

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF POTTO PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.00 PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillor Mr A Wilde (Chairman), Councillor Mr I Macpherson, Councillor Mr S Agar and County Councillor Mr D Hugill

**Meeting open to the Public**

Two members of the public were present and expressed their concerns over the behaviour of a single member of the public and how it was adversely affecting the whole parish.

**Parish Council Meeting**

Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Mrs V Williams and Councillor Mrs E Griffin

The minutes for the December's meeting of the Parish Council were discussed proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

**Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch**

Police report was received via email and PCSO Crawford was present.

06/01/18 – Off duty Police officer reporting bags of what appeared to have been the contents of cannabis grow. Council informed for disposal.

Councillor Macpherson discussed the irresponsible motorcyclists using the bridleway, the police team have operations each month and work with the National parks service. They can check they are insured and behaving.

Neighbourhood Watch: An email from the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator regarding a recent instance of cold calling in the village was received. The fundraisers represented St Johns Ambulance but were employed by a company called Wesser's who receive 45% of all donations for the first two years as a fee.

**Planning Decisions of Hambleton District Councils**

- a) Ref: 17/02437/FUL - Proposed single storey front, side and rear extension. – GRANTED.
- b) REF: 17/02373/CLE - Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) for a garage and utility toilet – GRANTED.

**Planning Applications**

- a) 17/02713/MRC - Variation of Conditions attached to Planning Consent 05/00479/FUL-Siting of a further 6 static and 6 touring caravans at an existing caravan park. Construction of amenities block and increased opening season to 10 months in a year as amended by plans as received by Hambleton District Council on 19 April 2004.

Discussed application, no visual impact, the entrance has recently been improved. No reason to object. Unanimously approved.

**Matters Arising from last month's meeting**

- a) Footpaths and Un-Classified Road (Bridle-path) – The Parish Council was informed that the NYCC Highways Officer who was dealing with the Bridleway, has left his post and it remains vacant at this time.

Councillor Macpherson explained the current efforts being made to liaise with NYCC highways to find a resolution to this issue of motorcyclists using the bridleway to Swainby.

Discussed bridleway trees being 'lopped' following an enquiry from a member of the public which was read out. A tree surgeon visited site previously and inspected the full length of the bridleway and identified dangerous branches and diseased trees.

New dates have been requested to put the remaining gates in on the footpaths. We will be getting another 2 or 3 self-closing gates for free.

There are a number of small pools forming on an area of the bridleway which will need filling in before it gets muddy.

- b) Discussed, looking into match funding for the next village project.
- c) Meeting with YLCA – Suggested dates from YLCA, to check absent councillor's availability.

Information received from Councillor Agar regarding how other Parish Councils deal with vexatious complaints from member of the public.

- d) Councillor Williams has indicated that she wishes to stand down as a Parish Councillor due to her current work commitments. Hambleton District council have been contacted and a notice of vacancy in office of Councillor for the Parish of Potto has been placed in the noticeboard.

The Parish Council would like to thank Vicky for all of her efforts, and invaluable advice over recent years.

### **Parish Plan**

A draft questionnaire has been received back from Hambleton Council. Looks good so far and recommended a few amendments. Should be ready early February 2018. Discussed the possibility of an open evening for the residents to be held in March.

### **Investigation into a complaint received from a member of the public**

Objection 2016/17 return. It was noted that the member of the public who submitted the complaint said he would withdraw if we investigated internally, which we did. However, has still not withdrawn his complaint to the External Auditors PKF Little John. The Parish Council discussed the responses to the auditor which will be collated before submitting to the Auditor.

It was noted that the costs associated with objections raised by a single member of the public now amounted to over £9,000 which is more than a complete year's precept. Parishioners have raised concerns that one individual can inflict these costs on the whole Parish. We are duty-bound to pay the fees.

### **Finance**

- a) The 2015/16 Annual Return, the report was on the notice board for 28 days and is also available for examination or via the Parish website.
- b) The 2016/17 Annual Return is still under investigation.
- c) The 2018/19 precept budget was discussed and each item agreed which produced a final Precept request of £7,000 for forwarding to HDC. Following the discussions, the precept budget was unanimously agreed for the financial year 2018/19.
- d) Bank Accounts
  - i. Community Account £ 4,830.99
  - ii. Business Account £ 2,507.94
- e) The current status of the operating budget was reviewed and agreed.
- f) Annual review of Clerk's salary, NALC and SLCC national salary award. Hand to Councillor Griffin to review annual increase.

**Complaint by a member of the public to the ICO**

The Parish Council has responded to the ICO regarding the case Ref FS50680859, made by a member of the public.

The Parish Council has responded to the ICO regarding the case Ref FS50672279, made by the same member of the public.

**Complaint Against Councillor Wilde**

The Parish Council Considered the complaint from the same member of the public against Councillor Wilde as per its complaints procedure and agreed that there were no grounds for this complaint against Councillor Wilde to be upheld.

**Complaint Against the Clerk**

The Parish Council considered the complaint from the same member of the public against the Clerk Ref December 2017 as per its complaints procedure and agreed that there were no grounds for this complaint against Councillor Wilde to be upheld.

**Complaint Against the Clerk**

The Parish Council Considered the complaint from the same member of the public against the Clerk Ref July 2017 as per its complaints procedure and agreed that there were no grounds for this complaint against Councillor Wilde to be upheld.

**Complaint Against Councillor Agar**

A complaint against Councillor Agar has been made to the HDC standards Board by the same member of the public.

A discussion was held around the inordinate amount of effort incurred dealing with correspondences from a single 'member of the public'. It is clear that the Parish Councils time and Money could be better utilised for the benefit of the whole Parish.

**Report from County and District Councillors**

Discussed gritting Campion Lane, Hutton Rudby as this is one of the main through-route for residents to A19. It was noted that this has been requested for over 20 years by Hutton Rudby, but had no change.

2018/19 budget savings continues, £169,000,000 savings to be made, have made £160,000,000 so far!

Swainby & Potto School, many children left the school before it closed and therefore were not eligible for free home-school transport.

New Planning Enforcement Manager.

Councillor Macpherson enquired about the possible ban of motorcyclists using the Bridleway.

Discussed match funding for the replacement finger sign in Potto.

The Ford at the end of the bridleway is impassable due to the river undercutting the concrete ramp. Spoke to Highways 2 weeks ago, but had nothing back yet. Would it be more financially viable to widen the current footbridge for horses, prams, bicycles etc. to use? The old 'slack' footbridge is still sat in Preston's yard, and is a 'twin' bridge to the one which is currently in situ. Councillor Hugill will see if he has any funding available to assist.

**Village Hall**

The minutes of Potto Village Hall's meeting, have been circulated.

The Spanish evening was a great success and everyone enjoyed the food, well done to everyone involved.

Annual village Hall trustee meeting upcoming, will contact trustees to arrange date.

**Correspondence**

- i. Complaint against the Clerk
- ii. Resolution to take legal advice
- iii. 2015/16 Audit Action plan
- iv. Statement Inordinate amount of effort.
- v. Council Membership
- vi. Budget data 2018-19
- vii. Withdrawal of 2016/17 objection
- viii. Complaint against the Clerk
- ix. Complaint against Councillor Wilde
- x. SBA

Each correspondence was discussed and responses actioned as appropriate.

**Any Other Business**

PKF Littlejohn Action Plan for 2015/16 – The action plan prepared following the audit was discussed and agreed.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm

**Next month's meeting date Wednesday 21 February 2018 at 7.00pm**