

NYMET ROWLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 183rd meeting of the Parish Council in Village Hall on Wednesday 10th November 2021 at 7-30pm.

Present:- Councillors Anthony Odhams (Chair), David Gruncell (vice Chair) Babs Channing, Winnie Rookes, Viv O'Dell, Clerk Roger Cooper. District Councillor Peter Heal, Mop's Gary & Elaine Little.

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th August 2021 were approved and signed.

Questions from members of the Public:-

Matters Arising:-

1. Pothole prevention/road maintenance. No progress has been made on a permanent drainage solution relating to the road damage on Barton Hill. There has not been any communication from Steven Tucker, despite requests from Margaret Squires. AO will write to the Neighbourhood Highway Officer (NHO) a newly announced role cc'ng relevant MDDC councillors advised by PH plus Mel Stride MP.
2. Change of Priority at Eggesford Cross Junction. The lack of further progress was discussed and Peter Heal explained the seemingly high costs to change a junction priority are mainly due to bureaucratic and legal process. The PC continues to be very concerned that this junction remains a real and serious risk to road users. In the light of this procedural cost information the PC must determine whether to further pursue this matter.
3. Possible siting of Memorial Bench and Tree. DG confirmed that the landowner adjacent to the possible site, expressed his agreement provided it does not obstruct access to the nearby gate for large farm machinery. MDDC/Highways to be contacted for their comments/input on the idea. If there are no related issues then the concept be formally proposed for approval by the PC.

At this point V. O'D mentioned that the existing bench outside Prior House was in a poor state of repair, RC said that he had also noticed this and is trying to find a repair specialist.

4. Updated emergency Plan. DG reiterated that following Mark Wooding's offer to review and revise the plan, to ensure its continuing relevance to village circumstances, he would arrange a further review and guidance meeting with MW ASAP.
5. Streetlight pollution. RC reported that the CPRE had committed to reply to his e-mail but so far nothing forthcoming in terms of technical guidance or practical help. RC will continue to follow up with CPRE and to investigate.

Finance Report. RC advised that the current A/C balance is £1,596.41, Deposit £450.38.

RC asked if the Councillors wished to keep the same Precept for 2022/23.

All agreed.

New Business.

1. AO raised the matter of activities at Nymet Mill field. It is understood the field was sold by the owner of Nymet Mill to an unknown buyer during the summer. As a few tents and caravans are present and there are signs of groundwork; there are some concerns that this may be the start of a development or eventual higher occupation. The intermittent presence of the new owner has meant that it has not been possible to clarify his intentions. PH explained that if there are any activities that appear to be permanent, such as structures, this would be a planning approval matter. PH has contacted the planning officer to request a site visit and to contact the owner and accordingly advise the pc via PH.
2. As in previous years, DG kindly offered to source and erect a Christmas Tree outside the Village Hall. Agreement to reimburse DG for the costs at the next meeting.
3. AO advised the meeting that Ofcom are currently reviewing the number of public phone boxes with a view to reducing the number of active boxes from 20,000 to 5,000 nationally. Selection will depend on 4 published criteria. The village phone box is protected by a preservation order. However, it is possible the internal phone equipment will be removed, if Ofcom determines it does not meet the criteria. AO pointed out that the PC must anticipate and prepare accordingly. A potential ongoing use would be as a weatherproof shelter for the Defibrillator. It may be possible to apply for the BT scheme and funding for such a change. RC has been asked to obtain phone call usage statistics from BT.
4. PH told the meeting of his new appointment Chair of the MDDC Planning Committee.

Next Meetings. Meetings for 2022 as follows:-

Wed 9th February, Wed 11th May, Wed 10th August, Wed 9th November.

The meeting closed at 20.45 hrs.