

## Minutes of the Rosedale Parish Council Meeting held on 8 August 2013

Members present:

Councillors: Ena Dent (Chair), Henry Brown (Vice Chair), Sue Austermuhle, Richard Dent, Angela Gage, Kate Jones, June Scarth, Maisie Storey, John Sugden, Richard Wilkinson

In attendance: Bill Shaw, Ecology and Land Management and Conservation Advisor at the National Park Authority, and five members of the public

06511 Apologies and declarations of interest

No apologies or declarations of interest were made at this time.

06512 Strimming of roadside verges

The Council heard a presentation from Bill Shaw. He said that the verges in Rosedale were of great importance to wildlife, particularly two areas at School Row and Battling Hill Lane. For these two verges the advice was to cut in August after the plants had seeded, and rake up cuttings. For other verges the advice was to leave uncut as much as possible, except when public safety was an issue, as safety could never be compromised. However it was acceptable to strim more in the village itself. He noted that the practice of strimming verges in Rosedale allowed a lot of flexibility.

Councillors made the points that it was difficult to decide where safety was an issue, that less strimming made the job much harder, and that as the previous Caretaker had done far more work than he was paid for, it was unlikely that the next Caretaker would be able to strim so much anyway.

Bill Shaw offered to meet the new Caretaker in the dale so they could discuss how to proceed, and the Chair thanked him for attending.

06513 Questions and statements from the public

No notice of any questions or statements had been received.

06514 Community Group update

No report had been received and no representative was present.

06515 Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 July 2013 be accepted as a true record.

06516 Clerk's report

The Council noted the Clerk's report which said that:

- some information had been gathered on ownership of benches, but that this was a lengthy job and the Clerk would continue to find information on the subject;
- that 17 members of the public had responded to the consultation on strimming, and the responses were attached separately;
- that the Parish Council had a vote in the appointment of four co-opted members of the Ryedale Area Committee;
- that, due to an increase in the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales, the Clerk's salary would increase by about £24 over the year.

#### 06517 Benches

The Council heard that the bench at Crag View had been kept in excellent condition, but hadn't been maintained this year.

Resolved: to find the address of the owners so that Councillor Storey could get in touch.

The Council also heard that there were parties interested in taking over the bench outside the Reading Room, that the bench at the top of Hill Cottages had something to do with the Coronation and that Councillor Richard Dent was willing to donate a new one, and that a member of the public was interested in taking over the bench by the car park above the cattle grid at Chimney Bank.

Resolved: that a notice be placed on the Chimney Bank bench asking anyone responsible to come forward.

#### 06518 Accidents on Chimney Bank

This was deferred until the next meeting as the details of accidents had not yet been obtained.

#### 06519 Southern Area Parish Forum meeting 10 July 2013

Councillor Scarth reported back from this meeting and said that:

- the National Parks Authority said that verges should be strimmed within their guidelines;
- the NPA had a policy on maintenance and replacement of benches, which the Parish Council could copy;
- that Richard Marr had failed to attend, that complaints on roads should be lodged by phone or e-mail, and that the Council could ask for a copy of how it is decided which roads to repair;
- that some people felt that second homes should come under the planning umbrella;
- that a National Radio Plan was being worked on, which Councils would soon be consulted on;
- that there was another talk on superfast broadband, and input from farmers in support of high-speed broadband would be welcomed;
- that the LEADER scheme was due to end shortly, although there may be a small amount of funding available before the Rural Development Scheme takes effect;
- that there was a public consultation for the Helmsley Plan;
- that Jon Zigmond had given a presentation on the community oil buying scheme;
- and that various issues around the Park and concerning ash die-back had been raised.

Resolved: to write asking for details of how the County Council decides which roads are to be repaired.

06520 Ryedale Area Committee: Election to fill vacancies for co-opted members  
Councillor Storey declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the room.

Resolved: to vote for Maisie Storey as a co-opted member of the Committee.

#### 06521 Resignation of Parish Caretaker

The Council noted with regret the resignation of John Dent as Caretaker.

Resolved: to write to Mr Dent thanking him for his hard work over the years;  
to organise a collection around the dale for a thank-you present;  
to advertise in the newsletter for a replacement.

The distribution of the newsletter was discussed, as it was felt that it would take too long for the new Caretaker to deliver. Ideas suggested were to leave copies in shops and pubs, to send e-mail copies, to use the RosedaleAbbey.com website and mailing list, and the Council's website. However it was felt that a printed copy should be delivered to anyone who felt they needed one.

#### 06522 Finance

Cheques were raised for the Caretaker's July and August costs (£497.90) and the Clerk's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks (£75). The Council noted the receipt of the first part of the Caretaker's grant (£944.56), and noted the increase in the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay scales referred to in the Clerk's report.

#### 06523 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed as Thursday 12 September at 7:30pm in the Reading Room.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.