

Minutes of the Rosedale East and West Parish Council meeting held on
held on 10 February 2011

Members Present

Councillors: Howard Hebron (Vice Chair), Sue Austermuhle, Henry Brown, Ena Dent,

Angela Gage, June Scarth, Maisie Storey, Linda Sugars

Apologies: Trevor Dale (Chair), Linda Blackburne

In attendance: Councillor Janet Frank and 10 members of the public

The meeting was chaired by the Vice Chair.

05973 Questions and statements from the public

Jon Zigmond asked why Colin Huby was allowed to speak at the previous meeting, given that

Affordable Housing was not on the agenda. He asked why Mr Huby had apparently been

alerted to the questions that had been submitted by the public; whether Mr Huby was in fact

allowed to speak given that he was not a local resident; and why he was allowed to speak for

longer than three minutes. Mr Zigmond said that he had no objection to Mr Huby speaking but

felt that the rules should be applied fairly.

The Vice Chair said that Mr Huby had been allowed to speak as he had important information

to get over, however he acknowledged that a mistake had been made and that the Council

would learn from this. He confirmed that there was nothing in standing orders restricting

questions and statements to local residents.

Geoff Sherwin made a statement concerning the affordable housing project. He said that he

felt that the Parish Plan was out of date. He said that his experience in the commercial and

business world suggested that such a project could only succeed if there was adequate

transport, communication, and employment, and he felt that Rosedale was deficient in all

three areas. He said that failure to address these areas could result in a dormitory, and that

he would be interested to learn how the scheme would be funded. He acknowledged that this

would probably have to be taken up with Ryedale District Council. The Vice Chair said that

the Council would take these points into account when they began to debate the issue.

Ruth Hannah asked if the Council had genuinely yet to make their minds up about a public meeting, given that the newsletter said that an Open Day was the Council's preferred option.

The Vice Chair confirmed that the decision on a public meeting had yet to be made. He said

that the Council had been advised by various parties to go down the Open Day route in order

to get the information to the public as a starting point. The idea of a public meeting had come

after that, and would be discussed in due course.

Neil Hannah then made a statement on the sites under consideration for the affordable

housing scheme. He suggested that a development on Milk Street could lead to further

development, and that not enough effort had been made to secure land from other owners.

The Vice Chair said that the Council would take this statement on board, and thanked

everyone for their comments.

05974 Community Group update

Colin Westwood was invited to address the meeting about the Community Group. He said

that an informal open public meeting had been arranged on 21 February at 7:30 in the

Reading Room on the subject of a future use for the school house, in order to tease out the

issues to go back to the school governors with. He said that the school needed an income of

around £7000, and that it had to have a community and education element.

He also said that North East Geology Trust had addressed the group on geodiversity in

quarries and land in Rosedale. They felt that certain areas may need protection in order to

safeguard our heritage, and that they were having informal discussions with major landowners.

05975 Minutes of previous meeting

After hearing alterations to the minutes by Councillor Dent, the Council accepted the minutes

of the meeting held on 13 January as a true record. The Clerk agreed to redraft the minutes

incorporating these alterations for signing at the next meeting.

05976 Affordable housing

The Vice Chair said that the Open Day would take place on 26 March at Rosedale

School

from 11am to 6pm, and that this should go in the newsletter.

A public meeting was proposed by Councillor Dent and seconded by Councillor Sugars.

Councillor Gage said that this should happen after the Open Day, when people have the relevant information, and suggested mid-April. Councillor Dent said that it should be as soon

as possible afterwards, provided that the public had a reasonable time to consider.

She also

said that the Council should organise this meeting, but not orchestrate it, as otherwise the

Councillors themselves would not be able to speak as residents. Councillor Brown agreed

that an independent person should chair it, and the Vice Chair suggested the Chair of Thornton-le-Dale Parish Council, as he felt he had done a good job chairing the Parish Forum.

The Council therefore voted on whether to organise, but not orchestrate, a public meeting

after the Open Day. This was carried unanimously.

The Vice Chair said that there was still a lot of reading and debate to do, and the scheme was

nowhere near a foregone conclusion - there may not be a scheme at all. He said that the

Council was only responding to an appeal to the community via the Parish Plan, and depended on need being proven.

Councillor Brown agreed with Mr Sherwin that the original census was ten years old, and

included various anomalies. He asked if there was a way of obtaining more up-to-date

information. Councillor Sugars asked about the housing survey that had been sent round in

the previous weeks, but the Vice Chair said that this was purely for statistical purposes and

not for Rosedale. He also said that the Council needed current information, and a new

guarantee from the Housing Association that only locals would get this housing.

Councillor Storey gave part of her report on the last Southern Area Parish Forum meeting,

which was attended by a representative from the Affordable Housing scheme.

Councillor

Storey was given the impression that a reduction in funding could mean that rents would have

to be increased to the extent that it was no longer affordable. Councillor Storey had asked

what would happen if a house was empty, and the representative had replied that

this would not happen with careful planning. Councillor Storey had then brought up the subject of affordable housing in Richmond, which had been let out to non-locals. The representative had replied that this was probably not in the National Park. Everything would be done to ensure it did not happen, but properties could not remain empty. Councillor Storey said that the representative from Fylingdales said that it had happened in their area.

The Vice Chair noted that the Council had originally been promised that nothing would be built without a signed-up tenant, and Councillor Austermuhle suggested that there may not be a need for low-cost housing anyway now that the caravan park was open for 11 months.

Councillor Storey suggested that the Council could obtain up-to-date information by asking anyone in need of affordable housing to attend the open day. Councillor Scarth suggested that people could be given a form to go in a ballot box or hand to the Clerk. Councillor Dent suggested there could be a meeting downstairs to give opposing views, and that it should be made obvious that you could attend the Open Day if you were for or against the scheme.

The Vice Chair asked if there was a possibility of asking the National Park if the rules could be altered to look for a site outside the village. Councillor Storey said that they insisted that the site had to be close to the school and the shop, but the Vice Chair believed that they could give a dispensation, if there was a need for housing and the only available sites were elsewhere.

05977 Highways issues
Councillor Dent said that she and Councillors Sugars and Storey had attended a meeting with Mike Roberts and Barry Mason of North Yorkshire County Council on 18 January, to discuss their grievances over how Rosedale was treated concerning recurring winter problems. She said that the meeting had gone very well.

Mr Roberts said that the signage on Chimney Bank should be improved as a matter of urgency, otherwise they would consider a barrier. He had asked the Parish Council to monitor any future incidents on the Bank, which the White Horse had since offered to do. The

Councillors were also informed that an annual review of roads requiring gritting was held in September each year, and that Parish Councils could apply in writing for any roads to be regraded. They were also informed about an experiment in Hovingham where the village was provided with grit by the Council, and a self-help group organises the spreading. If this was successful, Rosedale would be invited to take part next winter - the Council would make one large delivery of grit, which would have to be stored securely and administered carefully over the whole winter.

The Vice Chair then said that he had learnt that the sign at Hutton-le-Hole was in fact a two-piece sign, that swings open to close the road, that Highways would be prepared to put more at Bank Top, Wilkes Road end, and the bottom of the Bank, and that they would bring plastic cones and barriers for the ploughers and caretaker to use.

Councillor Gage said that she had read of a proposal that the responsibility for classifying roads for sat-navs should be moved to local councils from the Ministry of Transport, given the concern of lorries using unsuitably dangerous hills. Councillor Storey said that this had been mentioned at the meeting, but that this wouldn't alter current sat-nav settings. The Vice Chair said that these could be updated, and even though the user had to pay to do so, this was still better than the status quo.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Roberts to thank him for the meeting, and ask him to put his answers in writing.

05978 Bow Bridge repair

The Vice Chair said that because of the possibility of bad weather, this work had been postponed again until 3 May, and that the funding had been rolled over into the next tax year to allow this. Unfortunately, this would clash with the Bank Holidays. He said that he had tried to get opinions from the community but that he had not managed to speak to any farmers, however the White Horse would have preferred it at the end of May. Councillor Dent said that this would cause problems with silage. Christine from the White Horse told the meeting that the end of May was their second busiest weekend, but Councillor Scarth said that

farmers' needs should be taken into account as well.

The Vice Chair said that the work had to be done for safety reasons, and that the longer it was left, the greater the likelihood that it would be closed indefinitely. He said that no date would suit everyone, and noted that the Council's opinion would not be the deciding factor.

Geoff Sherwin asked the Council if there would be footpath access during the work. The Vice Chair confirmed that there would. Mr Sherwin also asked if there would be notices of the closure, and the Vice Chair said that it would be in the newsletter at the least.

Councillor Storey proposed that the Council should push for the work to be delayed until 6 June, which was seconded by Councillor Gage. This was defeated by four votes to two. Councillor Scarth then proposed that the Council should agree with the present date of 3 May, which was seconded by Councillor Brown. This was carried by four votes to two.

The Vice Chair then told the Council that Richard Marr at the Highways Department had promised the Chair that the resurfacing work would only be done during the bridge work, and that there would be no separate closure for the road.

Councillor Dent asked how the White Horse could be supported during the bridge closure. The Clerk agreed to include in the newsletter the facts that the White Horse would be open as usual and have walk-in access. Councillor Dent suggested that NYCC would provide signs, but Christine Cullen, manager of the White Horse suggested that the dates should be finalised first.

05979 Hydroelectric schemes

Councillor Janet Frank was invited to address the meeting. She said that she had spoken to Rosie Hughes, and provided the Council with various information on green energy. She said that Ms Hughes' project was to give free energy efficiency advice, calculate village carbon footprints and produce an action plan. She had organised an event in Osmotherly and would be happy to organise such an event at Rosedale.

Jon Zigmond told the meeting that he had done some research into connecting an Archimedes' screw to the National Grid as a community-owned commercial enterprise. He said that there would need to be a feasibility study, and that he would like the Parish Council to explore funding for this study. Councillor Frank suggested that the Council talk to Rosie Hughes about funding, and said that there was an Archimedes' screw in Settle, but that this was a private company. Councillor Brown said that if such a scheme could provide community money at a time when funding was being reduced, it should be explored.

Steve Gillies suggested that the Council contact David Mann, who had a lot of information on Archimedes' screws, which the Council agreed. The Clerk was also instructed to contact Rosie Hughes.

05980 Improvements to village green

As Councillor Blackburne was not present, it was decided to postpone this business. The

Clerk informed the Council that Lynn Richardson was ready to position the memorial bench

once the Council told her where it could go. The Council decided that this decision should

wait until the plan was finalised, and the Clerk agreed to write to Ms Richardson asking her to wait.

05981 Community Reliance Emergency Planning

This report was still in circulation among the Councillors, and was deferred until they had all had a chance to read it.

05982 Community Access Improvements

The Clerk told the Council that Martyn Williams of the National Park Authority was keen to

have a site meeting with any interested Councillors and Andrew Middleton who had proposed

the routes for improvement. The Clerk agreed to arrange this meeting and circulate the report.

05983 Southern Area Parish Forum meeting 8/2/11

Councillor Storey told the meeting that the Forestry Commission had proposed to sell Dalby

Forest on a 150-year lease, which was estimated to be worth £16 million.

She also said that the National Park Authority was making new arrangements for car parking, and would now charge £2.20 - £4.00. There would be a new charge at Hutton-le-

Hole,
however there would be no attendant and there would instead be ticket machines.
However,
as the Authority could not legally charge for parking, there would be no checks or penalties,
and it was hoped that the public would appreciate the need. Councillor Storey had asked
about the queues at Hutton-le-Hole, and was told that the machines should help with this.

Councillor Storey also asked about how Councils coped with gritting. No advice had come
from the floor, but the representative from Scarborough had suggested buying storage from
the Council. The first fill of grit would cost £85, then £30 for each fill thereafter, and a footpath
spreader would cost £200. Councillor Storey felt that Rosedale residents had in fact already
paid for this.

There had then been a presentation on conservation in New Zealand.

The Council considered the decision to sell off the forestry, in particular the request for public
consultation on the subject. Councillor Storey said that the forestry was being leased, not
sold. The Council decided not to make any representation on this, but to put it in the newsletter so that members of the public could make their opinions known.

05984 Village pond

The Council noted the Pond Enhancement Plan, which contained ten actions for improvement. Alan Clark told the Council that most of these involved the Village Caretaker or
local volunteers, but that four items needed quotes. Mr Clark said that someone would need
to volunteer to seek quotes and liaise with the contractors, but that he would no longer be able
to do so himself.

The Vice Chair suggested that S&A Doughty should be added to the list of possible contractors, to ensure that local businesses had a chance to quote.

Councillor Brown volunteered to liaise with the contractors, but as Councillor Dent had not
received a copy of the report it was decided to place this on the agenda for the next meeting.

05985 Consultation on library proposals

The Clerk informed the Council of a consultation on future cuts to library provision, which

would involve abolishing the mobile library. Councillor Dent said that this was another service that rural people lose out on. Councillor Gage said there was a feeling in the community that the service might be more convenient monthly rather than once every three weeks. Councillor Storey said that only one person used the service in Thorgill, but Councillor Gage said it was very popular in Rosedale East, with eight users at Hill Cottages. Councillor Storey wondered if the library could park in the village. Councillor Gage said that there were people who would not have transport. Councillor Storey asked why residents could not use the library at Pickering at the same time as they go shopping on the community bus. Councillor Austermuhle asked why they should be made to do so.

Councillor Scarth suggested that the Council should respond to the consultation asking for the service to be reduced but not abolished, and this was agreed by the Council.

Councillor Gage said that the library had brought a questionnaire on the library's future, but that six pages had been missing. Christine Cullen said that she had copies which she could send out.

05986 Consultation on the future of the public forest estate
This had been dealt with under minute 05983.

05987 Finance
A cheque was signed for the Village Caretaker's costs (£182.36).

05988 New planning applications
NYM/2011/0040/FL Application for installation of replacement cream uPVC windows at Milburn Cottage, Rosedale Abbey. Councillor Brown declared an interest in this application.
The Council discussed the application and raised no objections.

NYM/2010/0971/FL Application for use of land for the siting of 6 no. camping pods at Rosedale Abbey Caravan and Camping Park, Rosedale Abbey.
The Council objected to this application as it would have high visibility, would be on a greenfield site, and would be present all year round on a site that had only ever been permitted seasonal use.

05989 Any other business
Councillor Storey asked if someone from Ryedale District Council could be invited to provide

guidance on how Councillors should conduct their meetings. The Vice Chair noted that Councillors had had a training course originally, but that a refresher course would be a good idea. Councillor Dent said that she thought training came from the National Association of Local Councils rather than RDC. Councillor Sugars said that any such training should come after the election in May.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 7.00 on Thursday 10 March in the Rosedale Reading Room.