

Great Ouseburn Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th December 2009 at 7.30 p.m.
in the Village Hall, Great Ouseburn.

Present: Mr K Scott (Chairman), Mr L Paterson, Mr G Potter, Mr M Rampling, Mr B Robinson and Mr R White

In Attendance: Mrs Z Hopps (Clerk).

Also present were Cllr Martin Leather (Harrogate Borough Council) and two members of the public.

Before the meeting started, a presentation was made by Roy Firth and Chloe Westerman from Harrogate Borough Council on the subject of Community Emergency Planning.

2009.182. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Cllr J Burton. Cllr John Savage (NYCC) also sent his apologies.

2009.183. **Declarations of Interest.**

2009.183.1. All Parish Councillors, as Trustees of the Village Hall, declared a personal interest in the Village Hall.

2009.184. **Minutes of the previous meeting** held on Wednesday 16th November 2009 having been previously circulated were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

2009.185. **.Public Participation.** A member of the public asked about the flooding on the B6265 near the Green Tree pub, and was informed that the traffic lights will remain until Highways implement a scheme to reduce the flooding – it is not known how long this will take.

Cllr Martin Leather informed the meeting that Harrogate Borough Council may be able to avoid increasing Council Tax this year, because of a refund of VAT paid in previous years.

2009.186. **Progress Reports.**

2009.186.1. Registration of land owned by the Parish Council (minute 2009.151.2 refers). The Clerk advised members of the contents of a letter received from the solicitors, who confirmed that land at Branton Green and Pipers Lane Pond is not registered yet and will be dealt with next. It may be necessary to have a further meeting regarding registering the lanes, and to discuss the additional fees involved with those registrations.

2009.186.2. Freelanding/Breathing Places project (minute 2009.168.1 refers). It was noted that all the logs have gone – taken by the recent floods as they were not secured. The Clerk was asked to write to BTCV to let them know about this as they put the logs down. It may be more prudent to use rocks instead of logs in future, unless the logs can be wired/concreted into place. The £50 fee for obtaining permission to move the soil was noted and agreed.

2009.186.3. Highways issues (minute 2009.168.4 refers). The Chairman reported on the meeting with the Highways Authority on 27th November, where various outstanding issues were discussed as follows:

- (a) 20mph zone outside the school – further enquiries to be made about the minimum amount of signage/traffic calming needed in order to create a 20mph zone.
- (b) 30mph sign on Carrside to be moved to beyond the first house. This can be done now.
- (c) Footpath across the Village Green – Highways will find out if the PC can carry out this work itself.
- (d) Weight restriction signage on B6265 entrances – the design has been done for this. Also yellow backing plates to be used at the Burn Beck junction.
- (e) Footpath at Branton – apparently there are funds available for this - the Clerk to chase this up.
- (f) Basal growths on the avenue of trees at Branton – the PC has asked if it would be possible to do this work itself. The arboricultural officer at Harrogate has further details about the long-term plan for maintaining these trees.
- (g) Footpath at Branton needs resurfacing.
- (h) The badly placed drain at Burn Beck, the poor road surface on Springfield Rise and the white lines in the village which have already worn off will all be drawn to the attention of the subcontractors.

2009.186.4. Tree Planting project (Yore Vision grant) (minute 2009.171 refers). The planting work will start next week – the Chairman and Cllr White to liaise with Thorpe Trees over marking out the planting sites.

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2009.186.5. Grasscutting (minute 2009.173 refers). It was noted that prices start at around £250, and it was agreed to set an upper limit of £500, to be paid for out of reserves.

2009.187. **Planning decisions notified by Harrogate Borough Council.**

2009.187.1. A possible breach of planning permission at Belgrave House, Carrside Road, had been notified regarding a block boundary wall. The matter is being looked into.

2009.188. **Planning applications.** None.

2009.189. **Questions from Councillors.** Cllr Paterson asked whose responsibility it was to reinstate the southern verges on Church Field Lane damaged by trades vehicles parking there, and the subsequent damage/erosion on the opposite verge because other lane users had to drive further over, and was advised that the usual course of action was that the developers would be asked to put this right. Cllr White asked to be notified when the planning committee meeting was being held to decide on the application for a leachate treatment plant at Allerton Quarry.

2009.190. **Emergency Planning.** It was agreed to prepare a Community Emergency Plan and the Clerk was asked to contact Chloe Westerman/HBC to start work on developing the scheme.

2009.191. **Commuted Sums.** The updated balance sheet as at the end of November was noted. Correspondence regarding approval of spending from commuted sums was also noted and it was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of some track for the allotments.

2009.192. **Fencing at Pipers Lane Pond.** It was agreed that fencing should be installed behind the pond, subject to satisfactory quotations being received. It was agreed to apply to spend commuted sums funds on this project.

2009.193. **Exercise Equipment for Older People.** A proposal to install some equipment for older age-groups (i.e. not young children) was considered, and the Chairman agreed to bring designs and quotations to a future meeting for further discussion.

2009.194. **University of York – Great Ouseburn Workhouse.** A request for assistance with an oral history project for a PhD student from York University was noted. The Chairman said that he had spoken to some older residents at the recent Christmas Party, and suggestions were made of other people that might be interested in this project. The Clerk to respond.

2009.195. **Statement of accounts for the period 1st April 2009 – 15th November 2009.** The statement of accounts for the current year was considered and the following payments approved (copy appended to the minutes).

P35/09	Thorpe Trees (deposit)	500.00
P36/09	Thorpe Trees (balance)	1,490.40
P37/09	Waste Recycling Group plc	275.00
P38/09	Environment Agency	50.00

2009.196. **Parish Precept 2010/11.** Budget proposals were considered and it was agreed that the level of precept to be demanded for 2010/11 should be held to an increase of 1.5%.

2009.197. **Correspondence received.**

2009.197.1. CE Electric UK – ‘preparing for Mother Nature’ leaflets. The Clerk to order some for the Village Hall.

2009.197.2. NYCC Planning Services – acknowledgement of the response to the planning application for the proposed leachate treatment facility at Allerton Quarry. The comments stating that it is not possible to electronically or manually flag the file that Great Ouseburn Parish Council should be a consultee on applications at this site were noted.

2009.197.3. A letter of thanks from the Youth Forum for the Christmas Party grant. Noted.

2009.198. **Reports from representatives:**

2009.198.1. **Village Hall Committee.** No report.

2009.198.2. **Youth Forum.** No report.

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2009.198.3. **Police Liaison Group.** Cllr White reported that the future of Boroughbridge Police Station is uncertain, but that there will always be a police presence in Boroughbridge. There was concern over the lack of policing in Boroughbridge during the recent floods, which meant that roads could not be closed to traffic and damage to houses was increased. Overall crime is down on last year, but thefts/burglaries are up slightly on the month, particularly 'two-in-one' burglaries (where houses are broken into, car keys taken and the vehicle stolen). The police are urging people to secure their property and not to leave valuable items in vehicles.

2009.198.4. **Yore Vision.** Further tree planting schemes are being developed in Staveley, Roecliffe and Langthorpe.

2009.199. **Matters for inclusion on the next Agenda.** A request for a bus shelter on Branton Avenue

2009.200. **Date and Time of next meeting.** It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 20th January 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Great Ouseburn.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.50 p.m.