

Minutes of the Rosedale East and West Parish Council meeting held on held on 14 April 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: Janet Waggott, Simon Copley and about 10 members of the public

06010 Arrangements for Parish Council elections

The Chair proposed that this item should be dealt with first on the grounds of urgency. This was seconded by Councillor Dent and agreed unanimously.

The Chair then introduced Janet Waggott, Returning Officer for Ryedale District Council, and Simon Copley, Deputy Returning Officer and Democratic Services Manager for Ryedale District Council, and invited them to address the meeting.

Janet Waggott said that Ryedale District Council had treated Rosedale East and West as two separate Parish Councils, however they had since received information that due to a grouping order dated 4 June 1958, they were a single Parish Council. Simon Copley said that they had reviewed the arrangements for the May 2011 election in the light of this information, and had decided to stop the current process and put a new process in place. Notice of the election would now be published on 11 May, for polls on 16 June. He said that the current members of the Council, with their agreement, would have their terms of office extended as a consequence, and the Annual Meeting would be delayed until after the election. Mr Copley added that the referendum on the Alternative Vote would still take place on 5 May, and that voters should keep their poll cards for this election. He said that a copy of the notice issued would be given to the Clerk and placed on the Ryedale District Council website, that there were FAQs on this website, and that Ryedale District Council would write to all electors and candidates individually. He said that the costs for the June election would be borne in full by Ryedale District Council, and that they were happy to answer any questions.

Councillor Storey asked how a document which had been placed with Pickering Council had not ended up with Ryedale District Council. Janet Waggott said that she did not

know, and
apologised.

Councillor Storey asked if the Council had been unlawful as a result of the wrong procedure.

Ms Waggott said that it was not, as Rosedale had represented itself properly even though the election had not been carried out correctly. Simon Copley said that the actual process had been in line with regulations, but on the basis of two Parish Councils. After a certain period of time after an election, the result became lawful.

Councillor Austermuhle asked how many Councillors would be elected. Ms Waggott said that there would still be five for the East Side and five for the West Side, but it would not be possible to be nominated for both.

The Vice Chair asked if anyone else could now stand. Ms Waggott said yes, the process must start again and all nominations needed to be resubmitted. She said that timetable would be submitted to the Clerk, and Mr Copley said that nominations would be accepted after 12 May.

Councillor Sugars asked if proxy votes were invalid. Mr Copley said that it depended on the form: if the proxy was indefinite it would still be valid, but if for a specific date, it would be invalid.

The Chair clarified that questions were also welcome from members of the public. Colin Westwood asked what the interim arrangements would be. Mr Copley said that part of order deferring the election would extend the term of office of the present Council.

Ruth Hannah asked if there would be more than one ward. Simon Copley said that there would be two wards, East Side and West Side, but only one Council.

Jon Zigmond said that the East Side was much bigger than the West Side, and asked why there would be two wards rather than a single election of ten candidates. Mr Copley said that this had been specified by the 1958 grouping order. He did not know why, and presumed that the populations were different then. Janet Waggott said that the parish had been

previously reviewed, and that it could be reviewed again if there was a desire to, but that the June election would be an election of five candidates for the East Side and five for the West Side.

Ruth Hannah asked if the Council was aware of the repair work on Bow Bridge, which would have an impact on the ability of voters on the West Side to make it to the polling station. Ms Waggott said that she was not aware of this and would look into it urgently, and thanked Ms Hannah for the information.

The Chair thanked Janet Waggott and Simon Copley for coming. All Councillors then agreed that they were happy for their terms of office to be extended.

06011 Questions and statements from the public
Jon Zigmond addressed the Council on the subject of the planning application for an equipment store on the Milburn playing field, which the Council would be considering later. He told the Council that he had made a submission to the National Parks Authority in which he said that the equipment store, which was next to his garden, was an eyesore, but that he accepted the need for it and was not opposed to it subject to four conditions: that the consent should only be for the life of the annual show on the Milburn Field; that it should remain in good maintenance and painted green; that all equipment should be stored inside rather than outside; and that it should be screened by trees.

Mr Zigmond also said that in the light of the news on the election, a more logical result might be a single ward of ten Councillors. He felt that Rosedale was a coherent enough community for this, and suggested that the Parish Council put it on the agenda and explore whether it could be brought about.

The Chair thanked Mr Zigmond for his comments.

06012 Community Group update
Colin Westwood said that there had been no meeting as the Chair and Treasurer had both been ill.

Kate Jones said that the Rosedale website www.rosedaleabbey.com had been active since Monday.

06013 Approval of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 10 March 2011 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.

06014 Affordable housing

Councillor Dent said that the Council had been sidetracked by this issue as there had been no planning application and that Council meetings could not be dominated by hypothetical situations. She therefore proposed that the Council would only consider Affordable Housing when an application was received by the relevant authorities. This was seconded by Councillor Gage.

Councillor Blackburne asked if this could be discussed, but Councillor Dent said that no discussion was needed and that they should move to a vote. The vote was passed by seven votes to three.

Councillor Blackburne said that she felt it was totally undemocratic that no one had been allowed to speak. Councillor Dent said that she had sought advice on this issue, and that this was in order. Councillor Blackburne said that questions from the public had raised important issues. However Councillor Dent said that it had been out of order to cancel the open day and public meeting when this had already been agreed, and that it would take signatures from five Councillors to do so.

The Chair said that the vote had been taken, and so the meeting would move on.

06015 Bow Bridge repair

The Clerk said that he had not had a reply to his correspondence on the subject of signage.

The Chair read an e-mail from Kate Jones proposing signs from the Business Forum. Ms

Jones said that signs could be made in 24 hours, and that she would forward the e-mail to the

Council and Business Forum members. She estimated that the cost would be around £25 to

£30 per sign, and said that it would be great if the Parish Council wanted to share the costs.

The Vice Chair proposed that the Council should pay 50% of the costs of the signs. Councillor Storey seconded this, and it was agreed unanimously.

06016 Highways issues

The Chair read a letter from Mike Roberts, confirming what had been agreed at the meeting with Councillors on 18 January. The Chair clarified that the three signs on Chimney Bank would all read “avoid in wintry conditions” but could be turned round to make “road closed” signs. He also noted that the corner had been built back up to stop people going off the road, to the level which it had been originally.

Councillor Storey asked about the plan to chop the Thorgill Lane corner off. The Chair said that he had had a site meeting with Richard Marr from the Highways Department, who had said that they couldn’t do it as there had been no recorded accidents or fatalities.

06017 Improvements to village green

Councillor Brown said that there had been lots of feedback from the public on this issue - mostly saying that it should be left as it was, although there was still scope for some planters. He also noted that John Cockerill had painted the posts, and said that the Estate should be thanked for this.

Regarding the proposed memorial bench from Ms Rodgerson, the Council decided that it was happy with the positioning, but felt that it should be set in concrete. Councillor Brown said that he would pass on Sean Doughty’s details for this work.

Councillor Blackburne said that the feedback she had received was in line with Councillor Brown’s, but that several people had been positive about the idea of placing a miner’s wagon on the green - there was a feeling that many tourists did not know about Rosedale’s mining history, and so a wagon with a plaque might be a good idea. She said she would do some research into availability and cost.

06018 Community Access Improvements scheme

The Clerk said that he had received an e-mail from Martyn Williams from the

National Parks.

Mr Williams had said that he did not feel the need to address the meeting in person, but that

he proposed to liaise with the Parish Council via a member of the public, perhaps Andrew

Middleton. He had also said that it was important that the Council approved of the way things

were going. The Council did so, although Councillor Storey asked the Clerk to remind Mr

Williams that they were waiting for a meeting to walk the route.

06019 Community Reliance Emergency Planning

No progress could be made on this issue, as no one was sure who had the report.

06020 Hydroelectric scheme

The Clerk apologised that he had still not had time to pursue this project, although he still

intended to. He added that he had been in contact with Rosie Hughes, who was keen to

organise some kind of event on how to reduce carbon footprints, for which she would do all

the work and bear all the expense under the LEADER scheme. The Council instructed the

Clerk to pursue this.

06021 Village pond

Councillor Brown said that the project had hit a problem as the companies he had approached

had declined to submit a quote for the work (although Sean Doughty had submitted one). He

said that the problem was in jetting the pond, which would have no fixed timescale. He said

that he would ask Paleys for a quote. Colin Westwood said that he believed that two quotes

would be sufficient for a LEADER project, particularly if two had declined. Councillor Scarth

asked Councillor Brown to remind Paleys of the work on Bow Bridge.

06022 Undergrounding of overhead electricity wires

The Clerk informed the Council that the proposal to underground wires in Thorgill had been

passed on by NYCC to NEDL, although it had not been marked as a priority.

Councillor Storey said that she had spoken to NYCC, and had been told that priority had been

given to conservation areas. She said that this was the fourth stage, and that there would

hopefully be a fifth stage where what was left would be reconsidered, and so next time lines in

the village should be put forward.

06023 Allotments

The Chair read a letter from Anthony Winship, the Ryedale District Council solicitor, giving advice on the legal procedure for allotments. Mr Winship advised contacting the Yorkshire Local Councils Association, which the Clerk agreed to do. The Clerk also said that he would contact Ruth Hannah for the names of people who were interested in allotments, so that the Council could decide if there was a need.

Jon Zigmond told the Council that the Act doesn't assume that the Parish Council owns land, as they had compulsory acquisition and leasing power. He also said that agricultural land does not need planning permission for allotments. However Councillors Brown and Dent disagreed with this and believed that change of use would need to be granted.

06024 Southern Area Parish Forum 10 May 2011

The Clerk informed the Council of this meeting which was due to be held in Sinnington. Councillors Scarth and Gage were surprised at this, and believed that it was to be Rosedale. The Council had no items to place on the agenda, and Councillors Storey and Gage said that they would attend.

06025 Finance

Cheques were signed for the Village Caretaker's costs (£349.11) and membership of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (£122).

Councillor Sugars said that she was going for the hanging baskets on 15 April but did not need the cheque yet. Councillor Dent questioned whether the Council should pay for baskets for local businesses (with the exception of Abbey Stores, because of the Christmas tree). The Chair said that this could be discussed next year.

The Clerk said that he did not have contact details for the previous Internal Auditor. Jon Zigmond said that he qualified as a chartered accountant 36 years ago, and subject to having more information, offered his services. Councillor Storey proposed that Jon Zigmond should be offered the position of Internal Auditor, and Councillor Sugars seconded this. The Council unanimously voted in favour.

The Clerk said that before considering his remuneration report, the Council had a duty to vote on whether to discuss this in closed session, and that although it was in order either way, his personal preference was to discuss it in private. The Vice Chair therefore proposed that this issue should be discussed in closed session, Councillor Scarth seconded this, and the Council voted unanimously in favour. The matter was therefore deferred to the end of the agenda.

06026 New planning applications
NYM/2010/0316/FL Application for change of use of private garden to form public tearoom garden together with removal of section of wall and installation of a gate (retrospective) at Abbey Stores & Tea Room, Rosedale Abbey. The Council discussed this application and raised no objections.

NYM/2010/0968/FL Application for construction of 10 no. gun dog kennels with central walkway between at Bottoms Farm, Rosedale Abbey. The Council discussed this application and raised no objections.

NYM/2011/0187/FL Application for permanent retention of agricultural show equipment store (previous temporary planning approval NYM3/107/0023D/PA) at Milburn Sports Field, Heygate Lane, Rosedale Abbey. The Council discussed this and felt that they approved the application provided the permission was only granted if the Show continued to take place on Milburn Field, was screened with trees, and remained painted green and in good condition. The Clerk was also instructed to write to the Show Committee to make the Council's position clear.

06027 Planning decisions received
NYM/2011/0040/FL Application for installation of replacement cream uPVC windows at Milburn Cottage, Rosedale Abbey. Granted with conditions which were noted by the Council.

06028 Any other business
The Chair said that Jay Marisson of the National Parks had said that the apprentices should have come to begin work on the fallen wall by Hill Cottages yesterday. Councillor Gage said that they had come today.

The Chair also said that the National Parks now had the village signs, and that Jay Marisson was under the impression that Sean Doughty and Dring Stone Works were being

contacted to
arrange the installation.

He also brought up the subject of cutting back vegetation between Hartoft and Cropton.
Neither Rosedale Parish Council nor Hartoft Parish Meeting had objected to this, but the Forestry Commission now appeared to be backing down on the issue. The Chair reported that Jay Marisson of the National Parks would reapproach the Forestry Commission after a change of staff with support from the Highways Department, but that if he was not successful he would ask Rosedale Parish Council to provide a letter of support. Councillor Scarth asked if support could be obtained from NEDL. The Chair said that hopefully this support would not be needed.

Councillor Austermuhle said that the granite sets on the edge of the green and in the village had broken up. The Chair said that this had been brought to the attention of the Highways Department, but that there was not much money available and that they were still engaged in repair work after winter. The Clerk was instructed to raise the issue again with the Highways Department.

06029 Clerk's remuneration report

The Council went into closed session to discuss the Clerk's remuneration report. The Council noted this report, which said that the current 12 hours per calendar month was insufficient to carry out the Council's business, and requested that this be increased to 20.

Councillor Gage proposed that the Clerk should in fact be paid for 24 hours a month. Councillor Dent seconded this, and the Council unanimously voted in favour.

The Clerk thanked the Council and promised to report regularly on how many hours he was in fact working.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council was confirmed as 7.00 on Thursday 12 May in the Rosedale Reading Room.