

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF POTTO PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.15 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillor Mr A Wilde (Chairman) Councillors Mesdames D Hardy and E Griffin, Mr G Woodhouse

County Councillor Mr T Swales
District Councillor Mrs B Fortune

6 members of the public

Mr D Mitchell Area Manager, Northumbrian Water
Mr S Cleminson, Technical Support Team Leader, Northumbrian Water

Meeting open to the public

Mr Hopper said an action group had been formed to represent residents who live at the bottom end of the village. Over the last 3 - 4 months they have been subject to 3 incidents concerning the capacity of the existing sewerage system, the surface water drains and the reliability of the pump house. There is an action in Potto Parish Plan to investigate the capacity of the sewerage system and drains. On the 28/29 November there was a pump failure and a back up of sewage. This was during a period of heavy rain and the surface water could not drain away through the combined drainage system. This caused some local flooding. As soon as an engineer arrived and got the pump working, the problem began to go away. On the 27 December 2009 and 16 January 2010 residents were again subject to the same situation. This time it was believed to be a blockage. A number of questions had been given to Northumbrian Water.

Mr Cleminson said a team has carried out a full CCTV survey of the drains through the main sewers since the last flooding. It was not a serious issue with fat and grease this time. Sometimes a blockage could move down the system if it is not removed. We have had the camera down and there are now no issues. Mr Mitchell said the pumping station starts and stops and it can lead to an obstruction in the pipe. If it does become a problem in the village Northumbrian Water can help. Mr Hopper asked if there was stress on the existing network which caused a blockage. Mr Mitchell replied there was not.

Mr Cleminson said there was a 6 inch gravity fed sewer through the village and had a plan available at the meeting which showed the sewerage network. From the pump house it was moved on to the treatment works at Swainby via a 4 inch pipe. In reply to a question as to how many pumps should be available, Mr Mitchell said one. There is a duty stand by arrangement at the pumping station which puts out an alarm to Thornaby if we get a high level and the person on stand by is called out.

Mr Hopper asked if Northumbrian Water thought that the design of the pump house capacity, etc. is capable of pumping away the sewage and all the water from the highways in severe weather conditions. Mr Cleminson said the combined system takes surface water and foul in one pipe. It is not designed to take any land drainage and it is not known if this is the issue here so we may have to look at what goes into the system.

Mr Hopper said the problems had been going on for a long time. Mr Mitchell said some things were done in 2001 after problems had occurred. There is no overflow on the system and that is to be considered as part of the study. There are issues with the surface water system, highway drainage system and the pumping station. Northumbrian Water has to work with other agencies. Issues concerning beck flooding can be very difficult. The Environment Agency is not responsible as it is not a main river. It comes down to riparian owners.

The pumping station and the sewers have been checked and from the information received it is working now and transferring more flow to Swainby, more than it was designed for. Work will be prioritized as internal flooding has occurred. Mr Hawkes spoke about an incident at the end of November concerning a street gully which is immediately above the beck. He could not see any water going down the road gully. Mr Mitchell said Northumbrian Water are responsible for the sewers not highway drainage and suggested that gullies should be cleaned out.

Mr Hopper asked what Northumbrian Water was going to do in the short term in respect of the pumping station and sewerage system. Mr Mitchell said he was going to make sure that the pumping station is running as it should be. The system will be looked at to see if more flow can be put through to Swainby. The Chairman asked for the Parish Council to be kept informed of developments.

Mr Hopper said if power is lost there is trouble. He asked what residents could do to try and improve the response times in an emergency. Mr Mitchell said there is a fixed response time. In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr MacPherson said one house had been flooded. Mr Cleminson said following the flooding residents have been filling in flooding assessment forms. A garage can also count as internal flooding. Mr Mitchell said we need a connected approach. District Councillor Mrs Fortune said she had taken the problem to Clive Thornton at the District Council who has also been in contact with the County Council who are aware of it. Mr Cleminson said he knew Clive Thornton and had links with the County Council at Thirsk. Mr Mitchell said it is a complicated problem and Northumbrian Water will work towards solving the issues. He agreed that a representative will attend the April meeting of the Parish Council

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting to the public.

Co-option of Councillor

Two applications had been received for the vacancy. Their letters were read out by the Chairman. The Councillors then voted to co-opt Mrs E Griffin onto the Council. She signed the Acceptance of Office form and will fill in the Registration of Interests. The Chairman welcomed her to the Council.

1. An apology for absence was received from Councillor Walters.
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 January crime statistics had been received from NY Police and e mailed to Councillors. Councillor Woodhouse said Mr Whitlock had updated the website and there is now a home page for Neighbourhood Watch. Anyone can opt to receive e mails from NY Police, pertinent to Potto Parish only. The Chairman will mention this in the newsletter. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Whitlock. Councillor Woodhouse said just before Christmas the Chairman proposed that the Council give a token of appreciation to Mr Whitlock and he understood that he would prefer wine. The Clerk will check with YLCA whether this is allowed. Councillor Hardy said ringmaster messages had been received concerning burglary at business premises in Seamer and a house in Stokesley where a car was stolen.
4. **Planning Decisions of Hambleton District Council**
 - a. Application for Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations to Lane House, Butcher Lane for Mr A Thompson. 9/04088/LBC. Approved, subject to conditions.

5. Planning Applications

- a. Construction of a replacement dwelling at 43 Cooper Lane for Mr S Crosbie 09/04147/FUL. Site visit held on 23 January followed by meeting in Village Hall. The Council voted 3 to recommend approval of the application with 1 abstaining. It was agreed to express concern about the height of the new property in relation to the street scene and ask for a site visit by the Development Committee.
- b. Proposed removal of 586 m of hedgerow at Thornhill Farm, Black Horse Lane for Dawson Farms Ltd. 10/00222/HNA. It is quite a large hedge within which are a few yards of gaps. There are 5 trees in the hedge. It was agreed to have a separate meeting to discuss response to the application after Councillors had read the Hedgerow Regulations.
- c. Application for Listed Building Consent for construction of new two storey extension and replacement windows at Lane House, Butcher Lane for Mr A Thompson. 10/00215/LBC. Construction of new two storey extension and replacement windows at Lane House, Butcher Lane for Mr A Thompson 10/00252/FUL. The Council agreed to recommend approval.
- d. Proposed single storey extension to Brook House, Goulton Lane for Mr E Dumphy 10/00223/FUL. The Council decided to vote to recommend approval with 3 voting for and 1 No Observations.

6. Matters Arising

- a. Footpaths and Green Lane. It was agreed that the leaflet for the first footpath walk could be put on the website to be downloaded by anyone interested. Letters had been sent to land owners with hedges bordering the green lane. The Chairman said another load of planings is available. The work done last year has held up very well and proved to be worthwhile. Councillor Hardy said she had spoke to Mr Hutchinson about grass cutting as he was unsure about the locality of Potto Hill.
- b. No Cold Calling Zone. An e mail was received from Trading Standards and circulated to Councillors. The area suggested previously will be done later in the year. The new area suggested will be inspected.
- c. Planning Applications. Defer to next month.
- d. Planning Training. Mr Cann from the District Council will attend on Monday, 1 March at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall to talk about Planning. Councillors from Rudby Parish Council have been invited to attend.
- e. Supply of Salt. A price will be requested from a supplier.
- f. Appointment of Committee. It was agreed that the Committee to look at flooding in Potto should consist of the Chairman and Councillor Hardy plus a number of residents.
- g. Flooding in Potto. County Councillor Swales said the agencies do work very well together.
- h. Sandbags. A letter has been sent to Northumbrian Water asking about storing sandbags at the pumping station. A reply is awaited.

7. Finance

The Chairman had circulated the Risk Management Document. The Clerk said re page 2 section 1.2 the notice board is not insured by the Council and would find out what the extra premium would be. Page 7 Item 3.1 there are not regular quarterly reports by a Councillor to the Council. Page 8 Item 3.6 The responsibility lies with the Council. The Chairman will make the amendments and re-circulate the document. A review of the Financial Regulations will be done next month. The balances in the Council's accounts are as follow

Community Account
Business Saver Account

£1,224.39 (10 February 2010)
£1,698.97 (9 December 2009)

8. Reports from County and District Councillors.

District Councillor Mrs Fortune said she has spent time since the last meeting with the Environmental Officer and Clive Thornton. The biggest stumbling block has been the County Council when she can never speak to the same person. Mr Thornton has been talking to Northumbrian Water and hopefully everything will now be pulled together. Mr Thornton is prepared to come out and see if he can help move things along. The Chairman said it is very encouraging to see that the beck has been cleaned out. District Councillor Mrs Fortune said she had been surprised to see on the agenda the number of Parish Plan actions. It is an aspirational document to be worked on. The District and County Councils have budgets to manage. Councillor Woodhouse said the agenda item was a summary of where we are up to.

County Councillor Mr Swales said he had received a copy of the Parish Council's letter to Highways concerning the experiences which Potto Parish residents had gone through. The Government cut the supply of salt to the County Council and in several areas salt was stolen for resale. A promise was that they would keep every village open but quite a lot were not. Parish Councils that have a Parish Caretaker could grit their own footpaths, etc. but at the present time this is not allowed. There would have to be an agreement with the County Council. Highways will supply salt at a price. Support for the elderly and children take money away from the highways budget. The County Council will be voting on the budget on Wednesday. Councillor Woodhouse said the roads are in a terrible state. County Councillor Swales said the Highways are filling in holes at the present time. If you see dangerous potholes please report them to Highways. The County Council is going to get £1 million but there are £10 million of repairs to do.

9. **Parish Plan Actions** Nos. 2,4,7,8,10,11,12,14,15,16,20,22,23,28,29,30. Action 2 and 4 focus on producing a Village Design Statement. Councillor Woodhouse asked if funding was available and District Councillor Mrs Fortune said she would ask Mr Cole of District Council who would come and give a talk to the Parish Council if required. County Councillor Mr Swales said Osmotherley have been working for two years on their VDS and it is going out for its third consultation. Action 7 is in hand. Action 8 concerns planting trees. It was noted that 3 or 4 planted last year had died. It was thought they may be under guarantee. Councillor Walters will have the details. Action 10 concerned street lighting. District Councillor Mrs Fortune said there are no plans to put in extra street lighting or change existing. The Chairman said an inspection was carried out in Potto and it was agreed that another light would be put in. Action 11 can be deleted as the target has been met. Item 12 is in hand. Action 14 – no specific action. Action 15 is up and running. Action 16 – there have been no recent complaints about dog fouling and target has been met. Actions 20, 22 and 23 are for the Village Hall Management Committee. Action 28 was to increase membership of Neighbourhood Watch scheme and excellent progress has been made. Action 29 – progress is being made on target. Action 30 – can be deleted as target has been met.

10. Village Hall

A circular was received from Compact Voice enclosing a survey. This will be passed to the Management Committee. The minutes of the Management Committee meeting of 10 February had been received and circulated to Councillors.

11. Unclassified Road leading to Village Hall

Councillor Woodhouse said he had had a number of conversations and e mails with the Land Registry but now felt more expert help was required. The Clerk will speak to YLCA for advice.

County Councillor Mr Swales left the meeting.

12. Correspondence

- a. A letter had been received from the District Council informing that the complaint against Councillor Woodhouse will be investigated by Mr Richards, Monitoring Officer of the District Council.
- b. An e mail was received from YLCA and circulated to Councillors concerning new Standing Orders. The Council agreed to purchase one copy at a cost of £25.00.
- c. Information from District Council on getting over 50s into exercise. Taster sessions will be held. A poster was put in the Village Hall.
- d. Parish News from Rural Services Network received by e mail and forwarded to Councillors. A Local Food Study was included.
- e. E mail from Rural Services Community on new features. Forwarded to Councillors.
- f. Request for donation from Great North Air Ambulance. The Council's allocation in the budget for donations has already been given out.
- g. Circular from NSPCC asking for Helpline Support. Passed to Councillor Griffin.
- h. Country Air magazine from Rural Action Yorkshire. Circulate to Councillors.
- i. Agenda for meeting of YLCA Hambleton Area Committee to be held on 17 March. Circulated to Councillors.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.