

Skipwith Parish Council Meeting Minutes on Thursday, 7th November 2024 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Mike Ward (MW), Chairman, Jonathan Radway (JR), Andy Bushell (AB), Ian Hatton (IH), John Purcell (JP)
Isobel Greatrex (IG), Parish Clerk

Item No.	Discussion	Action by	Due Date
036/24	<p>To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence Kate Baxter (KB) apologies were received and approved.</p>		
037/24	<p>Declarations of interest not already declared under the council’s Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests None disclosed.</p>		
038/24	<p>Public Session One member of the public was present.</p>		
039/24	<p>To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5th September 2024 The meeting minutes were approved.</p>		
040/24	<p>North Yorkshire Councillor Report Nothing to report.</p>		
041/24 041.1	<p>Information on the following ongoing issues and to decide further action where necessary: Recreation Area JP provided an update. He was still awaiting some quotes, although some firms wanted to subcontract the levelling out of the ground. He was also looking into the criteria for applying for a Lottery Grant. A further robust discussion took place, the conclusion being the PC decided to remain with the original plan i.e. to obtain costs for the various options in order to make a final decision.</p>	JP	ASAP

	<p>JP informed the PC that dog fouling had occurred in the area. It was agreed to ban dogs from the area, at the moment. JR suggested that guide dogs should be exempt from the ban. IH volunteered to get a professional sign made.</p> <p>It was noted that the archaeology pit remained open. MW agreed to investigate further.</p>	IH MW	ASAP ASAP
041.2	<p>Allotment Update</p> <p>JR provided an update. The Corsican pines had been removed and the oaks deadwooded. The water tank was now installed, and he was considering erecting some fencing around it, bearing in mind maintaining access. JP and IH volunteered to arrange for the filling of the tank. A general tidy up of the allotment had also been carried out.</p> <p>JR explained that the arborist had not been able to remove the dead tree on the village green due to other emergency work elsewhere, which had caused a backlog of work. However, he had now received a date of 18th December for completion. MW informed the PC that, unfortunately, this meant that the new Christmas tree would not be able to be planted in this location in time for the lights switch on. It was agreed to keep the tree in its pot and place it in the previous location until it could be planted in the new year.</p>	JP/IH JR MW	ASAP Before 30 th November
041.3	<p>Community Speedwatch</p> <p>The lead of the project provided an update. 12 residents had now volunteered, and a WhatsApp group had been formed to inform of future sessions, which are about an hour long. She asked the PC to help encourage more people to volunteer to enable more sessions, especially in daytime hours. IG would place an advert on the noticeboard.</p> <p>In the 13 sessions held to date, they have recorded 1,889 vehicles, of which 253 vehicles were speeding (13.5%). All the data is uploaded to the police. IH volunteered to provide more detailed analysis for the group.</p> <p>It was agreed to request a Locality Grant of £477 from the County Councillor to purchase the relevant equipment required on a permanent basis as the current kit was temporarily loaned. MW proposed and IH seconded.</p>	IG IH IG/MW	ASAP ASAP ASAP
041.4	<p>Village Pond Clearance</p> <p>IH reported that the pond clearance had gone well. The PC wished to thank both Hagraapat and Mark Headley's team.</p>		

041.5	Village Maintenance Schedule JR volunteered to tidy up the bus shelter and IG said she would check the state of all the village benches.	JR/IG	ASAP
041.6	PC Website AB informed members that the website was almost ready to go live, subject to comments from the PC. He would circulate the link to the “draft” website and asked for any feedback by 15 th November so that the website could be finalised. MW asked if the website would conform to Accessibility Regulations. This was confirmed.	AB/IG	ASAP
041.7	Village Green Christmas Lights Switch On MW will contact the electrician to ensure the lights are ready in time for the switch on of lights on 30 th November on the village green. The Village Hall committee were making all the other arrangements for that date.	MW	Before 30 th November
041.8	Grit Salt Bins IG had made an online request to North Yorkshire Council to fill the grit salt bins in the village. She will check they have been filled by the end of November.	IG	By 30 th November
041.9	Round Up Editorial JR volunteered to circulate draft notices for Round Up and finalise to ensure the deadline was met.	JR	Before 6 th December
042/24	Planning The PC had received confirmation that the outline planning application had been approved for The Rowans.		
043/24 043.1	Matters Requested by Councillors <u>Light Valley Solar Consultation</u> AB and JR agreed to attend the consultation in Escrick on 18 th November.	AB/JR	18 th November

043.2	<u>WhatsApp for PC</u> IH volunteered to set up a WhatsApp group to facilitate easier communication, although emails would still be used where appropriate.	IH	ASAP
044/24 044.1	Financial Matters <u>The following accounts for payment were approved:</u> 044.1.1 York Landscapes – Sept/Oct grass cuttings £720 044.1.2 Toby Johnson – arborist work - £1,644 044.1.3 I.Greatrex – reimbursement for stamps £6.80 044.1.4 Hagrapat – pond clearance £2,100 The above was proposed by JP and seconded by JR.		
044.2	<u>Budget for 2025/26</u> The draft budget had been circulated to the PC prior to the meeting. Based on the forecasted budget it was unanimously agreed to set a £10,000 precept for 2025/26. IH proposed and MW seconded. IG to complete the necessary documentation.	IG	Before 31 st December
045/24	Correspondence 045.1 <u>Remembrance Sunday</u> MW volunteered to represent the Parish Council at St. Helen’s church service. 045.2 <u>Skipwith Benefactors’ Fund</u> IG volunteered to be the new trustee, with MW as reserve. 045.3 <u>North Duffield Over 60s’ Club</u> It was agreed to donate £50. Proposed by JR and AB seconded.	MW IG	10 th November ASAP
046/24	To Notify the Clerk of Matters for Inclusion on the Agenda of the Next Meeting None		
	Meeting closed at 8.55pm. Please note the next meeting will be held on 9 th January at 7pm.		