

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF POTTO PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY, 21 DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.15 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

4 members of the public

Meeting open to the public

Mr Moore said he wished to express a concern, on behalf of the residents of the lower end of the village, about flooding which had occurred recently and not for the first time. They were unhappy that the situation was just continuing without any changes being made. They were determined as a group to ensure that some action is taken. It is not known what is causing the problem and the first thing to do is to investigate.

They presume there are a number of organizations involved and are looking for guidance and advice on how to proceed. The group would like the Parish Council to be involved and to have meaningful conversations with the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water and the County and District Councils. The Chairman said on receipt of the group's letter he had done a little bit of investigation. He had spoken to Mr C Bond at Northumbrian Water. It was not clear from the letter if it was surface water or sewage or from the river. Mr Bond said there was hydraulic incapacity in the system that they were aware of but it is not a priority. It is important, however, that every incident is logged with them as it moves the problem higher up the chain. Mr Moore said sewage was back charging out of the foul mains which it has done many times before. Mr Hopper said it was a combination of things. How effective are the pumps? The other issue is the beck, when it reaches a certain level, problems occur. There are obstructions in the beck. We are looking for expertise to pull all these threads together. The Chairman said that Mr Bond was very helpful but he had also spoken to Mrs Taylor at the Environment Agency. Recently the Environment Agency had changed its boundaries and Potto is now in the Newcastle area. They did have people in Potto looking at the river early in November. Mrs Taylor directed the Chairman to their website which highlights areas in Potto which are prone to flooding. They plan to come out to Potto with a team and would like to walk around the area with residents. She asked that everyone reports every flooding incident. Mr Hopper asked to whom incidents should be reported. Mr MacPherson said it was important that everyone knows the correct telephone numbers to call and the group will circulate them to every household. Mr Hopper queried which agency was responsible for what.

District Councillor Mrs Fortune said she used to attend the Flood Forum meetings but the only thing she learned was that incidents were put on a list. She urged everyone to separately telephone in when an incident occurred and not to leave it to one person. She was extremely concerned if sewage was coming up through the system. She will talk with Environmental Health at the District Council to see what they can do. Mr Moore said this time there was less than half of the amount of rainfall but there was still a problem. District Councillor Mrs Fortune said as Potto has a Parish Plan this can help to attract funding as flooding is a community issue. Mr MacPherson said this time the pumps had failed and tankers came in overnight to take away the sewage. It is important we clarify whether or not the two systems are combined. It is appreciated that funding to get the work done will be difficult to find.

In the Parish Plan many people had commented that they felt that the infrastructure including the roads, drains and sewage facilities, etc. were already operating a peak capacity. The Chairman said the Parish Plan was adopted by the Parish Council and should help to obtain funding. Mr MacPherson was reassured by what he had heard and the group wished to assist the Parish Council. Booklets from the Environment Agency about flooding were given to residents present. Mr Moore asked how matters will be co-ordinated. The Chairman said hopefully we will have some news for the next Parish Council meeting.

District Councillor Mrs Fortune asked if residents had sandbags and was told that the District Council had delivered them. The Chairman thought it was a good idea for residents to get together and put their thoughts on paper. If an historical list of events is made the Parish Council can submit them to the various authorities. District Councillor Mrs Fortune thought it should be flagged up what is going on and she will have a word with the District Press Officer. Mr Moore said in 2000 he was left with the understanding that the District Council were going to co-ordinate the actions of the various organizations.

The Chairman closed the meeting to the public.

The Chairman said he would like to mention the sudden death of John Fanthorpe who has been involved in many activities in Potto. The whole Council expressed their condolences to Pam Fanthorpe.

1. An apology for absence was received from County Councillor Mr T Swales.
2. The minutes of last month's meeting had been circulated and were signed by the Chairman after being agreed as a correct record.
3. **Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch.** The statistics for November had been received from NY Police and circulated to Councillors. The Chairman reported an incident in Potto when a car had crashed through a fence. Councillor Woodhouse had been in touch with Roger Brook, Head of Volunteering (Community Profiles) about the proposed Neighbourhood Profile Guides and thought it would be best to ask for a volunteer from the Village. The Chairman will put a note in the Christmas newsletter. Mr Whitlock now has information from the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator to put on the website.
4. **Planning Decision of Hambleton District Council**
 - a. Single storey extension to the front of 2 Ashfield House, Black Horse Lane for Mr T Mason. 09/03685/FUL. Approved, subject to conditions.
5. **Planning Application**
 - a. Application for Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations to Lane House, Butcher Lane for Mr A Thompson. 09/4088/LBC. The Council recommended approval.

6. Matters Arising

- a. Footpaths and Green Lane. Councillor Walters agreed to help Councillor Woodhouse with a template for the footpath walks leaflets.
- b. No Cold Calling Zone. The signs have been erected in Cooper Close. Councillor Woodhouse reported on an e mail he had received with a suggestion to expand the zone to other areas of Potto. He will forward the e mail to the other Councillors and Clerk.
- c. Water Trough. It was noted that the trough had been filled in.
- d. Planning Applications. Councillor Walters said he had received comments on his note from Councillor Woodhouse. It was agreed to hold over until next month.
- e. Planning Training. Arrangements are being made for Mr Cann's visit.
- f. Salt Bins. A post card acknowledgement was received from the County Council of the Council's letter. The Chairman had put some salt and a small shovel in bins as cars could not get out of the village. A gritter had been seen going through the village but did not grit the road. The Chairman had looked at the website and said Potto is on the gritting route but not priority 1. The Chairman said problems were caused at a funeral because of the lack of grit on the road.
- g. NYCC Budget and Council Plan Consultation. Nothing to report.

7. Finance

The Chairman said he had compiled a risk assessment incorporating Councillors' comments and will forward a copy to everyone. The Council reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit and expressed that they were satisfied in all areas. Councillors had all received a copy of the budget. The balances in the Council's accounts are as follows:

Community Account	£1,713.14 (10 December 2009)
Business Saver Account	£1,698.97 (9 December 2009)

The following accounts were agreed for payment:

Mr D Kitching – Grass cutting	£100.00
Clerk – ¼ salary + ¼ travel allowance	£133.75
Petty Cash	£30.00
C Bainbridge & Sons – Repairs to Green Lane	£200.00

8. Report from District Councillor Mrs Fortune

She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and was looking forward to next year. She will speak to Mr Cole of the District Council about a community project on flooding, to County Councillor Mr T Swales and Environmental Health. She will also find out who our representatives are on the Flood Forum and feed back information in due course.

9. Village Hall

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December were received and will be circulated to Councillors.

10. Unclassified Road leading to Village Hall.

An e mail had been received from Allianz Cornhill and forwarded to Councillors. A letter was received from the Land Registry rejecting the Council's proposal. The letter will be circulated to Councillors.

11. Parish Plan Action 31

Councillor Woodhouse had prepared a progress summary for 2009. The actions which had been noted as behind target will be put on the agenda.

12. Correspondence

- a. A letter was received from the District Council Standards Committee concerning a complaint received about Councillor Woodhouse. The Council will await the outcome.
- b. E mail from Hambleton District Council on Sandbags. Delivery of a pallet to Mr Hopper will be requested.
- c. Letter from residents about flooding. Dealt with under Meeting Open to the Public.
- d. E mail from Mr P Cole, Hambleton District Council on a Stokesley and Villages Cycleways Consultation. The Council is interested in but not currently aware of any requirements. If anything arises it will be reported.
- e. Circular from CE Electric UK offering leaflets and posters on Preparing for Mother Nature. It was agreed to order 150 leaflets and 2 posters. The Chairman said at a previous meeting the Council had talked about having a vulnerable persons register.
- f. Summary of Accounts 2008/09 and Corporate Plan 2009-2012 received from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority. Circulate to Councillors.
- g. E mail from Steve Shaw on Empowering Parish and Town Councils. Forwarded to Councillors.
- h. Communities Survey e mail from Rural Services Network. Forwarded to Councillors.
- i. Parish News e mailed from Rural Services Network. Forwarded to Councillors.
- j. E mail from NYCC. Putting People First newsletter. Forwarded to Councillors.
- k. Fieldwork magazine from CPRE. Circulate to Councillors.
- l. Notification from Hambleton District Council of the dates for the meetings of the Area Forums. Received.
- m. Update newsletter from Hambleton District Council. Circulate to Councillors. Posters on Christmas tree recycling and Bus Concessionary Fares will be displayed on the notice board.
- n. White Rose Update from YLCA and letter about membership subscriptions 2010 – 2011. Circulate to Councillors.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.