

Minutes of the meeting of Ebberston with Yedingham Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2016 in Ebberston Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Mr. P. Latchford (chair), Mr. L. Bowes, Mr. P. Mathewson & Mr F. Wood. Also present: I. Newman (acting Parish Clerk) and two members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Apologies were received from Cllrs Eyre and Powlesland.
2. **To Approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting 9th May 2016 and the emergency meetings of the 19th May and 6th June.**
The minutes of the meeting on 9 May were approved by Council proposed by Cllr. Mathewson, seconded by Cllr. Wood following amendment of minute 4j by Cllr. Wood.
The minutes of the emergency meeting on 19 May were approved by Council proposed by Cllr. Latchford and seconded by Cllr. Bowes.
 The minutes of the emergency meeting on 6 June were not available (*item held over to the next meeting*).
3. **Declarations of Interest:** There were no declarations.
4. **Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting 9th May 2016**
 - a) ***Yedingham allotments***
 Written report from Cllr. Powlesland indicated that progress was being made, but slowly.
 - b) ***Transparency Code***
 See acting Parish Clerk's report minute 16.
 - c) ***Playing fields insurance***
 Cllr Bowes reported that the insurance certificate had not yet been produced by the Cricket Club. The acting Parish Clerk agreed to talk to Mike Peck to find out what is happening as far as the Friends of Ebberston Sportsfield are concerned and Cllr. Mathewson will talk to his wife who is secretary for the Cricket club.
 - d) ***Village Hall (storage of Parish Council files)***
 Carried over until new Parish Clerk is appointed (acting Parish Clerk agreed to raise the matter at the Village Hall Committee of which he is a member).
 - e) ***Parish Archive (see 4d above)***
 - h) ***Defibrillator***
 The chair provided a summary of the main issues (accessible quickly; phone access required to obtain release of equipment; some training required by operator; needed to be used within a few minutes) and there was a substantial discussion with all the councillors being in agreement that the Parish Council should seriously consider the possibility if there was a real chance that it might be able to save lives. It was agreed that it would not be financially viable for the Parish Council to purchase three defibrillators (one for each village) solely from the precept. In order to progress this matter the chair agreed to write an article in the parish newsletter requesting feedback on both the level of interest and possible fund raising ideas and report on the response at the next meeting.
 - j) ***Parish Flood Strategy***
 Cllr. Wood reported on the meetings that had been held. The conclusions so far were that, using Yorkshire Water's current criterion, there was deemed to be no flooding risk and it was the responsibility of the owners of the riparian rights to keep the beck clear. It was also noted that most owners did, in fact, do this but that there was a continuing problem in the culvert outside Brook House Farm where silt was deposited whenever there was a heavy rainfall. The sub-committee had ascertained that Emily Mellalieu, a Flood Risk project manager from NYCC, would be willing to come to a meeting in the village at a mutually convenient time to discuss possible approaches to the problem.

Cllr. Wood proposed that it would be preferable for the request to come from the Parish Council rather than from the sub-committee and this was agreed.

6. **Millennium Garden** It was noted that Cllr. Eyre had agreed to look after this. The Chair suggested that the item should be carried over to give Cllr. Eyre the opportunity to speak.
8. **Planning**
 - a) ***Appeal NYMNP Walker South Moor Farm Langdale End hearing 19th July***
Chair to attend.
 - c) ***Wolds View, 124 Main Street, Ebberston***
The planning application was discussed. It was agreed that there were no formal grounds for objection. Nevertheless, Cllr. Mathewson proposed, and Cllr. Wood seconded, the motion that the property, as planned, does not fit in the village.
9. **Finance**
The Cash book was reviewed. The entries for June were agreed and the bank reconciliation for the period to the 1st July 2016 was also agreed.
It was noted that the current signatories for the Bank Accounts were the Chair, the acting Clerk and Cllr. Mathewson and that this should be reviewed as soon as a replacement Parish Clerk was appointed.
10. **Correspondence**
Older Driver Refresher Course An e-mail had been received from Ryedale District Council alerting the Parish Council to the provision of a free 'refresher' driving lesson for older drivers. It was agreed that a copy should be posted on the Parish Council Notice Board.
12. **Notice of Meetings**
None received.
13. **Queries and Concerns from Councillors**
 - a) ***Dog fouling on Mill Lane***
Raised by Cllr Eyre. It was agreed that the matter be carried over to the next meeting but, in the meanwhile, the acting Clerk should contact Ryedale District Council to ask about the cost and the procedure.
15. **Chairman's Report**
The Chairman briefly reviewed the changes that had taken place since the last Parish Council Meeting in May. He thanked the acting clerk for his help and expressed his opinion that things should now be moving to the right direction.
16. **Acting Parish Clerk's Report**
The acting parish clerk reported that the transfer of the Parish Council equipment and records from Mr Wyatt, the previous Parish Clerk, had been successfully organised by the staff committee. He thanked Cllr. Eyre, the chair of the committee, for making the arrangements. He also thanked both Cllr. Wood and Mr Wyatt for assisting with the physical removal of the records. He reported that, as expected, there had been some initial difficulties with locating some of the information that was needed (e.g. the external auditors had, apparently mislaid the Bank reconciliation statement for 2015-16) but that almost all the major difficulties had been satisfactorily overcome with assistance from the Chair, other councillors, and Mr Wyatt himself. Inevitably there were still some challenges but, hopefully, with the imminent appointment of a replacement Parish Clerk

these should all be able to be overcome.

The report finished with an observation about the main remaining challenge, the transparency issue of the provision of web access to council information, and, more generally, the issue of use of computers. He suggested that, if the Parish Council were interested then, as a resident in the village he would be prepared to purchase a suitable domain name and provide an Ebberston with Yedingham website at no cost to the council. He noted that a number of the other local Parish Councils, including Allerston, had chosen to do this and suggested that it might provide a solution to the problem of having a website that was easier to use and an e-mail account that was independent of the parish clerk.

17. Staff Committee Report

The chairman noted that there were two, possibly, three applicants for the vacant Clerk's job and suggested that, if the council were in agreement then he would arrange interviews the following week. The councillors were all in agreement and indicated that they would be willing to attend an interview panel if a suitable date and time could be arranged.

18. Council Meeting Dates

a) *More Flexible Dates for Council Meetings*

Item carried over to the next meeting.

b) **Date of the Next Council Meeting**

Monday 12th September 2016, Yedingham 7pm

19. Clerk Handover

a) *Information Availability*

As noted in the acting Parish Clerk's report (minute 16 above) most of the required information had now been located.

b) **E-mail and Website Provision for the Future**

This item would be carried over to the next meeting, taking into account the acting clerk's suggestion (see minute 16 above).

20. Payment and Documentation for the Former Parish Clerk

The acting parish clerk stated that the former Parish Clerk had submitted a claim for salary and expenses incurred from 1st April 2016 until the 20th June 2016. The acting clerk apologised to the meeting for inadvertently failing to bring this document with him. He also stated that he had not yet had the opportunity to investigate the process of providing the former Clerk with a P60 form for the tax year 2015-16 or a P45 form for issue when the outstanding salary claim was met. It was agreed that the matter could not be dealt with at this meeting but there was a strong feeling that payment should not be unreasonably delayed. The acting clerk agreed to investigate what the process involved and report back as soon as possible.