Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 29 November 2017
Village Hall – 7.00 pm

Present
Peter Hubbard (Chair), Richard Steel, Vice Chair, Richard Robson and Ian Stones

Clerk - Emma Taylor

Five members of the public (including local councillor Bob Walsh).

Public Session

At the start of the session, the Chair confirmed to the public that David Wing had resigned, which was why he was not sat as a member of the PC. The Chair also confirmed that a replacement clerk had been found and Andrew Towlerton will start on 1 December 2017.

Concerns were raised by the public about the following items:

- Concerns were raised that the re-surfacing work to Turnshaw Road does not go all the way to the end of the road. The public think that beyond where the works have stopped, is Aston PC responsibility. The Chair confirmed that the Clerk would write to Aston PC and suggest that they take a look.

- Fly-tipping was raised again as an issue. There appears to be one builder in a white van who is dumping his stuff on the same days in the same spots every week. Where is the camera? Councillor Stone confirmed that the covert camera had recently been used in Ulley area and the culprit had been prosecuted and his van crushed. They are working. Local Councillor Bob Walsh confirmed that it was a very secret operation and even the local councillors are not told where the camera will operate. He has secured funding for the Rother Vale Ward and they are using a chunk of it to pay for a covert and overt camera. These will be used in Ulley and the other areas of Rother Vale Ward.

PC will write via the Chair to RMBC about the particular builder dumping at the entrance to the farm, Stockett lane and Reservoir Road. Chair also asked the public to note dates and times if they see any dumped items so that the PC can keep a diary.

- A member of the public confirmed that they were unhappy that David had resigned and that left 4 councillors who were members of the MT as well as the PC. The Chair confirmed that only three were members of both and adverts would be put out for a new councillor in due course.

Meeting

92/17 Apologies – No apologies were given.

93/17 Minutes of the PC meeting 27/09/17, confidential minutes from 27/09/17 and minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held 16/10/1
Resolved: The minutes and confidential minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

94/17 Declarations of Interest – None declared.

95/17 On-going issues

1. Permissive footpath – Chair confirmed that Halifax estate have confirmed that it will be the new year before a decision is given. They have stated that this is due to “issues”. PC do not know what the issues are but it is understood that the estate want the tenant to be involved.

Resolved: No action to take, Chair will keep PC updated.

2. Recreation Ground – Chair confirmed that the lease is still being prepared. The Chair has been contacted by RMBC “play” department. They have informed the Chair that the maintenance for the recreation ground can be added to their contract and PC will benefit from the reduced rates. £40-£60. They can also do the monthly inspections for £20 and produce a report. They can also store the reports as they have to be stored for 20 years.

Clerk also confirmed that many playground companies have been in touch with various offers so the PC will need to consider everything when they are in a position to do so.

Resolved: Chair is to keep the PC informed about the progress of the lease.

3. Ulley In Bloom – The Chair has raised this with the Halifax Estate and they have confirmed that they will fund it on an ongoing basis to a maximum of £1,000 pa.

For information only

4. Speeding – The Chair has attached the letter from SYP about the speeding programme. The letter had been bounced down to a PCSO. They state that Ulley have had more surveys than anyone else and Ulley have only had two! The surveys cannot be done in the dark so no suggestions that there will be any for a while. Chair suggests that PC chase again when it lightens up. The speed and flow survey was discussed. It has been run in the village before. Discussions took place about the best place to position such a survey. It was agreed that one should be placed before the 30 sign and the other between the Church and Turnshaw Road.

Resolved: The Chair will contact Highways about the speed survey. The PC will contact the Police about speeding, once it becomes lighter in the mornings.

5. Main Street – The Chair has already written to RMBC about the road surface breaking up outside the Old Post Office. There has not been a response as yet. A letter has also been received from an occupant of the houses on Main Street behind the verges. Councillor Steel has been in touch with Richard Jackson at RMBC, he has viewed the damage via satellite. He has stated that if the PC formally notify them, then they have to come out and look. It will have to stay green and they cannot lower or raise the kerbs. They might be able to put barriers up to stop vehicles driving on it. He has asked if the PC could speak to the occupants of the houses and see what their thoughts are, feedback to him and then they can take from there. There were discussions raised via the public about this as the public felt it was the PC responsibility to send letters warning the occupants that they cannot park on the grass.
Chair confirmed that it was not PC land and that was not what PC was being asked to do. The Clerk suggested that they knock on doors, speak to occupants and feedback, RMBC then take from there.

Resolved: PC will knock on the door at the next PC walkabout. This will be collated and provided to RMBC.

96/17 Councillor Wing

Chair confirmed that David Wing has resigned due to work commitments. The PC thanked David for all his hard work, especially in 2015 when the PC faced huge difficulties.

For information.

97/17 Clerk

The Clerk resigned at the extraordinary meeting due to family and work pressures. The Chair confirmed that Andrew Towlerton had been appointed as the new clerk and starts on 01/12/17.

For Information.

98/17 Ward Boundaries

The Chair confirmed that despite the PC’s request to remain within Rother Vale, Ulley had been placed within Aughton and Swallownest in 2020

Councillor Steel asked Bob Walsh what it meant for Ulley. Bob confirmed that the change was how elections would take place in a different ward. Biggest change would more than likely be a change in local councillors. Ulley polling station will remain.

For information.

99/17 Planning update

It was confirmed that there were no planning applications for the PC to consider.

100/17 Financial report and PC accounts

The Clerk confirmed that the bank account as at 31.10.2017 was £4,581.76. The payments that had been made and received since that date, left £3,328.16 in the account. The savings account had a balance of £3,598.49.

The Clerk confirmed that the payments out for village projects looks high compared to what was budgeted. This is because the majority were claimed back from the Halifax Fund and are shown in the entries into the account. The figures cancel each other out.

Resolved: The accounts and report were accepted by the PC.

101/17 Financial report on Halifax fund

The Halifax fund accounts were provided.
Resolved: The accounts were considered and approved by the PC.

102/17 Approved Halifax fund bids

The Chair confirmed that a bid for Christmas lights and hanging basket fixings have been approved. A bid for equipment to help maintain the village has also been approved.

103/17 Budget

The clerk had attached a budget to the agenda. The PC went through the figures. It was agreed that the £650 for Ulley in Bloom that was now not needed, could be placed into miscellaneous to cover any cost needed. The PC approved the attached budget and agreed to keep the precept claimed at the same figure as last year at £6,213 plus the Council tax £257 if still available.

Resolved: The new clerk will apply for the precept in January.

104/17 Plumbing works

The clerk produced 3 quotes for the work at the village hall. Gifford & Hardwick have quoted £525 plus VAT, MC Plumbing and heating have quoted £385 and Puregas have quoted a maximum of £500. There was discussion about who should be used. All quoting for the same work and all are good companies. Clerk suggested that the PC should consider cost, given what is next on the agenda to discuss. Cost is paramount at present.

Resolved: MC plumbing and heating is to conduct the work (has worked on the hall before). The Clerk will notify them and sort dates via the Chair.

105/17 Any other business

The Clerk confirmed that BDO the external auditors had been in touch. A Public Interest Report would be prepared due to Andy Pashley’s conduct as the clerk. The report was currently in process. The cost to the village would be close to £2,000 BDO thought. The PC will have to fund this. Clerk has made enquiries and all sources have come back with the same response, that BDO can prepare the report and can claim those charges. The advice is to put up the precept to cover the cost. This will be a high cost to the villagers.

The Clerk confirmed that if the PC are careful in their spending between now and the end of the financial year, they might be able to cover the £2k from the current account. The PC managed to put £3k into reserves last year so it is achievable but will take careful spending.

The Councillors were all outraged that this could happen to a PC which is new, not responsible for what happened and that had worked hard to sort out the mess that Andy Pashley had left behind. Sadly, it appears that because Andy Pashley got away with the fraud for so long, the PC at that time should have had better systems in place.

Clerk’s suggestion is to ask for full breakdown of the costs when the bill lands, see if the PC can get the bill down as much as possible. Do not keep writing to them as they will add that charge to the bill. Bob Walsh confirmed that there might be some funding to help, but it would not be much. The Clerk is to contact the insurers on behalf of the PC but is not hopeful it will cover.
Resolved: The PC will consider the bill and report when received and will then work out how it will be paid. All were committed to trying to avoid a rise in precept to cover.

106/17 Dates for 2018

Date for next meetings confirmed as:

31/01/2018
28/03/2018 Councillor Steel will not be in attendance
30/05/2018 Councillor Robson will not be in attendance
25/07/2018
26/09/2018
28/11/2018

at 7.00pm at Ulley Village Hall.

The Chair confirmed at the end of the meeting that the skip had been cancelled. It has been postponed to March to try and find a place that it can be located.