

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF POTTO PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD ON MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2008 AT 7.15 PM IN THE**  
**VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillor Mr A Wilde (Chairman) Councillors Mrs D Hardy and Mr G Woodhouse

District Councillor Mrs B Fortune

1 member of the public

**Meeting open to the public**

Mrs Williams asked if dog fouling has become a problem again in the Village. The Chairman said it was an item in the Parish Plan for the Council to address. District Councillor Mrs Fortune had said there were dog refuse bins available and we have asked for one to be sited at the end of the bridle path at Gold Hill Loop Road. The Chairman said people in general have said there was not much of a problem now. Mrs Williams thought there was the potential for a problem as a dog is let out to wander. Councillor Hardy said dog refuse has been found in the car park.

Mrs Williams said she had written to Councillor Walters about Cooper Lane leading to the Village Hall. She understood that the Highway Authority is responsible for the beginning of Cooper Lane. An e mail from the County Council saying they are investigating the ownership of this road was read out by the Chairman. Councillor Walters is doing a lot of investigation with the Land Registry. The Chairman said he had been speaking to Mrs Cousans who said that this part of the lane up to the cottages always belonged to the Dog & Gun. She is trying to find documentation on this. Councillor Woodhouse said his understanding was that the first four and half metres of private access to a public highway must be made up to highway standards but the Highway Authority is not responsible for doing it.

The Chairman closed the meeting to the public.

1. An apology for absence was received from Councillor Walters.
2. The minutes of last month's meeting had been e mailed to Councillors and after being agreed as a correct record, were signed by the Chairman.
3. **Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch.** The statistics for November had been received from NY Police and forwarded to Councillors. It was noted that the figures were lower than last year.
4. **Planning Decisions of Hambleton District Council.** None.
5. **Planning Applications.** None.
6. **Matters Arising from last month's meeting**

**a. Footpaths.** The draft survey form will be carried forward to the next meeting. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Mr Lewis, Highways, NYCC, about putting warning signs up about horses using the path. The answer was no, because it is not classed as a bridle path, it is a green lane. No bollards can be erected as it is for motorized vehicles also. Councillor Hardy suggested a sign saying "Slow". Councillor Woodhouse suggested if the entrance it kept naturally narrow at this end it will preclude the use of vehicles and also keep speed down. Councillor Hardy said about 50 tons of road planings are being stock piled but Highways have to move them within two weeks. It has been agreed to take them to a farm in Stokesley and Mr Hardy will bring them over with a tractor & trailer when needed.

- b. Traffic in Back Parsons Lane. Copies of his correspondence with NYCC Highways has been provided by Mr Longbotham and sent with a covering letter from the Council to Mr Smith of NYCC, Thirsk. The Chairman said the signage has not been changed.
- c. No Cold Calling Zone. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Mr Lewis, NYCC Highways about the No Cold Calling signs. These cannot be put on the 30 mph signs but he suggested using a telegraph pole or lamp post and there is one on Cooper and Butcher Lanes which can be used. The Chairman will inform Trading Standards. The Chairman also asked whether there were grants available for restoring sign posts and unfortunately there are none at the moment. Mr Lewis suggested a firm called Cleveland Corrosion Control and they provided an estimate of £1,265 including VAT. The Parish Council is allowed to paint the signpost.
- d. Pride in Potto. Carry forward to next month.
- e. Dog Fouling. Parish Plan Action 16. Regarding the dog that wanders, the Council could talk to the owner now or monitor things over the Christmas period. Councillor Woodhouse thought there had been enough monitoring. The Chairman asked whether the Council should send a letter or contact the owner direct. Councillor Woodhouse suggested we ask advice from District Councillor Mrs Fortune.
- f. Freedom of Information Act. Circular from the Information Commissioner's Office. Councillor Woodhouse proposed, seconded by Councillor Hardy, that the Council adopts the new model publication scheme. This was agreed unanimously.

## **7. Finance.**

The Councillors went through the figures for a budget for the next financial year 2009-2010. A contingency fund for elections was included. It was agreed to fund a new seat out of this year's funds. Councillor Hardy proposed, seconded by Councillor Woodhouse, that the Council precept for £2,500 for the next financial year. This was agreed unanimously. In response to the comment from the auditors about reviewing the Council's approach to risk assessment, the Chairman will look on the NALC/SLCC website. The Chairman asked Councillor Woodhouse to firm up the price of the new seat. The Council is happy to have one made from recycled plastic. The balances in the Council's accounts are as follows:

Community Account	£1,039.07 (10 December 2008)
Business Premium Account	£1,697.93 (9 December 2008)

District Councillor Mrs Fortune joined the meeting.

## **8. Report from District Councillor Mrs Fortune**

She urged everyone to be extra vigilant about their homes and outbuildings and to please take note of strange vehicles. The District Council no longer has a Dog Warden but someone can be brought in to deal with problems. She will request a dog refuse bin for the south end of the green lane. Councillor Hardy volunteered to have a word with the dog owner. District Councillor Mrs Fortune suggested reminding dog owners in the newsletter especially that the Village Hall is used as a nursery.

## **9. Telephone Kiosk**

The Chairman said that we did have a letter about the removal of telephone kiosks from the District Council but the post code given was for Potto Hall. BT has now removed the telephone kiosk from the middle of the Village. The Chairman had spoken to Mr Cole from the District Council who had referred him to BT and after some difficulty was able to talk to the Project Liaison Officer for Payphones. BT has admitted their mistake in giving the wrong post code and removing the box but consider they have gone through the due process and they are not reinstating it. District Councillor

Mrs Fortune suggested writing to William Hague MP. The Council agreed to write to Mr Hague and Mr Cole. Mobile phone reception is poor in Potto.

#### **10. Maintenance of Potto Stell.**

Councillor Woodhouse had circulated an e mail from a resident concerned that Potto Slack had reached a very high level as it crossed Station Lane near the Old Station House. The Council agreed to ask for the stream to be cleaned out.

#### **11. Village Hall**

Councillor Hardy said she had spoken to Mr Salmon who said there was nothing that he could find out about who owned the access lane to the Village Hall. In his opinion he thought the people who have right of access should look at the possibility of clubbing together to re-surface it. The Clerk mentioned the e mail which had come from YLCA in August on this matter. Councillor Hardy will give a copy to Mr Salmon.

One quote had been received for the work specified on the access lane.

The minutes of the Management Committee meeting held on 1 December will be circulated to Councillors. £400 profit had been made on the Polyjesters evening. There is a Magic Evening on 9 January. There is £5,076 in the current account and £5,217 in the reserve account. The Chairman reported on on-going correspondence about up dating the annual accounts for the Village Hall for the Charity Commission. The Parish Council are Trustees and Councillors have to be named on the Charities Commission website which also gives other details. Councillors present agreed to this.

#### **12. Correspondence**

- a. E mail from YLCA giving details of the NALC Conference to be held on 21 February 2009 in York. This had been forwarded to Councillors.
- b. E mail from Gary Fielding, Assistant Chief Executive, NYCC, thanking the Council for their input to the budget and council plan consultation. Forwarded to Councillors.
- c. Thank you letter from Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau for the Council's donation.
- d. Circular from CE Electric offering supplies of leaflets on "Preparing for Mother Nature". Received.
- e. Summary of Accounts 2007-8 and Community Fire Safety leaflet from North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority. Circulate to Councillors.
- f. Country Air magazine and Annual Report from Rural Action Yorkshire. Circulate to Councillors.
- g. Performance Matters magazine from York & North Yorkshire Waste Partnership. Circulate to Councillors.
- h. Newsletter from York & North Yorkshire Playing Fields Association. Circulate to Councillors.
- i. Fieldwork magazine from CPRE. Circulate to Councillors.
- j. Update from Hambleton District Council and posters on recycling. Poster on Local Meetings for Local People. The Stokesley meeting will be on 19 January. These will be put on the notice board.
- k. Winter Service leaflets received from NYCC. They will be put in the notice board.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.