

**Minutes of the Rosedale East and West Parish Council meeting held on held on 13 January 2011**

**Members Present**

**Councillors: Trevor Dale (Chair), Howard Hebron (Vice Chair), Sue Austermuhle, Linda Blackburne, Henry Brown, Ena Dent, Angela Gage, June Scarth, Maisie Storey, Linda Sugars**

**In attendance: around 30 members of the public.**

**05959 Questions to Richard Marr**

**The Chair welcomed Richard Marr, Area Manager for Highways and Transportation, to the meeting.**

**The Chair asked Mr Marr who decided which roads would be Priority 1 for gritting, as the Council had been told that Parish Councils made the decision. Mr Marr said that the decision was made by the executive members on the grounds of traffic volume, although comments from Parish Councils were welcome and may carry slightly more weight than from individuals.**

**The Chair asked if school bus routes could be gritted as a priority, but Mr Marr said that it was impossible with present resources to grit all such routes before 8 am. He also said that in order to grit roads for the emergency services, the County Council would have to grit every road in Ryedale, which wasn't possible.**

**The Chair asked what was the procedure for Priority 3 roads. Mr Marr said that they were gritted after Priority 1 and 2 roads, but that if more snow fell first they had to start again.**

**The Chair asked if salt worked better when there was traffic movement. Mr Marr said that salt has little effect below -12 degrees, and that road surface temperatures can be 6 degrees less than air temperatures.**

**The Chair asked if Chimney Bank had been closed by Highways or the police. Mr Marr confirmed that it had been closed by Highways. The Chair said that "flip-over" road closed signs had been promised but had not appeared, but instead there was a sign at Hutton-le-Hole saying "avoid in wintry conditions". Mr Marr said that there was a debate over whether they had the authority to do this, and that drivers had a responsibility to pay attention to existing signage. There was no prospect of barriers. However, as many Councillors expressed concern that the sign was inadequate, he agreed to reconsider its wording.**

**Councillor Storey asked if Rosedale could obtain its own grit for locals to use. Mr Marr said that there had indeed been a trial in Hovingham where the Parish Council cleared footpaths, but that the Parish Council would have to pay for the salt.**

**Councillor Brown brought up the subject of using red diesel for gritting, which was permitted for snowploughing. Mr Marr said that the rule which forbids this had been relaxed, but not abolished. He did not know how long the relaxation would last. He said that this was a Revenue and Customs rule, and that they were not prepared to allow a dispensation for farmers. Although it might be possible to provide grit for farmers to use at their own discretion, the Parish Council would have to fund this, and NYCC could not afford to contract both for snowploughing and gritting.**

**Councillor Dent asked why Rosedale was penalised when ten diggers and two grit wagons could go up Blakey Road when there were people still housebound due to ice and snow still on the roads after 14 days. Mr Marr said that he had no authority to relax the priority system, and that if it were relaxed for Rosedale, it would have to be relaxed for everyone.**

**Councillor Blackburne asked why Mr Marr was so against barriers at Chimney Bank. Mr Marr said that there weren't the resources to close it, and the Parish Council did not have the authority to do so. The police could close the road, and the Highways Department could do so if there was danger. He didn't know if this authority could be devolved. He also said that road closure signs had to be obvious in the dark so as not to create a greater hazard, and that people tend to drive round them anyway. However he said he would look into the legalities of individuals gating off public highways.**

**The Chair said that the man-made hill that had been put on the bank was now no longer working as a crash barrier, and asked if it could be redone. Mr Marr said that it would be redone before the road closure. He said that there could only be funding for a crash barrier if police figures showed a high level of personal injury, and that reported levels of accidents tended to reflect unreported levels.**

**Councillor Dent said that she was not happy with the answers that had been given as the Council sought to prevent accidents, not wait until they had happened, and prevention was better than cure. She said that she would be attending a meeting on Tuesday at County Hall with a small delegation from the Parish Council to discuss recurring problems every winter.**

**Councillor Blackburne asked if Chimney Bank was the steepest hill in the country, but Mr Marr said he did not have that information.**

**Councillor Scarth asked how the emergency services were to get to Chimney Bank in bad weather as the road had not been gritted. Mr Marr said that salt heaps would need using. Councillor Austermuhle said there had been none since the 16th of November. Mr Marr said that there was a need to preserve stocks. Councillor Dent said that Pickering had been oversalted. Mr Marr said that a faulty gritter had needed to be used as the only alternative would have been no gritting.**

**The Chair asked why salt heaps on Priority 1 and 2 roads were refilled as a priority, when the roads were gritted anyway. Mr Marr said that the heaps were needed for Priority 1 locations that could become difficult. The Chair pointed out that the heaps were refilled in Wrelton when the roads were bare, but not in Rosedale. Mr Marr agreed that this seemed unreasonable, and said he would look into it. Councillor Dent said that she had heard that only bins were being restocked, not heaps. Mr Marr said that this was not true. Councillor Dent also said that the contractors would not refill heaps unless they were following a gritter. As no grit wagons come on priority 3 roads how could this be implemented? Mr Marr did not have an answer to this.**

**The Chair brought up the subject of the work to be done on Bow Bridge, which was now scheduled to begin on 28 February, subject to weather. The Chair noted that this could not be guaranteed. Mr Marr said that he had told Neil Darby that the salting and gritting would need to be sorted out before going much further, but that he had not heard back.**

**The Chair noted that work was to be done on the Wrelton to Cropton road, and asked where the diversion would be, and if it would be gritted. Mr Marr said the road would be salted to Appleton-le-Moors, that the work would stop in bad conditions, and that he hoped the road would be open at nights.**

**The Chair said that the roads needed resurfacing now the snow had gone. Mr Marr said that inlay patching would start today. He said that he would check with Ian Birkett what work was to be done on Battling Hills Road.**

**Councillor Storey asked if mirrors could be placed on the corner of Thorgill Road at Chimney Bank, as this was a dangerous bend. Mr Marr said that mirrors were not a recognised piece of street furniture, and needed Secretary of State approval, and most of them were probably illegal.**

**Councillor Austermuhle asked if the road would be resurfaced when the work was done on Bow Bridge. Mr Marr said that this was still the plan.**

**Councillor Gage asked about mixing molasses with salt to grit the roads. Mr Marr said that this seemed to prevent ice, but was ineffective in snow.**

**The Chair asked about a warning sign at the bottom end of Chimney Bank. Mr Marr said that he would look into this, and that it had not been done as the result of a breakdown in communication.**

**Councillor Scarth asked how often manhole covers were checked, as a neighbour had had an accident with one on Chimney Bank. Mr Marr said that they were all inspected between monthly and yearly. The Chair noted that one had come off Heygate Bank altogether, and Mr Marr said that he would see to it.**

**The Chair thanked Mr Marr for attending the meeting.**

#### **05960 Questions and statements from the public**

**Jon Zigmond asked how much of the housing stock in Rosedale East, Rosedale West and Hartoft was in the village, what percentage increase another six houses would make, and why Rosedale Abbey was chosen as the potential site for affordable housing. The Clerk replied that although he could not find exact figures, his best estimate from the electoral register and personal knowledge was that there were around 55 properties in the village and 270 in the three parishes, making 20% of the housing stock; that six houses would therefore increase the stock in the village by around 11%; and that he believed that the decision to look for sites in Rosedale Abbey was made because the planners would not consider sites outside of the vicinity of the village.**

**Mr Zigmond also said that the public had not been informed of the sites, that an e-mail had deliberately been kept secret from him at the last meeting, and that in view of this secrecy a public meeting should be called. He then handed in a petition with 46 signatures requesting a public meeting on the subject. The Chair said that there had been no intention of secrecy. He said that the e-mail, which was not addressed to the public or to Mr Zigmond, had been discussed openly at the meeting in front of Mr Zigmond, and made available to him as soon as he asked for it. The Chair said that an Open Day was the usual procedure, as all authorities would be there to answer questions from the public. All information would be on display, and all members of the public would be able to make comments for and against. This did not preclude residents from holding their own meeting. The Chair stressed that no applications had been made and no site had been chosen, and that if the preferred site was rejected at the Open Day, it would not go forward.**

**Kate Jones told the meeting that a development in Milk Street would harm her business, and asked if the Parish Council had taken this into account. She also called for a public meeting. The Chair said that the Council would take her concerns into account, but stressed that there was no definite site. He said that although Milk Street was the preferred site of the National Parks Authority, the Parish Council had asked for more sites to be considered at the Open Day, which was the purpose of the site visit in August. He stressed that if everyone was against the site at the Open Day, it would not be considered, and that the Parish Council was following the procedure advised by Ryedale District Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority.**

**Neil Hannah asked the Parish Council to confirm that it intended to hold a public meeting, as stated in previous minutes. The Chair apologised for this wording, and said that it was always intended to hold an Open Day, and that all that was meant was that there would be a meeting for the public - ie, the Open Day. Mr Hannah then read a statement in which he said that there had been a lack of transparency on the issue, that the Housing Needs Survey had not provided an adequate analysis of the**

responses, and that there had been no community involvement with the issue.

Colin Huby, the Ryedale District Council Housing Enabler, then addressed the meeting. He said that all sites in the National Park had only gone forward with community support, and that an Open Day was the best way to put the information to the community. He said that all sites would go to the Open Day, and comments could be made on all sites. He said that although the Council had a preferred site with a willing owner, which had led to a sketch being made, nothing had been decided. He said that all comments made at the Open Day would be collated and would go to the planners and the Parish Council, to show how the community felt about it, and a strong feeling would affect the result. Mr Huby said that at a public meeting, people could feel pressured and not want to get in an argument, whereas at an Open Day all comments could be placed in a secure ballot box all day, which could then be opened by an independent person. Mr Huby also said that when a Parish Plan and Housing Needs Survey had already been carried out, there was already a mass of information, and that only information purely on local housing need was required.

The Chair thanked everyone for their questions and statements.

#### **05961 Community Group update**

Colin Westwood addressed the meeting about the Community Group. He said that the History Society would be holding a beef dinner on 27 March at the Lion Inn at Blakey to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Rosedale Branch Line Railway, and that all were welcome. He also said that Hilary Rock would be holding creative writing courses at the Reading Room.

#### **05962 Approval of the minutes of previous meeting**

After two corrections, the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9 December 2010 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

#### **05963 Improvements to the village green**

Councillors Blackburne and Brown had produced a paper on this subject which was circulated to Councillors for discussion at the next meeting.

The Clerk said that he had not yet had a response from Rupert Drury over ownership of the green. Councillor Brown said that he had a meeting with the Estate, and had been told that they would continue to maintain the green, but would withdraw this service if it proved that they did not own the land.

#### **05964 Community Reliance Emergency Planning**

**The Council agreed to defer this business until the next meeting.**

**05965 Consultation on the Governance arrangements for National Parks**

**Councillor Austermuhle expressed concern about the membership of the National Park, and how far it represented the community. The Council instructed the Clerk to write to find out how its membership was formed.**

**05966 Undergrounding of overhead electricity wires**

**Councillor Storey had some suggestions which she said she would pass to the Clerk.**

**05967 Cutting back of vegetation from Hartoft Bridge to Cropton Bridge**

**The Chair said that Jay Marrison at the National Parks Authority had contacted the Forestry Commission about cutting back this vegetation on safety grounds, and was told that the Forestry Commission was in favour of this but believed that either Rosedale Parish Council or Hartoft Parish Meeting had objections. The Council decided that it had no objection, and instructed the Clerk to write to Jay Marrison confirming this.**

**05968 Southern Area Parish Forum meeting, 8 February 2011**

**The Clerk informed the Council of this forthcoming meeting. Councillor Dent asked for the subject of gritting to go on the agenda. The Chair said that he would try to attend the meeting, and the Clerk agreed to wait for a week before responding so that Councillors had a chance to decide if they could attend.**

**05969 Finance**

**Cheques were signed for the Village Caretaker's costs (£231.70) and the Clerk's salary and expenses (£354.91).**

**05970 New planning applications**

**NYM/2010/0966/FL Application for creation of hardstanding area for shoot purposes together with re-grading of a section of track at land to rear of Knottside Cottage, Rosedale Abbey. The Council discussed this application and raised no objections.**

**05971 Planning decisions received**

**NYM/2010/0537/LB Application for Listed Building consent for bridge maintenance works at Bow Bridge, Gill Lane, Rosedale - granted with conditions which were noted by the Council.**

**05972 Any other business**

**The Chair noted that the apprentices had started work on the fallen wall by Hill Cottages, but that they had been forced to stop because of the snow, and would be unable to continue before April.**

**The Chair also said that Martyn Williams, the Community Access Project Officer, was prepared to come to the next meeting to discuss LEADER-funded footpath improvements. The Clerk agreed to invite him formally.**

**Councillor Austermuhle asked the Clerk to include the Bow Bridge closure in the next newsletter.**

**Councillor Blackburne asked that Affordable Housing be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss having a public meeting, as she did not see why there could not be a public meeting as well as an Open Day. Councillor Dent said that no one was against a public meeting, but that she didn't see why the Parish Council should call a meeting as anyone at any time could orchestrate a public meeting. She had concerns over intimidation, and that some views couldn't be expressed as there are 10 councillors who are residents of Rosedale. Councillor Gage said that there should be an Open Day as well as a public meeting, as everything should be out in the open. She said that the intention had been to gather information, not to hide it. The Clerk agreed to contact the various authorities to find out when they could come, in order to speed up the process.**

**Councillor Storey reminded the Council about the newspaper cutting concerning Affordable Housing in Richmond, where the boundaries were apparently changed so that the housing was not offered to local people. The Clerk agreed to contact Richmond Council to establish the facts.**

**The Clerk said that he had received the report on the village pond, which he would circulate to Councillors for discussion at the next meeting. He said that the project for the village signs would now be coordinated by Clair Shields.**

**Councillor Dent reminded the Council of her meeting at County Hall and asked for another Councillor to attend, Councillor Storey agreed to go.**

**Councillor Dent asked that hydroelectric schemes be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.**

### **Next meeting**

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