might be better to have an information board regarding this and other numbered points of interest at the bus shelter and a small number plaque on each item if permitted. To discuss again at the next meeting
- c) Jean Skinner had also asked if the public footpath across the fields to William Webster's pond could be re-instated to its correct position. It was pointed out that this path had moved several times over the last 50 years or so. It was also suggested that maybe a line of rocks or possibly wooden stakes be put in across the field to show where the 'temporary' footpath goes. Contact to be made with the owners of the land.  
**Action: JH**
- d) Litter Bin for the Playing Field – HDC can supply one at a cost of just over £300 and this would then be added to their round. All agreed that this be arranged and paid for from the surplus funding for the Playing Field.  
**Action: JH**
- e) PCSO McDonald was present at the meeting and gave a report on behalf of the Police and Safer Neighbourhoods Group – it detailed crime figures for our area which included Well, Tanfield, Pickhill and Kirklington, some of which were up and some down. The theft of an auger from a digger working at the playing field was mentioned as was the theft of the fence panels, both cases closed as no offender identified. He mentioned the closure of Ripon Police Station planned for 2017, the appeal for witnesses after the death of a cyclist at Buttertubs and he also asked homeowners to be vigilant about locking their doors as there have been two instances in the area of bogus callers entering premises on Sunday last.
- f) David and Jane Patuzzo from Ivy Cottage on Well Bank explained to the meeting that they would like to put a moveable planter on top of a BT grating outside their garden which is opposite their house at the top of Well Bank, as part of their continued work in tidying up the garden, fencing etc. Following discussion, it was felt that they should approach BT to see what their reaction to the suggestion would be plus they would need to ensure that it didn't cause any health and safety problems.
- g) Quarry Liaison Meeting – SS read out the following report from DW: On Friday I attended a liaison meeting at Nosterfield Quarry, and present my report.

The application for a time extension for Ladybridge is close to agreed. This is because the Langwith extension application is not yet presented, which is waiting for Ecology and landscape reports to be considered. It is hoped the application will be heard on 9-2-16.

Thus output has slowed slightly in order to keep supplies whilst Langwith is granted.

Currently the two small fields which are the final area of the Ladybridge phase and are to the west of Moor Lane, have been soil stripped and the archaeological surveys are almost complete. Meanwhile the eastern side of Moor Lane is almost exhausted and restoration work is well on the way with

5,000 reeds planted, fencing and tree planting due this winter and wild flower meadows to be sown in spring. Weed control has included treating crassula, ragwort and thistles, and quarry footpaths have been maintained.

Although in Tanfield parish, it may be of interest to the community that Tarmac (as they are now to be known) are disposing of their interest in Thornborough Henges. They are required by law to offer this property to various bodies who may be interested including all three levels of Local Government, Thornborough Henges Trust, National Trust, Lower Ure Conservation Trust, etc. and if these bodies express no interest, or cannot fulfil the criteria set by Historic England, then Historic England (responsible for the property portfolio) will take over the ownership and then transfer to English Heritage, part of the same Government body, but dealing with the Charity section of the department. All responses are confidential.

Sales from the quarry are about as last year, but as previously mentioned are being slowed down in order to smooth out production until the next extension (Langwith) comes on stream. At present rates of sales, Langwith would last about eight years, then Oakwood has been identified as following  
Date of next Quarry Liaison meeting 22-4-16

Query raised re where is Oakwood and what will be happening there?

**Action: DW**

8 **Date of future meetings** –14<sup>th</sup> December, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 11<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> May (AGM and AVM) 13<sup>th</sup> June

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed:

Position:

Date: