

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 6 January 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr R Naish (RN), Mr J C Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk.

Apologies: Mr N Wilson, County Councillor J Watson

Members of the public present: 13

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

District Issues

- Budget: HBC intends to avoid wholesale redundancies even though its grant has been cut by £1.7m. Staff vacancies may not be filled but it is intended to maintain front-line services as much as possible.
- There will be no rise in Council Tax.
- The International Centre is losing money as a result of fewer conferences due to the down-turn and there may be job losses in that area.
- The improved recycling scheme is planned to start in about a year's time, with an initial short term trial in selected areas.
- HBC has approved plans for a skate park in the Valley Gardens.
- Proposed incinerator: HBC will be involved at the planning stage as a statutory consultee and the District Councillor expressed his willingness to do what he could to support the PC's campaign at that time.

Matters Arising

1) Proposed Incinerator:

1. The County Councillor has advised us that he believes the project will go before Planning committee, or more likely a Government Inspector, in a year's time. If Planning were then refused, AmeyCespa might choose to go back to NYCC asking to continue with the contract but without incineration. The County Councillor considers that this could be a better option than if NYCC had voted against on December 15th as rejection could have caused a delay of 3-4 years.
2. TJ gave a brief summary of the December 15th NYCC Council meeting. The contract was approved, with voting mainly along party lines and only nineteen County Councillors voting against. Despite excellent presentations by the ten speakers who were representing local parishes, Councillors appeared to have already made up their minds and were unwilling to listen to alternatives. The PC Chair expressed formal thanks to Tim Joynson and Brian Cooper for speaking so effectively, and thanks were also recorded to County Councillor John Watson for the way in which he supported our position at the meeting.
3. Next steps include putting together a financial argument to demonstrate that the PFI funding should be revisited as the scheme does not provide value for money, inviting the District Auditor to review the scheme and seeking professional advice on how to oppose the planning application. Local MPs will be encouraged to lobby in Parliament. It was agreed to hold a public meeting within the next 10 days to up-date local people and discuss possible fundraising which would be required if matters go to public enquiry.

4. A member of the local Parish Councils' working group has proposed sending a letter for signature by the Chairs of all PCs in the county, addressed to George Osborne. It was agreed the PC would support this initiative.
5. Sally Eden has represented the village at recent AmeyCespa community liaison meetings. There has been a suggestion from AmeyCespa that they might factor some community benefit into the scheme. Benefits provided in similar instances such as wind farms have included a lump sum in trust for the local community, provision of a community building or sports facility etc. After discussion, the PC thanked Sally for her efforts but were firmly opposed to any involvement in such considerations as they continued to actively oppose the scheme.

2) Playing Fields:

Weather has prevented Websters from completing the work to the track but they will be encouraged to start in time to meet the Commuted Sums deadline.

3) Village Shop/Village Hall:

The Fire Officer's requirements have been reviewed and discussed with the shopkeeper. The Village Hall Committee provided a list of those items which are fixtures that would remain as part of the PC-owned property and recommended payment by the PC for those aspects, totalling a maximum of £879. This may be reduced by at least £200 if boxing-in of the distribution board can be avoided and if a fire extinguisher offered by a parish councillor proves suitable. The PC approved expenditure on this basis.

4) Planning:

Nothing to report this month.

Accounts

In: £100 contribution to the Incinerator Campaign from Green Hammerton PC

Out: £1,116.25 to Dalton Enterprises for grasscutting

So far expenditure of £810 has been incurred in respect of the anti-incinerator campaign and contributions of £400 have been received from five local parish councils and one individual. NYCC has approved a grant from the County Councillor's budget of £400 towards the cost of a new noticeboard outside the hall.

Correspondence

1. Gritting in the village: Highways have finally assessed the village (after a year) and approved the provision of two grit/salt bins; one on the hill between the two villages and the other on Thorny Hill Lane. Depending on stock levels, there may be a delay in sourcing the bins.
2. Following the offer by a parish councillor to grit the hills if the PC were to buy grit and a spreader, we have sought the advice of Highways. They advise that at least £5m public liability insurance would be required (we have £10m cover) and that they are currently running a pilot at Killinghall. It was decided to await the outcome of this pilot.
3. Consultation on Core Minerals Strategy: In view of a lack of interest in many parishes it is not going to be viable for NYCC to proceed with its planned consultation meetings. However, they ask if our parish would accept a presentation at our next meeting and feed back responses to a questionnaire. This was agreed.

Any other Business

- Proposed sale of land under garage adjacent to village hall: Last month the PC voted in favour of a sale provided this did not breach the terms of the Trust. The Trust Constitution states that a public meeting would need to be advertised by notice and in the local paper for residents aged 16+ to meet and approve any sale, with permission being sought from the Charity Commissioners (who would subsequently need to be consulted on the use of the money). As a first step, the Clerk will write to the Charity Commissioners for guidance following which the PC will decide whether the matter is worth pursuing.
- Royal Wedding: On 29 April there will be a Bank Holiday to mark the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton. It was agreed to ask the WI and the Village Hall Committee to consider putting on an event in the village to mark the occasion.
- Suggested "group" purchase of oil for the village: Rob Lewis has been looking into this at the request of the PC and was thanked for his research so far. In view of the virtual monopoly of the oil companies it was thought there may not be much opportunity for discounts in price, and there could be concerns about continuity of supply if linked to one company. Rob will check further for any financial benefit.
- Police Liaison Meeting on 11 January: Our PC representatives are unable to attend. The Chair will possibly go depending on diary commitments.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- If the incinerator goes ahead, it was suggested AmeyCespa could pay for an alternative source of energy for the village.
- An instance of someone withdrawing from buying a house in the village because of the proposed incinerator was reported.
- Potholes were reported near Copperfields in Marton and on the bend coming into the village from Braimber Lane and on Church Lane. Many of the previously repaired potholes along the whole of Braimber Lane from the A168 are crumbling. The Clerk will report these to Highways.

Date of the next meeting:

Thursday, 3 February at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 3 February 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr J C Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk.

Apologies: Mr N Wilson, County Councillor J Watson, District Councillor A Alton

Members of the public present: 8

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

Matters Arising

1) Proposed Incinerator:

1. About 100 people attended the public meeting held in the village hall on 14 January when Andrew Jones MP and John Watson, County Councillor both spoke to the meeting. There was some subsequent press coverage and a radio interview.
2. Should the matter go to a public enquiry, the PC has been professionally advised to instruct junior counsel at an estimated cost of £60/70k. The local group of PCs is considering how to allocate tasks and make best use of local expertise on all aspects. Also, how to manage fund-raising and appeal to possible local sponsors.
3. The Planning Application could arrive at any time and it is still not known whether it will be heard by NYCC's own Planning Committee. The only route to the Planning Application being "called in" to be heard by a Government Inspector is via the MPs, Andrew Jones and Nigel Adams. The public was asked to encourage any interested party living within William Hague's constituency to attend his surgery and raise the issue.
4. It was agreed to arrange a coffee morning on 4 June to raise funds for the campaign.

2) Playing Fields:

Webster's have submitted their invoice for repairing the path on the playing fields and £400 towards this has been received from Commuted Sums. A second estimate for £480 plus VAT was discussed, this time for work to put up a low fence and barrier to prevent youngsters driving cars on to the cricket pitch. The PC agreed to visit the site and this item was carried forward for further consideration at the next meeting.

3) Village Shop/Village Hall:

Much of the work to meet the Fire Officer's requirements has now been completed and he has agreed that the distribution board does not need boxing in, which will reduce the PC's outlay to no more than £679.

4) Planning:

No formal applications have been received this month. The HBC housing needs survey was discussed and residents were encouraged to complete this. The Clerk was asked to check on any outstanding enforcement situations.

Accounts

In: £245.54	Donations at 14/1/11 meeting for the anti-incinerator project
£1,252.23	HBC grounds maintenance grant

	£400.00	HBC Commuted Sums
	£400.00	From County Councillor's fund for new noticeboard
	£4,112.00	Shop rental including VAT
Out:	£800.00	Clerk's annual fee
	£40.31	Expenses for one year
	£480.00	W T Webster for footpath work

Correspondence

1. Minerals Core Strategy: A presentation prepared by NYCC had been circulated and was presented by the Chair. Unfortunately this contained no serious information and was superficial in the extreme. The PC felt it might tick the "consultation" box, but gave no opportunity for serious local input. It was agreed the Chair would draft a response.
2. An email from a resident advised that he collected 60 empty beer cans and wine bottles from Grafton Lane between Christmas and New Year. There is a question as to what is happening there as it seems a large number to be tossed from car windows. The Clerk will speak to HBC to check their litter policy and seek guidance on any action the village could take.
3. A local couple emailed to say that, having collected bags of dog waste tossed into hedges over the past few months, they have now (at their own expense) installed a dog bin at the corner of Braimber Lane. The PC has also obtained an old bin from HBC and will install this near the junction of Church Lane and Legram Lane. It is hoped residents will pick up after their dogs and use the new bins - both of which the local couple have offered to empty.
4. As part of a Consultation Exercise, NYCC has requested feedback on North Yorkshire's Budget and library services. The proposed cuts in Highways & Transport (buses, highways maintenance, winter maintenance), Children & Young People's Services (outdoor education, music, school transport), Older People (less support, closure of homes, increased charges for care) and Other Services (libraries, reduced hours at tips and reduced grants for arts) were considered. The PC's view was that management of the cuts must be in the hands of NYCC. However, NYCC should not just focus on the cost element, but consider value for money and the quality of service being provided by contractors, against the actual funds spent. The Clerk agreed to draft a response.

Any other Business

- Proposed sale of land under garage adjacent to village hall: The Charity Commissioners have responded and counselled that the PC cannot sell the land without a considerable amount of reference to other parties and the employment of a Surveyor. Details of other Trustees are being sought and the matter was referred to the next meeting.
- Royal Wedding: The short notice and concern about adverse weather has dampened enthusiasm for an open air event on 29 April. It might be possible, with a good weather forecast, to arrange a "street party" meal at the last minute.
- Suggested "group" purchase of oil for the village: Alne and Brafferton have a co-operative buying scheme which, at first glance, has saved buyers at least 3-4p per litre on oil. It was agreed the PC would email the village seeking an indication of how many households might be interested.
- On Thursday, 5 May the village hall has been booked for the national referendum on voting reform. The May PC meeting will be deferred until Tuesday, 10 May.

- RADAR monitoring equipment was deployed last November for 6 days near Ivy House, resulting in an average speed of cars travelling in and out of the village of 25.8mph. There was an average of 7 vehicles in a 24-hour period travelling in each direction between 35 and 45mph - 3.7% of vehicles. Whilst this was generally a good outcome, there was concern that a few residents are driving dangerously without concern for pedestrians, horse-riders or, indeed, the speed limit.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- It was suggested that NYCC would not start paying for the incinerator until the service was up and running, and that Clare Wood had indicated savings of £320m would alleviate cuts to services. The PC understood that, despite current swingeing cost cuts, funds are being accumulated and ring-fenced towards the incinerator project.
- The many pot-holes have still not been repaired.

Date of the next meeting:

Thursday, 3 March at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 3 March 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk.

Apologies: Mr J Crawford (resigned - see below); County Councillor J Watson

Members of the public present: 13

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

District Issues

The District Councillor reported that HBC's budgets have been passed and the improved recycling scheme will be rolled out across half of the District to start with, from Christmas 2011 with costs of £2.8m spread over two financial years. The aim is to increase recycling rates from 30% to 40% by the end of 2012 and overcome public apathy in some areas.

Craven, Harrogate and Selby Districts have joined the Local Enterprise Partnership in the Leeds Region. This is in the hope of benefiting from Government funding to improve transport and infrastructure, but the grants available have been greatly diminished because of the economic situation.

Matters Arising

1) Proposed Incinerator:

1. The District Councillor met recently with AL and Brian Cooper regarding the planning application, which has not yet been submitted. HBC will be consultees and it will be considered at Planning Committee level in public forum.
2. The contradiction between HBC's investment in recycling and NYCC's commitment to incineration was raised at a Yorkshire Local Council's Association (YLCA) meeting in Harrogate by AL and the PC was invited to table a motion at YLCA's annual meeting on 23 July in Poppleton.
3. Brian Cooper was invited to address the meeting. At a recent NYCC Council budget meeting reference was made to the millions of pounds that needed to be saved to meet budget shortfalls. At that meeting, NW pointed out that £14m has been earmarked for the incinerator project. Despite projected cuts to children's and other services and presentations of alternative, far cheaper schemes, NYCC appeared unwilling to deviate from their fixed position that the incinerator will be value for money, is environmentally the best solution and has been ratified by the PFI process. The PC continues to dispute this view.
4. The local group of PCs is meeting on a fortnightly basis and is liaising with the Harrogate Friends of the Earth. Work is in hand to prepare a briefing for the local MPs who will seek to "call in" the planning application; also to set up fund-raising throughout the area. An invitation to a meeting has been sent to about 30 parishes in the Boroughbridge and Ainsty wards seeking their ideas, raising awareness and looking for additional funds. Thanks were expressed to Brian Cooper for his continuing efforts.

5. The PC is seeking further information, under the FoI, regarding statements made by officers at the December 15th meeting of NYCC. The minutes of this meeting show that the 12 members of the public were all speaking for NYWAG, whereas most represented several different PCs and a request is being sent to NYCC to correct this error.

2) Playing Fields:

The PC agreed to meet on the playing fields to discuss Webster's estimate for £480 plus VAT to put up a low fence and barrier to prevent youngsters driving cars on to the cricket pitch. RN reported that the bin at the skate-park is being well-used by dog walkers. The tennis court committee is to submit a request for funding to BIFFA and will approach the PC for support and assistance in setting up an appropriate managing body.

3) Village Shop/Village Hall:

The Fire Officer is satisfied with the approach taken by the Village Hall Committee (VHC); extinguishers are in place and staff training has been given. The VHC is now investigating the costs of acoustic panels for the hall.

4) Planning:

Woodside Farm: HBC has received an application to vary conditions imposed on planning consent given in 2007. The completed building differs significantly from plan. The PC decided its comments on the original scheme were still pertinent and will respond accordingly.

Chapel Garth: An appeal against refusal to remove a TPO on a birch tree was heard on 1 March.

Sycamore House: HBC has issued two planning enforcement notices in respect of an unauthorised access track and domestic use of agricultural land. The householders have lodged an appeal.

Accounts

In: Nil

Out: £1,494.37

£155.88

£385.70

Broker Network - annual insurance

Marion cum Grafton Memorial Hall - fire extinguishers

HMRC - VAT payment

Correspondence

1. A letter of resignation has been received from Jonathan Crawford, who was thanked for his service to the Parish. Formal elections for the existing PC are due in May 2012. HBC will provide notices for display in the village and will confirm the procedures to be followed for Jonathan's replacement in the interim.
2. An email from a resident of Marion has been received with several criticisms of the PC. The issues raised related to: 1) A request for financial support for a history project run by the resident on his web site. The PC is prepared to support this initiative once a proper written quotation is received. 2) A request for details regarding the process for selecting sites for salt bins in the village and a comment as to why the resident had felt it necessary to clear snow from the drives and pavements of a group of elderly neighbours and purchase salt. The PC noted that the location and number of salt bins in the village is determined by NYCC. It further noted that the clearing of snow from neighbours' pathways etc is to be applauded. No member of the PC had been approached to assist on the occasion mentioned; had they, then support would have been provided if at all possible. 3) The resident felt that there

was a bias in the considerations of the PC in favour of Grafton-related issues. The PC disputed this, noting that a large number of issues (for example the Village Hall/shop project, Church clock, School, speeding) were all from the Marton part of the village. More generally it was noted that we are a single village and not two separate ones, and that differentiation of this nature was unhelpful. 4) The view was expressed that the election of the current PC membership had not been conducted as fairly as it might have been. The PC strongly disputed this, noting that formal announcements of elections for the PC are posted in the village in line with the requirements of HBC. Anyone, including the author of the complaint, could stand for election. The PC noted that it had approached several individuals from Marton previously to try and persuade them to stand for election, but without success. The complainant had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss these concerns in person but was not present.

3. HBC have advised that they pick up litter on all lanes three times a year, although they admit this has been delayed by snow clearing and gritting activities. It was proposed that a village working party clear Grafton Lane next February, borrowing the necessary equipment from HBC.
4. It was reported that the petting farm owners on Limebar Lane are using waste food to feed the geese and allowing the wrappers to blow into the hedges on Limebar Bank Road, causing an unpleasant litter problem. The Clerk will write to HBC.
5. The YLCA has flagged up that HMRC, who have in the past allowed PCs to make honorarium payments to Clerks, are now requiring PCs to register as Employers and deduct PAYE and NI. Further clarification is awaited. The PC wished to express its view to YLCA that this is placing an unnecessary burden on small PCs.

Any other Business

Proposed sale of land under garage adjacent to village hall: The Village Hall trustees have now been identified. It was decided to explain the situation to the householder to see if he still wishes to pursue the matter, bearing in mind that he would have to meet the costs of employing a Chartered Surveyor and advertising the result.

Suggested "group" purchase of oil for the village: Some 30 households, using approximately 100,000 litres per annum, have expressed an interest so far. A mail drop would be required, and one or two people would need to be willing to front the scheme. An approach will be made to Aine to check on the reliability of supply.

Parish Meadow: RN said there has been considerable tree planting and the area is being well used by dog walkers. It would be necessary to spend quite a bit on fencing if stock is to be kept in the field. The PC will visit and make a decision.

It has been reported that there is unauthorised building inside the gate at the Petting Farm, where a recent fire destroyed the original shed.

Articles have appeared in the Darlington & Stockton Gazette about the PFI for the incinerator, and that NYCC has joined Leeds in producing a booklet on reducing waste.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

Potholes are still unfilled, although some near Thorner were reported and repaired within the week.

The PC was unable to confirm whether the AmeyCespa contract has been signed. Further complaints about speeding were reported. It was agreed to put the results of the recent speed tracking survey on the village website and to write to the Governors of the School to ask parents delivering children to slow down. Villagers are encouraged to log registration numbers of speeding vehicles which can be reported to the police.

Open Gardens will take place on 26 June and it has been decided to make a donation from the proceeds to the anti-incinerator campaign.

Date of the next meeting:

Thursday, 7 April at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 7 April 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk. District Councillor A Alton also attended.

Apologies: County Councillor J Watson

Members of the public present: 8

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

District Issues

The District Councillor, when asked to comment on HBC's stance regarding the proposed incinerator, reported that it considered disposal of waste to be a NYCC responsibility. As far as the expected planning application is concerned, this will be treated as seriously as any other large planning application and will receive appropriate scrutiny.

Leeds Enterprise Partnership has been awarded enterprise zone status and is looking to identify 100/150 hectares of land (preferably on one site). Indications are that it will be in the Aire Valley and building would start next spring. An alternative site at the old sugar factory in York might be considered for an enterprise zone for North Yorkshire. Incentives would include no business rates for new businesses. The District Councillor was asked to take back to HBC the comment that such sites would be ideal to take heat transfer from an energy from waste site.

Matters Arising

1. Proposed Incinerator:

- There is still no sign of the planning application nor any indication of why the delay.
- The Community Liaison Group which consisted of representatives from local villages who met regularly with AmeyCespa has been disbanded, because members felt it was a waste of time and appeared to be being held merely to meet planning consultation requirements.
- AmeyCespa has produced a set of revised visuals. The joint PCs' group is trying to arrange for this to be re-done allowing local input as to where the photos should be taken from.
- Councillor Caroline Patmore who is on the Executive Committee of NYCC has resigned from the Executive this week. The PC understands that the reason for this is because of concerns regarding the waste PFI contract and the proposed cuts to services and library closures.
- Publicity: AL has prepared a power point presentation which will be circulated to Councillors for approval before being placed on the website.
- Fund-raising: Brian Cooper summarised the current position. It is hoped the MPs will succeed in having the planning application "called in" for a public enquiry when it will be necessary to retain legal counsel. NYWAG and neighbouring parishes are planning fund-raising campaigns and the PC discussed in detail how to approach fund-raising in this village, within its statutory powers. At this stage it was agreed to focus on immediate expenses, estimated at about £10,000, and defer the next stage until costs become clearer.

At this point the Chair opened the meeting to the public. There was unanimous support from the floor, with a view that the community would pull together on this issue.

- It was proposed and agreed that the PC would do a mailshot around the village explaining the need for funds, asking for fund-raising ideas and inviting people to volunteer to form a fund-raising group.

2) Playing Fields:

It was proposed and agreed to fence off a small area at the approach to the playing fields, with a barrier that can be opened to allow cars to pass for cricket matches and a gap for pedestrians. This should prevent youths driving up to the pitch but not lose too much of the amenity value of the field.

Parish meadow: Selective deciduous planting was approved on the lower slope, designed to develop a "parkland" feel, removing poor quality sycamore and ash, but retaining the open aspect higher up with good views to be enjoyed by people walking from the village. The Clerk was asked to look for a map to establish where the underground gas pipe is located. It was agreed to spray the Himalayan balsam.

Webster's have completed the work on the zigzag path and done a good job. The section where the hunt knocked boards down still needs some attention.

3) Village Shop/Village Hall:

Hawkridge's have replaced a slate that blew off in recent gales and also repointed the ridge tiles at a cost of £126, which is competitive against similar work by another builder in 2005.

4) Planning:

Woodside Farm: Appeal against enforcement notice regarding alterations to original approval has been refused. HBC now require a full planning application.

Sycamore House: An appeal has been lodged against an Enforcement notice regarding a new access track.

Mount Pleasant Farm, Mary Lane: erection of 2 storey rear and side extension and single storey rear extension - no objections.

Dew Farm Barn, Marton: application for conversion of outbuilding to form habitable living space - no objections.

Paddock House, Marton: erection of pitched roof and lead cladding to front dormer and erection of pitched roof over garage (amendment to previous approval) - no objections

5) Co-option of Parish Councillor:

HBC has advised that an election is not required and the PC should co-opt a Councillor as soon as possible. It was agreed to display notices on both boards, make a note on the website, include in these minutes and discuss with anyone who has expressed an interest in the Parish Council so that a decision can be made in the next 2/3 weeks.

Accounts

In: £50

Rent from T Long

Out: £60

VAT reimbursement to Village Hall Committee

£154

YLCA membership - agreed this is worthwhile

£126

Hawkridge's - repair to Village Hall Roof

The Clerk is preparing the books for audit at the end of the tax year.

Correspondence

1. Autela Payroll Services have offered to register the PC as an employer and undertake payroll services for £48 per annum. YLCA cannot recommend any individual firm but consider this charge to be reasonable and confirm that many councils use such services providing they are satisfied with their legitimacy. The director of this firm is a parish councillor for Skirlaugh PC. It was agreed to appoint Autela and to precept this amount in future.
2. The agenda for the next police liaison meeting has been received - 19 April at the Coronation Hall.
3. The Chair of the School Governors has raised the issue of parents speeding into the village with the headmistress and it has been agreed to put something in the weekly newsletter at the beginning of term and also to raise with the children in lessons.

Any other Business

- The tenant of the metre of land behind the village hall is considering whether to pursue buying this land which would involve his meeting legal, advertising and surveyor's costs but indications are that he will let it lie. He has refused to pay the £10 rent increase, insisting that the lease has no provision for rent review in its 20 year term. The PC disputes this position.
- Suggested "group" purchase of oil for the village: Rob Lewis has thoroughly researched the scheme which will go ahead, initially with McG, Cattal, Whixley and possibly Green Hammerton. Mike Aspinall has volunteered to be the co-ordinator and details will be circulated around the village in the next few weeks. The first order will be in late May and every two months thereafter. Congratulations and thanks were expressed to Rob for all his hard work.
- Royal Wedding: A treasure hunt at 2 pm is planned for children, with parental supervision, followed by tea and cakes in the village hall at 3 pm. Everyone will be invited to the tea. A souvenir photo is planned for each child and the PC approved a donation of £100 to cover the cost of photos, bunting, royal wedding paper plates etc.
- Standing Orders are being circulated for persual and submission for approval at the next meeting.
- The Chair is unable to accept an invitation to an open evening at Linton Airfield on 19 April and passed this on for another Councillor to attend.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- In response to an enquiry about donating cakes for the Royal Wedding tea, the contact is Emily Bennison.
- It was suggested a small joining fee for the oil ordering scheme could be used to cover advertising costs. However, to meet data protection requirements no profit can be seen to be made.

Date of the next meeting:

Tuesday, 10 May, preceded by the AGM at 7.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 10 May 2011 at 7.45 pm

Present: Mr N Wilson (NW) (Chair), Mr R Naish (RN) and Miss L Bullus (LB). District Councillor A Alton also attended.

Apologies: Prof A Long, Mr T Joynson and County Councillor J Watson

Members of the public present: 8

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by NW.

County Issues

County Councillor Watson was in London but had emailed the following items:

1. AmeyCespa is expected to submit the planning application for the incinerator plant in the near future, which he considered surprising in view of the numerous reports which will need to accompany it.
2. A voluntary group led by John Helliwell, Deputy Chair of Kirby Hill PC, has put in an excellent bid to run Boroughbridge Library on a voluntary basis, albeit with substantial support from the County Council.
3. Marton cum Grafton is likely to be identified as a "not spot" in respect of its current New Generation Broadband coverage and is likely to benefit from around £50k of investment from NYnet to improve broadband reception. NYnet is based in Roecliffe and JW disclosed that he is Chairman of it.
4. The NYCC "cabinet" has been reshuffled with changes to the Waste, Adult Social Services, Planning and Finance holders. This may have implications for the way that the Council handles the Waste PFI but this is uncertain at this stage.

District Issues

1. The District Councillor referred to streamlining of operations at Harrogate International Centre and inevitable staff reductions, following a dramatic drop in the number of people attending events.
2. A new skatepark has been opened in the Valley Gardens.
3. The District Councillor advised that he will take up a post in Finance and Resources next week. He was asked where the decision lay in respect of HBC's contract for disposal of waste and agreed to clarify this with the Cabinet Member for the Environment.

The PC agreed an approach should be made at some stage to HBC suggesting ratepayers would demand a cheaper alternative to NYCC's incineration proposals, but not until after further research has been undertaken.

Matters Arising

1. Co-option of Councillor: Following the resignation of Mr Jonathan Crawford the PC followed the procedures required by HBC. An election was not called for and the PC has advertised the vacancy around the village and contacted several individuals - particularly in the Marton end of the village - inviting them to apply. The only applicant was Lynda Bullus, who has now been co-opted.
2. Resignation of Clerk: The Clerk has resigned after seven years' service and will not

claim any salary for this year. The post will be advertised on the website, on the noticeboard and by village email.

3. Proposed Incinerator:

- The planning application is expected imminently.
- The PC has written to Caroline Spelman at the Department of the Environment and Lord Sassoon at the Treasury asking them to “pull” the PFI funding.
- There is a full Council Meeting in Northallerton on 18 May, which will be a budget meeting, when PC representatives will ask further questions. Members of the public are welcome to attend.
- The key element is the finance issue: the proposal is hugely expensive and must be balanced against austerity cuts.
- A meeting of the joint PCs will take place with Andrew Jones MP on 14 May. The group is already working on the key issues that will be raised to reject the planning application.
- A letter has been circulated around the village seeking ideas for fund-raising. So far donations of £760 have been received with a promise of a further £1,000.
- The next village coffee morning on 4 June will be to raise funds for the campaign.

4) Playing Fields:

NW will consult the old Yorkshire Water files to try to identify the location of the underground pipe in the meadow.

5) Village Shop/Village Hall:

The new noticeboard has been fixed outside the hall, mainly financed from the County Councillor's fund.

5) Planning:

Stonelea: Revised scheme - no objection in principle but the PC noted the revised plan includes 7 designated bedrooms plus a study/bedroom. This is a major increase from the original bungalow and the PC questioned vehicle/parking plans.

Mount Pleasant Farm, Mary Lane: erection of 2 storey rear and side extension and single storey rear extension - approved by HBC.

Dew Farm Barn, Marton: application for conversion of outbuilding to form habitable living space - approved by HBC.

Accounts

In: £1,650

First instalment of the precept

Out: £9

Advert in Parish Magazine re oil purchasing scheme

The VAT return has been submitted. A new account: “Marton cum Grafton Green Waste Project” has been opened for donations to the waste campaign. In commuted sums, £1,019 is available for outdoor sporting facilities to be drawn down before end November. It was suggested part of this could be used for cricket nets.

Correspondence

1. An email from a resident advised that two pieces of the stone plaque from the original Marton school which stood on the green until the early 1860s have been unearthed and have been set in the wall in front of Ivy House. A description plaque is being planned with costs to be met by three local residents. Once this is done, consideration will be given to placing a plaque on the pinfold.

2. A complaint about the derelict state of a property in Grafton has been referred to the PC. RN agreed to speak to the property owner.

Any other Business

- The Standing Orders have been circulated and approved by Councillors for a further year.
- The Village oil purchasing scheme is starting later this month.
- A resident of Grafton is pursuing an LPG group purchasing scheme.
- Water running down Thorny Hill Lane near the Mill House has been reported to Yorkshire Water, who have identified a cracked sewer.
- Pot-holes on Braimber Lane were discussed and are currently being repaired.
- Over-hanging trees and shrubs are blocking motorists' visibility around the village - Councillors were asked to note any areas needing attention and report back or bring to the attention of householders.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- The PC was reminded that the Land Registry holds details of the Clerk as a contact regarding any claim on the footpath near Scuttlepond Cottage. The new Clerk's details need to be advised to them.
- A resident was forced off the road and damaged his car due to a pot-hole on Braimber Lane. The Clerk will provide details of PC requests to Highways for repairs.
- Cars and bicycles were using Braimber Lane as a cool-down area recently during a Sunday cycle race, which caused a hazard to traffic and also affected the A168 which is a clearway. The Clerk will check with Highways if cycling clubs require permission.
- The Clerk agreed to report an open ditch with discoloration and a strong smell of sewage on the corner of the wood off Legram Lane near the Marton circular footpath.

Date of the next meeting:

Thursday, 2 June at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 2 June 2011 at 7.35 pm

Present: Mr T Joynson (TJ) (Chair), Mr R Naish (RN) and Miss L Bullus (LB). County Councillor J Watson also attended.

Apologies: Prof A Long, Mr N Wilson

Members of the public present: 5

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by TJ.

County Issues

1. Marton cum Grafton, along with the Ouseburns and Upper Dunsforth, has been identified as having slow broadband speeds and is a potential recipient of funding to introduce next generation broadband.
2. It looks almost certain that Boroughbridge Library will stay open as it already has 20 volunteers offering to run the service.
3. The bridge in Boroughbridge requires major repair, but will be kept open with traffic reduced to single traffic during roadworks.
4. The planning application has not yet been submitted for the Allerton Park Incinerator. The criteria for the decision taken four years ago was 60% environmental and 40% financial. Clearly many decisions are now being revisited in view of current financial cuts.

Matters Arising

1. Vacancy for Clerk's position:

There has been no response to the email or notices inviting applications. The PC agreed it would be necessary to approach candidates and will give thought to who might be suitable.

2. Proposed Incinerator:

- Brian Cooper (BC) was invited to summarise the latest position.
- Follow-up letters were approved to be sent to Government Ministers who have not yet replied to our previous communications.
- BC sought authority to commit the PC to fees of £500 for professional advice received to date - approved. Further costs will be monitored and reimbursement considered at a future meeting.
- Fund-raising has reached £1,660, with a further £750 promised.

- 3 Fund-raising Coffee morning:

Several residents have offered to make cakes and help on the day. Final arrangements were discussed.

- 4 Playing Fields:

Tennis Club: funding has been agreed in principle by BIFFA. Three members of the PC will be required to act as Trustees. An aerial view of the proposed site is available on the village website.

It was agreed to obtain estimates for fencing and possible nets for the cricket club in regard to the £1,019 to be drawn down from Commuted Sums before November.

5 Village Hall/Shop:

Representatives of the Village Hall Committee have visited Shropshire to get ideas to improve the acoustics in the hall. They are considering options of affixing wall panels or installing a form of lowered ceiling.

Planning

- Paddock House, Marton: Erection of pitched roof and lead cladding etc (amendment to previous proposal) - Approved by HBC
- Woodside Farm: Application to retain variations already made to the original approval: This was to be circulated among all Councillors for response by 16 June

Accounts

In: £36 from NEDL in respect of Wayleave agreements

£106 VAT repayment

Out: £529 to M H & J Rampling for new noticeboard

The 2010/11 Audited Accounts have been prepared by Miles Stanyard who has also completed the annual return ready for dispatch to Mazars. These were discussed, approved and signed by the Chair of the meeting. Once again thanks were expressed to Miles for undertaking the role of internal auditor.

Correspondence

Wetherby Lions Club has written with details of the route of the Great Yorkshire Bike Ride on 18 June starting at 8 am from Wetherby. A large number of riders will travel up the A168, turn right along Braimber Lane to the end then right on to the B6563 towards Great Ouseburn. It was agreed to put up notices and A-boards and email residents.

Any other Business

- Village oil syndicate: The first order has been placed with an estimated saving of 4p per litre (details of the scheme are available on the village website). The next order will be at the end of July.
- Overhanging trees: Councillors agreed to speak to residents where appropriate.
- The PC is still awaiting a response from Highways regarding cycle races.
- Yorkshire Water have been informed that the tarmac is breaking away from the large drain cover in Grafton near the entrance to Stockfield Lane.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- Trees are growing out over Braimber Lane making visibility difficult when turning right out of Marton. The landowner has been informed.
- The signpost into the village has disappeared - this will be reported to Highways.
- The PC was thanked for improving the handrail and the zigzag path.
- Youths are now driving at night on to the Water Board land, approaching from Reas Lane.
- It was suggested Green Hammerton and other villages could be approached again to financially support the Incinerator Campaign.

Date of the next meeting: This was deferred until Friday, 29 July in view of Councillor holidays.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Friday, 29 July at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long (Chair), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN) and Miss L Bullus (LB).

Apologies: County Councillor J Watson and District Councillor A Alton

Members of the public present: 5

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

County Issues

1. Agreement has now been reached that NYCC will maintain the Boroughbridge library building, books etc and volunteers will run the library going forward.
2. Marton cum Grafton is included in the "not spots", identified for provision of next generation broadband.
3. Signature of the contract with AmeyCespa is expected soon, with a planning application to be submitted before Christmas.

Matters Arising

1. Position of Clerk:

Zoe Hartley-Metcalf was formally appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council. She was warmly welcomed and will start her duties in September. Arrangements are being made for Autela Payroll Services to register the Council as an employer and set up payroll services for the PC. On behalf of the PC, the Chair thanked Lynda Bullus as the outgoing clerk for her wonderful support to the PC over previous years as clerk.

2. Proposed Incinerator:

- The Parish Council formally appointed Brian Cooper as Chair of the Marton cum Grafton PC Green Waste Project committee and confirmed that he is authorised to represent - and to report back to - the PC on this issue. AL and TJ are members of this group as well, and BC will co-opt others as he sees fit.
- A resolution to lobby the Government in opposition to the proposed incinerator was presented at the YLCA annual meeting. This was approved and was warmly supported. It will now be considered at national level.
- NYCC has begun the Consultation process on both its Waste Strategy and its Minerals Strategy with a deadline of 7 September. The PC agreed this was an insufficient period, particularly as it falls in the holiday season, and will lobby for an extension.
- A meeting to up-date residents on the current position will be arranged at the village hall.
- An up-date on fund-raising was received.
- A barn dance is being arranged at Prospect Farm on 10 September.

3 Playing Fields:

- The fencing has been installed with a lockable barrier giving access to the playing fields.
- The footpaths have been strimmed and the PC approved the payment of £55 for this work. Approval was given for RN to do a further cut, if necessary.

- The cricket pavilion is in a poor state and the Cricket Club will be asked to get estimates for remedial work. A contribution might be sought from Commuted Sums.

4 Village Hall/Shop:

Acoustic panels have been fitted by the Village Hall Committee. The sound quality at the meeting was considered to be vastly improved and the VHC were congratulated for introducing this enhancement to the hall facilities.

5 Church Clock:

Smith's of Derby will be in the area on Monday, 1 August and have offered to service the clock at last year's price of £165 plus VAT. No formal service has taken place since 2007, although there was a repair last year. Since the PC has decided to continue with the original clock, it was agreed the service should take place.

Planning

- Limebar Lane field: Application for Certificate of Lawfulness to retain existing barn - the PC considered that approval was not appropriate since the original building was an open field shelter until recent building conversion.
- Stables on Legram Lane: Enforcement advise that the structure has been modified and is now mobile and has been moved to a better position. Planning permission is no longer required.
- Stonelea: The revised scheme has been approved by HBC.
- Sycamore House: Retention of access track - the Appeal has been allowed. The PC noted concerns regarding the Appeal Inspector's report and will reflect on this further.

Accounts

In: £2.95 from NEDL in respect of Wayleave agreements

Out: £694 to M & E Seldon for work to meet fire regulations

£80.50 to cover costs of bunting, children's photos etc for Royal Wedding celebrations.

The VAT return is due at the end of July 2011.

The internal auditor has recommended merging the five bank accounts into two, but retaining clear separation in the parish council records. It was agreed to revisit this, taking into account the opinion of the new clerk.

Correspondence

- NYCC has invited feedback on library services following the withdrawal of the mobile library in September. It was not considered that the PC should take any action.
- The next annual HBC Consultation Meeting with Parish Councils will take place in Arkendale on 6 October. The PC is invited to place a question, limited to HBC services or NYCC Highways issues (not planning matters) - deadline 23 September.

Any other Business

- The PC have been requested to write to St Aiden's school regarding proposals to change the catchment area which would exclude the village school. The PC felt rural areas were being penalised and it was agreed to write, supporting the school's stance.
- A resident has complained that the green waste lorry is dripping liquid on to the roads. There was no support to take this further as it was considered a minor issue, mindful

that the liquid is not harmful and we live in a rural area.

- It was agreed to draw up a list of overgrown hedges and overhanging trees so that Councillors may speak to property owners, as appropriate.
- It was agreed to sign up for the PC to receive the NYCC Newsletter by email.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- Youths are accessing the back of the reservoir from the track off Gallabar Lane. The Clerk will contact Yorkshire Water and suggest the gate is reinstated.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, 1 September 2011.

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 1st September 2011 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr T Joynson (TJ) (Chair) Mr R Naish (RN), Miss L Bullus (LB), District Councillor A Alton (AA) and Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf as Clerk

Apologies: Prof A Long, Mr N Wilson, County Councillor J Watson

Members of the public present: 4

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by TJ.

District Matters

1. AA advised that HBC were having discussions and appraising costs regarding the maintaining of several council offices within Harrogate. The Council were considering the costs of accommodating all the departments in one building, this would impact on cost savings for example through personnel and utility costs and the departments would run more efficiently.
2. AA advised the Recycling scheme will start next year, discussions on working out routes taking place. AA to find out if raw vegetable waste can be put into compost bins.

Matters Arising

1. Proposed Incinerator
 - The planning application has now been submitted. AA confirmed that this had been received by HBC. Planning documents will not be available for view for a few weeks as they are to be validated.
 - New date for village meeting given for 16th September 7.30pm.
2. Playing Fields
 - RN recommended remedial work on the pavilion to encourage use by local cricket clubs. Stephen Marklew has been invited to speak to Ouseburn Cricket Club to get three estimates for the work.
 - Playground inspection – Parish Council assume inspection has been carried out by HBC and are now waiting for the report and invoice. RN thanked helpers for emptying the bin on the playing fields. Fencing up and running.
3. Village Shop/Village Hall
 - Quotes for replacing lighting in the village hall have been sought by the Village Hall Committee.

Planning

- Grafton Grange, Limebar Lane (Picks) – Erection of two storey extension and extension to domestic garden area – Parish Council had no objections.
- Scuttlepond Cottage, Marton – Erection of conservatory and installation of front door surround – Parish Council had no objections.

- Sycamore House – Retention of access track – the Appeal has been allowed – PC may discuss at next month’s meetings and agreed not to pursue this further.

Accounts

In: VAT reimbursement £1,160.00, Green Waste donations £450.00.

Out: Village Hall committee (refund of VAT from acoustic panels) £926.00, Websters (fencing) £576.00, Clerks expenses £48.00, Mazars (Audit) £162.00, Prospect Farm (strimming) £55.00, LDP Planning (legal advice) £420.00.

Correspondence

- NYCC correspondence regarding Winter Maintenance - Parish Council discussed and decided not to take further action. Further discussion regarding location of NYCC salt bins in the village and an extra bin being needed by The Nookin in Grafton, it was decided to discuss further at the next meeting.
- Village Oil Scheme – LB to contact Mike Aspinall.
- Agenda item for annual HBC Consultation meeting with Parish Councils – AL to advise.

Any Other Business

- LB mentioned that the mobile library had its last visit to the village today.
- Email from Ron Sneddon regarding youth cold calling selling goods – discussed and felt no action should be taken
- RN requested Parish Council to contact NYCC Highways Department regarding Spring Bank, as water is still leaking from the spring and the road is seriously degrading, all appropriate tests have been carried out by Yorkshire Water and confirmed that the leak is not from a water pipe.

Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 6th October 2011

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- Broadband concerns – TJ/LB explained options.
- Speeding – concerns raised regarding speeding on the increase in the village especially at school times, the Parish Council stated that the public can contact the police regarding individuals speeding and that the Parish Council could not take further action as there had already been a Police assessment of speeding in the village.
- A member of the public requested information regarding meeting minutes in 2010, LB to action this.
- Pot hole on Gallabar Lane reported, Clerk to contact NYCC Highways Department.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm

A Meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 6 October 2011 at 7.30pm

Present: Prof A Long (AL) (Chair), Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Cllr A Alton (AA), Cllr J Watson, Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf as Clerk

Apologies: Mr R Naish

Members of the public present: 9

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

Matters Arising from the last meeting minutes:

1. Winter Maintenance– further discussions took place regarding the need for extra salt bins within the village, for example at The Nookin. It was agreed that this should go ahead and salt/bin acquired following discussion with RN.

County Matters:

1. Broadband – JW stated that Marton cum Grafton was in the next programme of connection work to commence before Christmas and that the work was expected to take 10 weeks. Houses in the village will be connected through a wireless signal.
2. Incinerator – JW stated that the planning application from AmeyCespa was still being validated by NYCC and that he expected this process to complete in the next 2 weeks. The basic plan was the same as originally discussed, although the provision for Anaerobic Digestion had been increased. The application will be available for public scrutiny once validated. It is expected that NYCC will seek to determine the application.

JW explained concerns regarding the scheme: i) recognition that Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) deals (which Allerton Park is) are unpopular and seen to be poor value for money in some cases; ii) the fact that the Core Waste Strategy is seen to have predetermined the location of the incinerator at Allerton (JW commended the PC on their submission to NYCC on this matter); iii) ongoing concerns regarding waste volumes; iv) the fact that new Government policy required Councils to consider waste processing in adjacent Counties whilst the NYCC scheme was wholly internal to NYCC and therefore potentially in conflict with this policy.

JW explained that NYCC had been involved in procuring a solution to the County's waste for over 5 years and was reluctant to reconsider its position at this late stage. He recognised, however, the potential for alternative approaches to the problem, including the use of Allerton Park for mechanical processing of waste with the residual non-recyclable waste transported to other facilities outside of the County for final disposal.

In response to a question as to what JW was doing to object to the scheme, mindful that he is the Cabinet member responsible for the finance portfolio in NYCC and has expressed publically concerns about the scheme, JW said that he was not fully party to all discussions about the scheme because the responsibility falls with another Cabinet member. He also said that his previous stance against the incinerator meant he was excluded from some discussions. Responding to concerns raised from the Parish Council and members of the public, JW explained that he was intending to raise issues of finance at the appropriate time, which he considered to be when (and if) the application is considered by the NYCC Planning Committee.

District Matters:

1. AA discussed the possibility of HBC putting a freeze on council tax; confirmation from HBC will be made in the New Year.
2. AA advised HBC is continuing discussions regarding the relocation of 5 council offices to be in one building.
3. HBC is in consultation regarding extra revenues from Central Government being put towards more refuse collections, AA to advise.
4. Local Development Framework – HBC in consultation until next April/May 2012, AL outlined that there had been no change to the PC response last year and their view stayed the same. The current consultation is predominantly with the urban areas, the rural areas having been consulted previously. HBC will provide Parish Council's and the public with their opinion on the responses received in spring 2012. We should be able to comment further then.
5. Core Waste Strategy – AA stated HBC had just received information and would report more next meeting.

Matters Arising:

1. Playing Fields

Two representatives from Ouseburn Cricket Club attended the meeting to discuss improvements to the cricket clubhouse. It was decided that three quotes should be obtained for the work and given to the Clerk asap so that HBC could approve and process payment, agreed by Chairs' action needed before the next meeting.

2. **Village Shop/Village Hall** – nothing to report.
3. **Planning** – no planning received this month.

Accounts:

In: Second instalment of the precept payment £1,650.00, open garden donation £1,100.00, Barn dance and donations £3,219.86. It was agreed to write to RN to thank him for the all the hard work that he put into the latter.

Out: Smith of Derby Ltd (church clock) £198.00, outgoings for the Barn Dance £1,261.22.

Correspondence

- Church Clock Letter regarding asbestos – reply provided. Asbestos is not known to be in the Church, to the best of the PC knowledge.
- LDP invoice – further information required before payment. Brain Cooper to pursue.
- Letter from Andrew Jones MP – clerk to respond on behalf of the PC welcoming any support from Andrew Jones.
- New Vicar Induction – AL to attend the new Vicar's induction on the 17 October.

Any Other Business

- NW stated his concern regarding a container in the field off Reas Lane, Clerk to contact Enforcement at HBC.
- NW mentioned hedges/overhanging trees on Stockfield Lane. Clerk to write to relevant households asking for action.
- LB – The Magnums fund stands at £600.00. This fund is the residue of a fighting fund raised by members of the Parish Council to fight a planning application for a motorway services station. The signatures of this fund have agreed that it can be transferred back to the Parish Council. Clerk to contact Miles Stanyard.
- TJ discussed the purchase equipment for presentations; the Village Hall committee was asked if they would consider purchasing this.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 3rd November

Open the meeting to the public:

- A member of the Public thanked Parish Council for all their hard work regarding the Incinerator.
- A discussion regarding funding for the incinerator campaign.

The meeting finished at 9.20 pm

A Meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 4 November 2011 at 7.30pm

Present: Prof A Long (AL) (Chair), Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Cllr A Alton (AA), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf as Clerk

Apologies: Mr R Naish, Cllr J Watson

Members of the public present: 9

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed subject to minor alteration and signed by AL.

Matters Arising from the last meeting minutes: None

County Matters:

The following comments were made from Cllr Watson via email:

1. Broadband –a contract has been awarded to LN communications to be the service provider. The service is being provided through a fibre optic link to Great Ouseburn School and then by wireless link from there. Work will start in January. It is hoped the new service will supply the village with 5.0 mg per second. The connection charge will be approximately £50 and a monthly fee of £13.00. The project is costing £20,000 in total and NYCC will be providing 75% of that.

TJ mentioned another broadband supplier, Next Genus, are potentially competing and need potential subscribers before they can take it any further.

District Matters:

1. AA explained that finances in the Borough were tight, noting the Government-imposed zero % Council tax increase. The Harrogate Conference Centre is losing quite a lot of money too.
2. HBC is looking to sell 4 of its 5 main properties and consolidate onto a new, single site. Efficiency savings will be made by so doing and the project will be largely self-funding.
3. AA confirmed that HBC had heard nothing of the Allerton Park scheme but confirmed that HBC were likely involved in pre-application discussions. This is normal for an application of this nature.
4. AA discussed the potential implications of the Localism Bill, noting the possibility of the PC drawing up a list of potential building sites within the village development line. The PC confirmed its previously stated position of not supporting any development beyond the current development line.
5. AA reported that he would be attending a meeting with Prime Minister on 21 November and asked for a short briefing note regarding the scheme.

Matters Arising:

1. Incinerator

- The application was expected on November 4th, with a 21 day response period but with an option to submit comments after that date.
- It was considered unlikely that NYCC will be able to determine the application within less than 3 months.
- The PC had obtained two quotes for work by LDP relating to the application. The PC agreed to proceed with the cheaper of the two options at this stage.
- Helen Marshall has organised a lunch fundraiser in the village hall tomorrow. AL agreed to thank Helen for all her help in this matter.

2. Playing Fields

- Three quotes had been received by the Clerk and sent onto HBC for approval. Clerk to chase.

3. Village Shop/Village Hall

Nothing to report.

4. Planning

Incinerator documents being delivered to Clerk tomorrow.

Accounts:

- In: Nothing received.
Out: Marton-cum-Grafton Cricket Club £260.00 (grass cutting to the playing field), LDP invoice £900.00.
- Precept payment 2012/13 - £3,350.00. The precept has remained unchanged for the last 6 years. This year the Parish Council will apply for another £50.00 to cover the extra cost of the PAYE for the parish clerk's wages since the PC is now required to be a registered employee.

Correspondence

- Great Ouseburn Parish Council has contacted our PC regarding volunteers for the First Responder Scheme. The Clerk will send an email to the residents.
- Lower Dunsforth PC has contacted the PC regarding beacons for the Queen's Jubilee. The PC decided not to join this particular scheme at this time.

Any Other Business

- NW reported back from his attendance at the NYCC Consultation on the Core Waste Strategy. A report on the output of the consultation will be sought by NW.
- LB mentioned that she had received a complaint from a member of the public who was concerned that private bonfires had been seen in the village. The PC noted that if people are burning material illegally the police can be contacted by a member of public.

Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 1st December 2011 starting at **6.30pm**

Open the meeting to the public:

- Member of the public offered help re the incinerator campaign.
- The steps on the public footpath behind the Punch Bowl are in a bad state of repair. Clerk to contact NYCC Highways.
- A stretch of pavement, starting from outside Town House Farm and going towards the Braimber Lane exit from the village is uneven in places. Clerk to contact NYCC Highways.
- In Grafton the diagonal tarmac path across the village green has almost grown over with grass. Clerk to contact NYCC Highways.
- Pot holes on Braimber Lane are breaking up again. Clerk to contact NYCC Highways
- Speeding in Marton was discussed, especially at school times. Clerk to find out costs for signs. This matter will be discussed further when Cllr J Watson attends the next meeting. Clerk to contact Marton cum Grafton School.

The meeting finished at 9.15pm

Signed Dated

A Meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 1 December 2011 at 6.30pm

Present: Prof A Long (AL) (Chair), Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf as Clerk

Apologies: Cllr J Watson, Cllr A Anthony

Members of the public present: 8

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed by AL.

Matters Arising from the last meeting minutes:

- The steps at the back of the pub are deemed 'low priority' by Paths at NYCC but will be rectified in due course.
- The paths in Marton have been assessed and will be put right within the next 3 months.
- The village green path in Grafton is not deemed needing urgent attention and Braimber Lane does not meet Highways intervention level. Repairs will take time because of budgetary shortages in NYCC Highways.

County Matters: None

District Matters: None

Matters Arising:

1. Incinerator

- Helen Marshall's fundraiser lunch so far has raised £1,951.71. On behalf of the PC the Chair thanked her for this amazing effort.
- AL thanked all for putting in letters to NYCC. NYCC has extended the deadline for submission of objections and the PC has written requesting a further extension. NYCC declined this request. The Chair asked the PC (and members of the public attending) whether they had read the application or would be able to by the revised deadline. There was universal agreement, by a show of hands, that the time given to review and comment on such a complex and lengthy document was inadequate.
- Tockwith Parish Council had asked for the application to be "called-in" and determined by HM Inspector. This request was declined.
- The PC had written a follow-up letter to Secretary of State referring to our own, detailed request for call-in and seeking a justified decision. This is pending.
- BC and NW have arranged for a presentation to HBC Councillors on Monday 5th Dec. To date there have been 11 responses. A follow-up reminder email will be sent.
- NW has arranged a meeting with NYCC 15th Dec 10 am at NYCC to talk to the planners.
- The PC agreed to instruct LDP to complete work relating to the application, funds coming from a combination of the PC and NYWAG.

2. Playing Fields

- HBC has agreed to release funds from the commuted sums money for improvement works to be carried out to the Cricket Club house.
- Playground inspection report – HBC report highlighting a low risk ankle trap between the ground and the fence. RN / AL to inspect.

3. Village Shop/Village Hall

- The annual inspection of the village hall had been completed and reported to the Village Hall ADM, and to the PC. The PC thanked the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work.

4. Planning

- An application relating to re-instatement of land at Allerton Park was briefly considered. AL to circulate to Parish Councillors.

Accounts:

In: Fundraiser Lunch raised £1,957.71, donation £250.00

Out: HBC Playground inspection £72.00

Correspondence:

- St Aidens letter from the Governors to PC stating their intentions regarding admissions.
- Helen Arundel has contacted the PC regarding a coffee morning on 4th February 2012 raising money for a “Huskie Challenge”, she has requested permission from the PC to tether a couple of reindeer to the village green, outside of the village hall, this was to attract people, especially children, to attend the fund-raising event. Appropriate health and safety and animal well-fare arrangements were in place. After consideration, the PC agreed that permission should be granted.

Any Other Business:

- Limebar Lane – an overgrown yew hedge to be reported to NYCC Highways.
- Gallabor Lane – an overgrown hedge, from village heading east, second field on the right off Reas lane to be reported to NYCC Highways
- The post collection time from the village Post Office has been altered.
- The Sundial on the Grafton green needs cleaning. TJ/RN to inspect.

- Limebar Lane - Walnut tree branches at the Manor House falling on the road on the north side on the junction to be reported to NYCC Highways.

Date of the Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th January 2012 at 7.30pm

Open the meeting to the public:

- Members of the public had looked at the planning application, but the planning document was too large to understand and assess thoroughly.

The meeting finished at 8.00pm

Signed Dated.....