

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Tuesday, 7th January 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr T Joynson (TJ), Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr R Naish (RN), Mr N Duxbury (ND), District Cllr A Alton (AA), County Cllr R Windass (RW), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (Clerk)

Apologies: Prof A Long (AL)

Members of the public present: 12

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

County Issues:

RW stated NYCC rock salt supplies are now up to full capacity. NYCC's review of bus subsidies are still ongoing but mentioned an increase in school transport costs for post 16 year old will be inevitable.

District Issues:

AA stated that HBC will not be increasing council tax and there will be no loss of services due to this. Recycling is going well with weekly collections carrying on. Architects have been instructed to start plans for the new HBC office accommodation.

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator:

Brian Cooper reported the position of NYCC and further updates.

2. Playing Fields:

Nothing to report.

3. Village Shop:

Loose floor tiles is still an issue; the contractor has been informed and the work to be carried out.

4. Village Hall:

Light switch replaced. Spraying of moss to be carried out.

5. Planning:

Nothing to report.

6. Tennis Courts:

ND discussed the lease with the PC. A 28 year lease for the Marton cum Grafton Tennis Court Association with a low rental for them to maintain the courts and

specified area. Whilst the PC owns the land, all the responsibility lies with the tennis court association and a minimum of £5 million public liability insurance to be obtained by the association. RN would like to see a more defined area of the tennis court. PC agreed the lease subject to TJ approval, typed version to be issued at a later date.

Tony Cole thanked all for help in clearing the area. Contractor starts work on Monday. The tennis association has decided to operate as follows: use of the courts is free to anyone; the courts will be locked and keys to be kept at the pub or shop; supporters of the association who pay £35 per household or £20 individually per year will be able to book courts.

Accounts:

In: £1,200.00 Shop rent.
Out: £1,140.00 Dalton Enterprises (grass cutting), £16.09 Autela Payroll and HMRC £40.00.

Correspondence:

- HBC questionnaire - extension of time - Clerk to check.

Any other Business:

- Risk assessments - Clerk to discuss with PC at the February meeting.
- LB queried the sign for the village - Clerk to chase NYCC.
- A complaint was again received about parked vehicles just below the brow of the hill in Marton creating a visual hazard for traffic travelling up the hill. Clerk to contact the police for advice.
- A complaint was received about Rougham Farm tipping feed into silos at Thorn Hill Farm at 11.45pm three times in the last month creating excessive noise. Clerk to contact HBC planning department for advice.
- Footpaths coming up the hill from Grafton to Marton, PC had previously applied to the landowner to rent or buy part of the land and was rebuffed. Resident queried it again. RN to ask the Landowner.
- A resident complained about potholes in Marton where NYCC had previously marked them for works but none carried out. Clerk to contact NYCC.
- Clerk to contact owners of Orchard House in Marton about trimming shrubs that are encroaching onto the public footpath.
- Woodland management questionnaire, TJ to review.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 6th February 2013 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 6th February 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Prof A Long (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (Clerk)

Apologies: District Cllr A Alton (AA), County Cllr R Windass (RW), Mr R Naish (RN)

Members of the public present: 8

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

County Issues:

Nothing to report

District Issues:

Nothing to report

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator:

2. Playing Fields:

Nothing to report on the playing fields. Work on the tennis court has now commenced with hardcore, posts and drainage in place, a completion date of April 2014.

3. Village Shop:

The floor has been repaired.

4. Village Hall:

Some maintenance regards decoration is ongoing.

5. Planning:

- Mountain Ash, Marton - planning application for erection of two storey and single storey extensions and replacement detached garage - PC has no objections.
- Low Garth, Marton cum Grafton - Notice of planning decision.

6. Risk Assessments:

Clerk to email risk assessments to PC/Village Hall Committee for their comments.

Accounts:

In: £1,395.40 HBC Grounds Maintenance Grant, £102.20 donation to Green Waste Account
Out: £48.00 Parish Online

Letter received from Autela Payroll confirming that due to a change in their software the Clerk's payroll would be carried out on a monthly basis with a small increase in charges. PC agreed to carry on with this service.

Correspondence:

- Yorkshire Water - regarding altering of a water main
- Mr T Hunt - regarding a community lead project. PC agreed in principle to support the application. AL to a draft letter.
- HBC enforcement department regarding silo filling at Thorn Hill Farm - HBC will carry out a site visit to assess the situation when next in the area.
- HBC enforcement re Rougham Farm - requests PC assistance in identifying specific buildings that planning permission has not been sought for.
- NYCC pathways email regarding Goker Lane - the landowners are going to be contacted regarding the poor state of the footpath. The signpost has been repaired on site.
- NYCC Highways - Footpaths in Marton are to be made good by the end of March, hopefully works for a new surface will commence this spring. Works to marked potholes in Marton and also on Braimber Lane will commence in March too. Clerk thanked RW for all his help in these matters.
- HBC re village sign - Clerk to make further enquiries.
- Resident email regarding the poor state of the village notice boards - RN received a quote from a joiner re the Grafton notice board, Clerk to get 2 more quotes. AL/TJ to look at the village hall notice board.

Any other Business:

- LB discussed the bus services for the village with this still continuing.
- Resident pointed out NYCC has only 2 more weeks to carry out repair work to Limebar Lane. Clerk to contact NYCC Highways.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 6th March 2014 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 6th March 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr R Naish (RN), Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr N Duxbury (ND), District Cllr A Alton (AA), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (ZHM) Clerk.

Apologies: Prof A Long (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), County Cllr R Windass (RW)

Members of the public present: 6

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

County Issues:

None to report

District Issues:

AA stated that HBC are looking closely into any opportunities for businesses in Harrogate and the surrounding areas while the Tour de France takes place. The Architects are currently designing new council offices which will be built at Knapping Mount as it is a much larger site. LB mentioned the terrible traffic congestion in and around Harrogate, AA mentioned that NYCC are considering a new traffic light system. A resident questioned AA regarding HBC re recycling of food waste and a discussion ensued.

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator:

Nothing to report.

2. Playing Fields:

RN reported that works to the tennis courts where going well. RN has sought a quote from the contractor regarding re-surfacing of the car parking area. The bank side leading down to the tennis courts has had a lot of samplings cut down leaving dangerous stumps, RN has asked the contractor to dig out and level.

3. Village Shop:

Clerk has received an email from Helen Tesseyman seeking the PC approval of an installation of an oven and extractor fan in the shop. PC discussed and agreed the proposal.

4. Village Hall:

Mike Popple confirmed that the lighting has been repaired and some decoration has been carried out. PC congratulated the Village Hall Committee regarding their successful fundraiser.

5. Planning:

- The Barn, Grafton Manor - planning application withdrawn
- Westwinds, 8 Millfield - planning permission granted
- Woodside Farm, Moor Lane - Retention of agricultural building - PC had no objections.

6. Risk Assessments:

PC agreed to discuss further at the next meeting after further investigation of the play ground and playing field. Clerk to organise.

Accounts:

In: £2.68 VAT payment

Out: £538.89 Zurich Insurance, £264.00 Excel Flooring (village shop floor),
£160.00 Clerk's payroll, £40.00 HMRC

Correspondence:

- NYCC Highways confirmation that they are to replace the signage at the entrance to the village the post has rotted away.
- Zurich Insurance - renewal of insurance.
- HBC Easter recycling scheme - a timetable has been placed on both notice boards.

Any other Business:

- Clerk has contacted HBC regarding signage for the village and reported back that any sign HBC would provide would cost the PC £250.00 plus VAT per sign. To discuss at the next meeting.
- Notice board quote - joiner has reduced his quote to £700.00 - PC agreed this figure.
- RN spoke to the owner of the white vans parked in Marton after the PC had received considerable amount of complaints. PC asked the Clerk to contact the police.
- The PC had received a letter from Robin Lewis regarding a private initiative regarding gas into the village.
- ND mentioned if any resident would like to organise an event for the Tour de France to contact the PC.
- Resident complaints regarding works vans at Mountain ash - RN to contact owner.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 3rd April 2014 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 3rd April 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Prof A Long (AL) (Chair), Mr R Naish (RN), Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr N Duxbury (ND)

Apologies: District Cllr A Alton (AA), County Cllr R Windass (RW), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (ZHM) Clerk.

Members of the public present: 8

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

County Issues:

None to report

District Issues:

None to report

Matters Arising:

AOB last meeting:

HBC has given a price of £250 plus VAT for a new village entry sign. It was agreed that given existing financial commitments the PC would not pursue new signage at this time.

1. Proposed Incinerator:

The PC continues to engage in discussions with County and District Councillors on the financial viability of the project. The PC is uncertain when a decision will be taken by NYCC on the financial viability and future of the scheme. Current understanding is that NYCC is waiting for a revised financial submission from AmeyCespa before proceeding.

The PC considered and approved a response to the NYCC Minerals and Waste Joint Plan.

2. Playing Fields:

The playing courts are now up and running and the PC congratulated the Tennis Club and the contractors on the excellent quality of the work. There remains some surfacing of the courts to be done and also some work on the access road. The contractor has removed some tree stumps to address the health and safety concerns.

The parking area at the top of the playing fields access road needs attention. A quote has been received from the Tennis Court contractor to resurface this as part of the extension to the Tennis Court works (quote is £700). The PC agreed to this work, noting that the contractor has vehicles on site and that this was a highly competitive quotation.

The PC had undertaken a “walk around” of the playing fields since the last meeting to consider potential health and safety risks. The PC agreed to undertake an annual Risk Assessment and then review the area once a month and report to the PC on a regular basis. RN offered to undertake the monthly reviews.

The PC approved a Health and Safety Checklist which will be run past our insurers.

The annual in-depth safety review will be scheduled for April to report to the AGM in May.

3. Village Shop:

The 5-year lease does not have an automatic annual increase in the rent. However, the lease does require payment of insurance from the last year, and an uplift in insurance in line with RPI for the current year. The Clerk will raise an invoice before the next meeting for the outstanding insurance (liaise with ND).

4. Village Hall:

The Village Hall risk assessment to be drawn up in the next month to report to the May AGM.

5. Planning:

- Glen Garth: Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling. The PC had no objection. It was noted that the current overall visual aspect and scale of the building is similar to that present.

6. Risk Assessments:

See point 2 above.

Accounts:

Renewal of the YLCA approved £182.

In: nothing

Out: £16.09 Autela Payroll, £37.99 Clerk's expenses

Correspondence:

- Letter from Synthia Foster, Shippen Bower raising concern regarding the state of the hedgrow along Braimber Lane which requires trimming. Clerk to contact tenant (Kevin Doyle) and, if necessary, NYCC Highways.
- Consultation on the Annual Audit of PC accounts. From Jan 30th 2014 a new audit framework has been introduced for small authorities with £25k turnover that would avoid the annual requirement for external audit. However, on inspection, the alternative transparency requirements are that the PC concluded there is no gain in switching from the existing procedure. Members of the public present at the meeting were asked for their view on the matter and were unanimous in their support of the PC's position stating that they had no concerns regarding the

financial transparency of the PC.

- The poor state of the field behind the Punch Bowl. The PC noted that the footpath is not impeded although the style continues to require attention - Clerk to chase.

Any other Business:

- Many members of the village do a superb effort picking litter, but the PC expressed its particular thanks to Peter and Synthia Sutton and Martin Parker for all their help. It was suggested that the PC explore purchasing a long-handled litter picker. This was agreed - Clerk to bring a price to the next PC meeting.

It was agreed that the Clerk would approach HBC to provide a litter picking set within the next few weeks (Cleansing Department). Target is Grafton Lane.

- Concerns were raised regarding dog mess in the village. The PC has installed a number of new bins for dog litter but encourages all residents to please use these and help maintain the high standard of village curtilages. The Clerk to send an email to the Residents list which will then be posted on the village website.
- Two fields off Stockfield Lane and Thorny Hill Lane have had no livestock on for the last two years and they are now weed-infested and overgrown. The fields require attention. Clerk to write to the land owners noting their concerns regarding the spread of ragwort and Himalayan Balsam (cc. to DEFRA). RN to identify name and return to Clerk.
- Two residents agreed with concerns regarding the state of the hedges on Braimber Lane.
- Hold on the new notice board in Grafton- the PC is to explore repairing.
- A resident has queried the date for repair of potholes on Limebar Lane - Clerk to check.

Date of the next meeting: AGM, APM and Parish Council Thursday 1st May 2014 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed Dated

The Annual General Meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Wednesday 1 May 2014 at 7.00 pm

Present: Prof A Long (AL), Mr R Naish (RN), Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr N Duxbury (ND) and Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (Clerk)

Apologies: County Councillor Robert Windass (RW), District Councillor Antony Alton (AA) Mr T Joynson (TJ)

Members of the public present: 5

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

There were no matters arising.

Chair's Report (AL)

I am very pleased to present the Chair's report for this year's Parish Council business.

There was no need to look back at the Minute Book for 2014 to know what the main item of business has been this year; it has been the same as in 2013, in 2012 and indeed in 2011. I am referring, of course, to the Allerton Waste Recovery Park.

The last year saw the Parish Council continue to lead a group action that involves several other Parish Councils and objector groups in an effort to stop the plan for a large incinerator being built at Allerton Park.

We pick up the story twelve months ago back in May 2013, a few months after different Government Departments had almost simultaneously announced that they were; a) confirming planning consent for AWRP without a public enquiry, and; b) withdrawing £65 million PFI credits from the scheme. New developments in the case during this year include some of the most savage cuts to public services in living memory caused by the decimation of Council budgets, an unexpected cap on the rate of increase in landfill tax announced in the Spring 2014 Budget, and a continued expansion in the number and range of waste treatment facilities in the County and beyond as competition for waste as a resource grows.

Now, to most onlookers any one of these factors - let alone all of them together - would suggest something was awry with the scheme. However, the County Council appears to be committed to ploughing on, blind to the cost. Close reading of the 2014/15 County Council budget, reveals that since 2010 the Council has set aside money it could have used to avoid service cuts to build up a £77 million fund for the AWRP. Moreover, it plans to take a further £12 million from its budget this year and another £24 million by 2018. This is a major reason why NYCC is short of money. The public at large seem unaware of this and no County Councillors have challenged it, probably because it is not highlighted in the budget documents but tucked away on page 157 of an obscure appendix.

So, where are we now in this "Jarndyce & Jarndyce" story, given that we are three and half years since the decision to award the contract was taken and over a year since the planning permission was confirmed? Well, aside from at least £7 million in "specialist advice" spent over the last eight year, the substantive answer is that "we do not know,

but we expect the worst”.

We hear rumours that the Council will consider a revised set of financial figures from the operator later this summer, and on that basis will determine whether the scheme offers value for money and is affordable. By our analysis, these two decisions should be about as easy as repairing a Parish Council notice board. The scheme neither offers value for money and not affordable. The Government’s withdrawal of PFI credits was because the scheme was not needed, holing it below the value for money water-line, whilst the destruction of public services caused by central Government cuts means that the scheme is surely heading for the sea-bed, especially when seen against the wider social harm - and costs - inflicted by cutting investment in public services to support this scheme.

As a Council we have spent much of the last year trying to shape the final chapters of this saga, talking to our elected representatives in the County and in Europe and putting forward carefully reasoned grounds as to why a fresh narrative is needed. In doing so, I want to formally thank Brian Cooper (again) for his unfailing determination and commitment to the campaign, to our neighbouring Parish Councils for their support, and above all to the members of this Parish Council and Parish for their unstinting support.

Away from the day-to-day pleasures of dealing with AWRP, our Parish Council has been busy on a number of other fronts. Highlights include the tremendous work of the Woodland Management Project, expertly and energetically promoted by Tim Joynson, which has resulted in much clearance and thinning of the woodlands that add so much value to the Playing Fields area. This has gone in tandem with the successful completion of the Tennis Court project, with the first balls flying across the nets earlier this Spring - a huge thanks to Tony Cole and members of the Tennis Club group who made this possible. The village shop, Spellows, completed a first successful full year and goes from strength to strength, whilst the Village Hall is looking at its very best thanks to the efforts of the Village Hall Committee. The greens of the village are tidy thanks to the army of grass-cutters, this year nimbly avoiding the welcome bed of crocuses. The village clock continues to tick - and chime - largely on time. And, once again, the work of the Parish Council has been ably supported by members of the public, for example Frank Beckett has helped the Council in the completion of its financial accounts. So, there is much to celebrate as our community ensures that Marton cum Grafton is, and will continue to be, a green and pleasant parish to live in.

Finally, I am stepping down as Chair at this meeting after five years in the role. It has been a real pleasure to have this position, working with a wonderful team of fellow Councillors, Zoe as our current Clerk, and supported by the wider community. I look forward to supporting the new Chair in the future.

Antony Long
Chair, Marton cum Grafton Parish Council

Election of Offices

The first action of the PC was to appoint the roles as follows:

Chair:	Lynda Bullus - proposed by RN and seconded by ND
Vice Chair:	Tim Joynson - proposed by ND and seconded by RN
Charities:	Nick Duxbury and Lynda Bullus - AL proposed seconded by RN

Police Liaison: Antony Long - LB proposed seconded by RN
Village Hall Committee: Tim Joynson and Roger Naish - ND proposed seconded by AL
Internal Auditor: Frank Beckett

Standing Orders

The PC considered and approved the following standing orders which are reviewed annually:

- Risk Assessment
- Register of Assets
- Financial Regulations
- Standing Orders

Any other business

- Helmes Charity annual update - there had been no requests for donations from the charity during the year.
- RN, on behalf of the PC and residents, expressed appreciation to AL for all his hard work on the incinerator issue.

Meeting opened to the public: There were no issues arising.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm.

Date of the next meeting: 7th May 2015.

Signed Dated.....

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 1 May 2014 at 7.20pm

Present: Miss L Bullus (LB) as Chair, Mr R Naish (RN), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Prof A Long (AL), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (Clerk)

Apologies: District Councillor A Alton, County Councillor R Windass, Mr T Joynson (TJ)

Members of the public present: 7

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

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public: There were no issues raised.

Date for the next Annual Parish Meeting: May 2015

The meeting closed at 7.21pm.

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 1st May 2014 at 7.22pm

Present: Miss L Bullus (LB) (Chair), Mr R Naish (RN), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Prof A Long (AL), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (ZHM) Clerk.

Apologies: District Cllr A Alton (AA), County Cllr R Windass (RW), Mr T Joynson (TJ)

Members of the public present: 8

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

County Issues:

None to report

District Issues:

None to report

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator:

AL up-dated the PC on the latest position.

2. Playing Fields:

RN advised that rabbit holes continue to be a problem and that mess and debris around the pavilion will be removed by Marton cum Grafton Cricket Club. TJ and RN have cleared the brash off the hill and cleared the perimeter around the playground and steps. RN stated that a few more trees to the western end of the tennis courts needed to be removed. The Clerk will purchase new signs for the playground and skateboard park. The roadway up the hill is to be improved and boulders put around the speed bumps. The Clerk will write to NYCC regarding the stile at the back of the Punch Bowl.

The tennis courts are now in use with the final painting next week. The Tennis Club are to hold an 'opening ceremony' on Saturday 10th May at 4pm with an official opening by Andrew Jones MP, an exhibition match and a BBQ - all residents and members welcome.

3. Village Shop:

The shop's contribution to the village insurance was discussed and the PC agreed on an annual charge of £50.00 subject to annual review. ND to discuss with Helen Tesseyman.

4. Village Hall:

Mike Pople stated that a full copy of all annual reports had been given to the PC via

the Clerk for her records. The PC again thanked the Village Hall Committee for all their hard work over the year.

5. Planning:

- The Barn, Grafton Manor, Marton cum Grafton - Extension of dwelling and outbuildings to form additional space and associated internal alterations. RN declared an interest as his daughter lives close by. The Parish Council had no objections but expressed concern that vehicles slowing to open the gate or leave the proposed driveway, which is not an existing driveway merely a field track, could be a hazard to approaching traffic. It was requested sufficient pull in space be allowed near the gate leading onto Limebar Lane for vehicles to stand clear of the road.
- Mountain Ash, Marton cum Grafton - planning permission granted subject to conditions.

6. Litter Picking:

Clerk advised the cost of two long handled litter pickers was £16, PC agreed to purchase. Clerk to action.

HBC will loan litter picking equipment given one month's notice. PC agreed to carry out a village litter pick in the spring next year.

7. Clerk's Salary:

Clerk's appraisal was carried out by AL prior to the meeting and a review of the Clerk's salary was discussed. AL recommended that after an audit of the Clerk's hours and role a review of her salary was needed. After contacting the YLCA for Clerks pay scales, AL proposed a salary increase to between £1,200.00-£1,400.00. PC agreed to increase Clerk's salary to £1,200.00 per annum.

Accounts:

In: £1,200.00 Village shop rent and £1,675.00 HBC 1st installment of Parish precept
Out: £182.00 YLCA, £39.82 VAT

Correspondence:

- Little Ouseburn PC are seeking a 30mph limit on the B6563 near the entry to their village - a petition is available for signature.
- RN has spoken to the residents who have again expressed concerns about overgrown hedges and poor condition of the verge on the road out of Marton. The Clerk to write to the landowner as the hedges are now obstructing pedestrians.
- Resident's email complaint regarding the visual portaloo on The Paddocks. The PC discussed this issue; whilst they sympathise with the resident they are unable to help as this not a planning issue. Clerk to respond.
- A request has been received from Simon Hill to photograph the phone box library - PC agreed.

- An Email from residents regarding the closure of footpath No. 7 and the muddy state of the road at the bottom of Goker Lane was discussed - Clerk to contact NYCC footpaths, Ure Walks and the landowner.
- HBC have sent notice of the next Parish Consultation meeting - Wednesday 24 September 2014.

Any other Business:

- LB thanked the working party for repairing the Grafton notice board.
- ND mentioned the poor state of the barn at the bottom of the hill in Grafton. RN has tried to contact the owner but without success. Clerk to contact HBC planning. Also NYCC regarding the safety cones which have been in place for 2/3 years.

The meeting was opened to the public:

- Resident complained about the pot holes on Limebar Lane - Clerk to contact NYCC Highways again.
- Resident complained about a large pothole on Stockfield Lane half way down. Clerk to contact NYCC Highways.
- The issue of overhanging trees on Stockfield Lane was raised - Clerk to write to the householders.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 5th June 2014 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 4th June 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Mr T Joynson (TJ) (Chair), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Prof A Long (AL), District Cllr A Alton (AA), County Cllr R Windass (RW), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (ZHM) Clerk

Apologies: Miss L Bullus (LB), Mr R Naish (RN)

Members of the public present: 17

Declarations of Interest: None

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

County Issues:

RW stated that extra funding from the Government and NYCC reserves have been released for Highways issues. In a cost cutting exercise, NYCC are withdrawing all non essential grass cutting services from Parish Councils in 2015.

District Issues:

AA advised that he has stepped down as Leader of the Council. The PC thanked AA for all his help and advice in that role. AA mentioned there will be consultation on the proposed HBC office move in early August.

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator:

BC gave an update on the incinerator.

2. Playing Fields:

Update given from RG via TJ on works carried out on risk assessment issues. The PC discussed a resident's request for a handrail to be placed by the steps leading up from the playground, PC to obtain costs and discuss at the July meeting. PC agreed to hire a skip for the removal of rubbish from behind the Cricket Pavilion and charge McG Cricket Club. Clerk to write to McG Cricket Club. Resurface of part of the play area needed as undergrowth has punctured the surface.

3. Village Shop:

Nothing to report.

4. Village Hall:

Nothing to report.

5. Planning:

- The Barn, Grafton Manor, Marton cum Grafton - planning application has been approved.

Accounts:

In: £50.00 Village Shop (insurance), Northern Powergrid £38.91
Out: £38.26 T3TC Ltd (website hosting) £133.47 Clerk's Salary, £72.00 Autela Payroll, £36.00 W Webster & Sons (Hedge cutting)

The end of year accounts were approved and signed off for onward transmission to the external auditor.

Correspondence:

- HBC regarding bulb allocation - PC agreed the choice to be crocuses. PC thanked Robin Lewis for planting the PC allocation last year.
- NYCC - regarding the withdrawal from April 2015 of non essential grass cutting.
- YLCA services provision - PC agreed this provision.
- Resident's email regarding proposed development in Marton - residents' concerns over the movement of the development line.
- Email received from Carter Jonas regarding the proposed development and village consultation on the 25th June. Clerk to request a copy of questionnaire in advance.

Any other Business:

The meeting was opened to the public:

- A resident queried the timeframe for NYCC works to Limebar Lane.
- Resident's complaints regarding the lack of patching works to the footpaths in Marton - Clerk to contact NYCC.
- Resident's complaints regarding the poor state of the tarmac surrounding the manhole at bottom of the hill in Marton. Clerk to contact NYCC.
- A resident complained that pothole on Thorny Hill Lane was again getting larger and deeper. Clerk to contact NYCC and Yorkshire Water.
- Clerk to contact Yorkshire Water regarding the poor state of a verge in Marton.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 3rd July 2014 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.26pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 3rd July 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Ms L Bullus (LB) (Chair), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Mr R Naish (RN), District Cllr A Alton (AA), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (ZHM) Clerk

Apologies: Prof A Long (AL), Cllr R Windass (RW)

Members of the public present: 11

Declarations of Interest: None

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

County Issues:

Nothing to report.

District Issues:

Reference was made to the withdrawn HBC Plan. A new planning policy will take up to 3 years to put in place and HBC expect an increase in new planning applications in the district. More staff have been employed in the planning department to account for this.

Preparations for the Tour de France are now in their final stages and the district is ready for this exciting event.

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator:

Brian Cooper gave an update. Thanks were given to BC and AA by LB on behalf of the PC.

2. Playing Fields:

RN reported that the previously discussed hand rail has now been installed; the PC approved the expenditure on the handrail of £200.00. Clerk to write to McG Cricket Club regarding the collection of rubbish from behind the clubhouse and hiring of a skip. RN to spray behind the clubhouse; PC agreed. RN met with the contractor regarding improvements to the entrance of the playing fields and will also contact Websters to cut back the bank side saplings by the courts.

3. Village Shop:

M Popple has discussed with Helen Tesseyman the route for the outlet pipe for the extractor fan vent. The options were discussed and the PC agreed.

4. Village Hall:

Nothing to report. M Popple confirmed that all the inspections were up to date with

the gas inspection carried out and passed recently.

5. Planning:

- Roughams Farm, Allerton Park - erection of 2 agricultural buildings and a feed silo - PC discussed this application at length and also heard views of the residents. It was decided the PC had no objections to the application but would flag up its concerns over the highways usage and degradation of the road. Clerk to write to NYCC Highways regarding the increase of traffic/width of tractors using the roads and mud on the road.
- Proposed development in Marton - there has been a presentation in the village by Carter Jonas on the 25th June of a possible layout. The PC would prefer to see a formal planning application. In the meantime, the Clerk will write to Gary Bell at HBC Planning and to Carter Jonas setting out the PC's views.

6. Parish Council Clerk:

The Parish Council has received the Clerk's notice to resign, however the Clerk is happy to carry on until a replacement is found. Notices advertising the position have been placed on the village notice boards and the Parish Council would welcome any applications. LB on behalf of the PC thanked Zoe for all her hard work over the last 3 years.

Accounts:

In: £3.28 (Northern Powergrid)
Out: nothing

Correspondence:

- A further email from a resident regarding a blocked footpath.
- Email from Ivy Close regarding the cleaning up of leaves and dirt in the gutter. Clerk to reply and give the HBC cleansing department telephone number.

Any other Business:

- Moles on Grafton Green - RN to take further action.
- Proposed purchase of a brushcutter for the woodland project - left for future consideration.
- ND advised that there is a route for residents to report potholes on the NYCC website which seems very effective.

The meeting was opened to the public:

- Residents complained of potholes on Legram Lane opposite Church Lane and by the bends on Grafton Lane. Clerk to chase.
- Complaint re lack of sign into the village. Clerk to chase.

- Residents complained of the poor state of the field at the back of Majestic House.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 4th September 2014 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 4th September 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Ms L Bullus (LB) (Chair), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Mr R Naish (RN), Prof A Long (AL), County Cllr R Windass (RW), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (ZHM) Clerk

Apologies: District Cllr A Alton

Members of the public present: 5

Declarations of Interest: None

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

County Issues:

The position with Allerton Park Incinerator was discussed.

RW reported that Government money had been released and spent on upgrading the highways and a significant amount of work has been completed after the busy lead up to the Tour de France. NYCC are drawing up draft plans regarding the scaling back of grass cutting in 2015. Parish Councils will have the opportunity to review the plans and highlight areas where there is a risk to safety at junctions and bends.

RN reported that NYCC Highway department are no longer doing tractor 'groins' to take the water away. This is dangerous and will degrade the roads - RW agreed to contact Highways on this issue. He also agreed to contact Boroughbridge Town Council regarding the poor state of the lay-by by the Aldborough cemetery.

District Issues:

Nothing to report

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator:

The Parish Councils group has continued its campaign throughout the summer and a final decision will be made by NYCC at an Extraordinary General Meeting at 2 pm on 24 September. It is hoped members of the public will attend to hear proceedings. Appreciation of the considerable time spent by Brian Cooper and AL was expressed by all.

2. Playing Fields:

The rubbish has been cleared from behind the cricket pavilion and the ground sprayed. The contractor has been contacted regarding the playing fields entrance and Websters asked to mow the bank. There is a weed problem with the tennis court surface - the contractor is attending to this.

RN has carried out the monthly inspection and flagged up rabbit holes as an issue. He is seeking advice on this. He will contact emergency services with the gate code to ensure they can gain access in an emergency. He will also ask the Cricket Club to take down the perimeter netting at the end of the cricket season and will spray off weed growth around the surface area of the playground.

3. Village Shop:

Nothing to report

4. Village Hall:

Nothing to report. LB mentioned that the WI had tidied up the village hall garden that day.

5. Planning:

- Revised Scheme for Westwinds, 8 Millfield - Planning permission granted by HBC.
- The Old Forge, Grafton - ground floor extension - PC had no objection.
- Glen Garth, Grafton - The PC had not taken up an invitation to attend an HBC Committee discussion on this item as they had no objection to the application.
- Holly Bank Farm - conversion of agricultural buildings to form warehousing and office space with the erection of 3 extensions and 2 new buildings, formation of hard standing to form new vehicular access and car parking, formation of soil storage area and infiltration pond and installation of package treatment plant - PC objected on the grounds that it is contrary to the HBC policy E8 which relates to development in the open countryside; this application is not farm diversification and not a small scale adaption of existing buildings.

6. Request for a memorial bench

A request from Mr & Mrs Becket regarding a memorial bench in memory of their daughter, Julie, was considered and will be discussed further with the applicants.

Accounts:

In: £24.39 VAT reimbursement, £1,200.00 Spellows (shop rent), £50.00 (Garage rent)
Out: £117.00 Mr R Grant (strimming etc), £220.00 D N Shepherdson (handrail)
£80.00 Clerk Payroll, £85.00 Mole Control (Grafton Green)

Two queries have been received from the Auditors regarding the end of year return which have been addressed.

Correspondence:

- Boroughbridge Council is considering building a skate park and sought information on ours.
- The PC has received an email of thanks from residents regarding the reopening of footpath no.7.

- North Yorkshire Police are recruiting 'Special' Constables and invite applications from local villages - posters have been placed on the notice board.
- HBC Parish Consultation meeting is on 24/09/2014.
- Email from a resident regarding overgrown hedges - Clerk has contacted the Landowner who is reminding the contractor to carry out the works.

Any other Business:

- The PC has advertised for a new Clerk and there has been some interest.

The meeting was opened to the public:

- Thanks were given to the PC from a resident regarding the tarmacing of the footpaths in Marton
- A resident complained regarding the overgrown hedges and verges on Grafton Lane - Clerk to contact Boroughbridge Town Council

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 2nd October 2014 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 2nd October 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Ms L Bullus (LB) (Chair), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Prof A Long (AL), Mrs Z Hartley-Metcalf (ZHM) Clerk

Apologies: Mr R Naish (RN), Mr T Joynson (TJ), County Cllr R Windass (RW), District Cllr A Alton (AA)

Members of the public present: 11

Declarations of Interest: None

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

County Issues:

Nothing to report

District Issues:

Nothing to report

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator:

A meeting of NYCC on 24th September formally approved the proposed incinerator at Allerton Park. This was a disappointing end to a long campaign based on a genuine belief that the proposed scheme locked ratepayers into a risky and expensive 25 year contract, when far cheaper, more efficient alternative means of waste disposal were available.

The PC expressed thanks to the Parish Councils Group for all their hard work and huge amounts of time given over the years; in particular AL and BC were warmly thanked for all their hard work on behalf of the community.

2. Playing fields

HBC playground inspection was considered, action points to be further discussed. Clerk to action.

3. Village Shop:

Nothing to report

4. Village Hall:

Nothing to report. Up to date with recent inspections and minor issues actioned.

5. Planning:

- Granary House, Peach Tree Farm, Reas Lane - replacement windows and doors - PC had no objections
- Grafton Grange, Limebar Lane - Erection of replacement dwelling and new detached garage - PC had no objections
- Glen Garth, Thorny Hill Lane - Outline planning for erection of 1 new dwelling behind the existing house - The Parish Council objected on the grounds that there is insufficient information on which to base a decision and the current access is too narrow to provide a shared driveway. A more detailed application is needed.
- Glen Garth, Thorny Hill Lane - Notice of Decision approving demolition of existing dwelling and construction of a replacement dwelling.

6. Appointment of new Clerk

The PC has agreed that Heather Stuart should take up the position of Clerk to the Parish Council on the 1st November 2014. Clerk to inform all relevant parties. The PC thanked the current Clerk for her support and hard work over the last 3 years.

Accounts:

In: HBC £1,675.00 (Precept)

Out: HBC £60.00 (Playground Inspection), PKF Littlejohn Accountants £360.00 (Audit), Parish Online £33.60 (Annual subscription), Clerk Payroll £80.00, HMRC £60.00, Clerk's Expenses £45.83.

- PKF Littlejohn Accountants have signed off the annual audit. The PC expressed their thanks to Frank Beckett, the internal auditor, for all his hard work.

Correspondence:

- HBC regarding council waste and budget consultation questionnaire
- NYCC regarding street lighting energy reduction programme - street lights to be turned off between midnight and 5 am to save money.
- Rambler's Association - email regarding rights of way issues within the Parish
- NYCC email regarding potholes on Grafton Lane - to be repaired within a maximum of three months.
- HBC email regarding 'call for sites' was discussed.

Any other Business:

Nothing to report.

The meeting was opened to the public:

- Resident's complaints regarding parents' poor parking around Marton village green at afternoon school pick up time. Clerk to contact the School.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 6th November 2014 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 6th November 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Ms L Bullus (LB) (Chair), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Prof A Long (AL), Mr R Naish (RN), County Cllr R Windass (RW), District Cllr A Alton (AA), Ms H Stuart (HS) Clerk

Apologies: Mr T Joynson (TJ)

Members of the public present: 10

Declarations of Interest: RN (see Planning)

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

County Issues:

RW briefed the Parish Council (PC) on the following issues:

Incinerator:

- There was financial closure on 30 Oct 2014.
- Associated road works and fencing on the A168 have commenced and it hoped these will be completed by Christmas 2014.
- Building works for the incinerator plant are expected to commence after Christmas and be completed by April 2017.
- Local Liaison Committee to be established - for residents and locals as a consultation group.

Library Services

- Alteration of library services: consultation is taking place to save £2.8m from 2017. Proposal is for a three tier establishment; staffed, hybrid, and community. Only one library to be staffed in the District, which is Harrogate. Hybrid and community libraries will be reliant on volunteers. NYCC will provide the books.
- LB asked RW to pass on the concerns expressed by members of the public.

Roadworks

- Highway maintenance programme has commenced - patch and then surface dress. List of the road maintenance programme released by Area 6 is available on the NYCC website.

District Issues:

AA briefed the PC on the following issues:

- Human resources realignment process continues and the number of senior management positions have been decreased, which should help to keep council tax at a similar level.
- Currently HBC are aiming to approve planning applications that will provide an additional 850 - 1050 houses pa. It is expected up to 1500 houses will be approved by spring 2015 mainly for Harrogate, Killinghall and Knaresborough with more to come in rural locations.
- AA clarified that designated "Greenbelt areas" are not open to building but there is very limited Greenbelt in Harrogate district. It is a misconception that open countryside is protected.
- Final version of "calling for land" consultation not expected to be finalised and published for approx 3 years.

RN referred to the impact of the Reed Boardall expansion and the impact of lorry parking on the A168. RW said it was an issue for the company and the planners have little support to overcome the problem even though council members have brought it to their attention.

Matters Arising:

1. Proposed Incinerator and update

RW provided update (see above). Residents' support throughout the campaign was acknowledged. AL and Brian Cooper to draft a closing email to the village.

2. Playing Fields

- HBC annual Play Ground Inspection - action points - to be circulated and Parish Council to assess the report.
- Rich Grant asked to keep access road clear.
- RN to push on car park
- Tennis courts to be closed for intense weed treatment.
- Playground weed spray attended to
- Stephen Marklew attending to fence.
- TJ recommencing the Woodland project after Christmas

3. Village Shop

Oven to be installed next week. Flue will go through the roof.

4. Village Hall

Taps dripping - being attended to.

Floor covering coming away in the corridor and is progressively getting worse - may need to be redone after the winter.

5. Planning

- Rougham Farm, Allerton Park - Notice of planning decision - approved.
- Beech House, Grafton Lane - Protected tree works application. No objections.
- Glen Garth - application withdrawn.
- PC noted that a barn next to the Pigeon cote has been demolished. RN declared an interest. LB to contact HBC planning department.
- Holly Bank Farm Ref: 6.71.187.FULMAJ 14/02687/FULMAJ - conversion of agricultural buildings to form warehousing and office space with erection of 3 extensions and 2 new buildings, formation of hard standing to form new vehicular access and car parking, formation of soil storage area and infiltration pond and installation of package treatment plant - invitation to attend HBC Planning Committee meeting 11 November 2014 at 2pm.
Parish Council decided it was not necessary to attend. The Parish Council noted that it had already expressed its objection and has documented and communicated this accordingly.

Accounts:

In: £1200.00 (Shop rent)
Out: HMRC VAT £124.40. Clerk payroll & expenses £85.98

Internal auditor has suggested we consolidate accounts into one current and one savings account instead of the current five accounts. To be discussed at next meeting.

Precept also to be decided at December meeting.

Correspondence:

- HBC invited PC to pay £500 or so per annum for litter/dog waste bins (or more if other villages do not sign up). The PC agreed to continue the current volunteer system for emptying dog waste bins.
- Letter from resident regarding the poor state of the graveyard. This is a PCC issue. A “busy-bee” has been organized by them for 8th Nov to tidy the graveyard. Funds are short but some are available from commuted sums.
- NYCC Highways email regarding potholes on Limebar Lane - continue to monitor until repairs can be completed.
- Signage into village - traffic team will respond in due course.
- NYCC to cease grass cutting - they will only cut grass at junctions for visibility. PC reviewed the junctions selected - Clerk to advise RW of requested changes. Clerk to remind PC to decide on village plan for 2015 and get quote from contractors for areas not cut by NYCC.
- Email from resident requesting PC to consider installing a “mirror” at the end of the road out onto “right turn” towards A168. PC advised highways do not generally approve mirrors as it is risk issue. Clerk to provide Highways contact details to resident.
- NYCC Notice No 501 regarding temporary 30 mph speed limit on A168 effective from 04.11.14 - 08.11.14

Any other Business:

AL briefed the PC on the police liaison meeting attended:

- Boroughbridge police station closing and moving to fire station.
- Distraction burglaries - targeting the elderly.
- Major changes at Dishforth. Night-time helicopter flights to be discontinued. 700 army personnel moving to site from Germany. Group highlighted the potential impact this may have on the local businesses and “night life”.

The meeting was opened to the public: No items discussed

Date of the next meeting: Thursday 4th December 2014 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed Dated

A meeting of Marton-cum-Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall, Marton on Thursday, 4th December 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Ms L Bullus (LB) (Chair), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Duxbury (ND), Prof A Long (AL), Mr R Naish (RN), Ms H Stuart (HS) Clerk

Apologies: County Cllr R Windass (RW), District Cllr A Alton (AA)

Members of the public present: 12

Declarations of Interest: None

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

County Issues: Nil reported

District Issues: Nil reported

Matters Arising:

1. Playing Fields

- PC reviewed the recent playground report and carried out an onsite inspection. PC concluded that some improvements need to be made; Replace swing seats and chains and when the weather improves for volunteers to paint the current structures.
- Woodland project - meeting to be held on 12th December for those who have expressed an interest to form a constituted group. Monies received for the group to allocate.
- No action on car park as yet. RN may seek alternative quotes.

2. Village Shop

- Oven installed. PC really happy with the shop, the facilities and support it provides the village. It has been confirmed that the flue has been installed through tiles. Clerk to contact Zurich insurance and advise of installation of cooker.

3. Village Hall

- Inspection being undertaken on 5th December 2014. A few electrical minor faults to be addressed.

4. Planning

- Enforcement notice received for Pigeon Cote Grafton Manor Barn following the demolition of stable and intention to erect building. Mr Mark Danforth (Senior Planner) is the officer dealing with this case.

Accounts:

In: £0.00

Out: £280.00 Marton Cricket Club - grass cutting, Clerk payroll £80.00, Dalton Enterprises £1140.00; Total = £1500.00

Internal auditor has suggested we consolidate accounts into one current and one savings account instead of the current five accounts. To be discussed at January meeting.

Precept - same amount as 2013/14 to be submitted.

Correspondence:

- Commuted sums infrastructure - letter from HBC - any funds already allocated to commuted funds will not be lost but future process/ fund to be established. Clerk to circulate letter to Parish Councillors and to discuss allocation of funds at the next meeting.
- Letter from a resident regarding road access to the new incinerator - asked PC if restrictions are in place to prevent heavy traffic on Braimber Lane. It was confirmed access is restricted to a maximum of 7.5 tonnes. Concerns to be brought to the attention of the Liaison Group by RN.
- School bus via Stockfield Lane - clerk to contact Eddie Brown to request driver to follow designated bus route of Thorny Hill Lane.
- Latest payroll process for Marton Cum Grafton Parish Council - Autela requested formal confirmation of the new clerk's salary. The PC approved continuation of a salary of £1200 p.a. for the new clerk.

Any other Business:

RN and ND reported back on their attendance at the first residents' liaison meeting with AmeyCespa and two representatives of NYCC. The main concern of those present was the A168 and A59 access, particularly for those residents that live behind the current site who are having to share access with firstly construction traffic and then the waste traffic. Group pressed that this is an issue for NYCC, who should address this on the residents' behalf.

Members of the public were asked if anyone would be interested in attending future liaison meetings to represent the village, along with any PC attendees.

The meeting was opened to the public:

- Request to be made to liaison group re plans for A59 access.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday 7th January 2015 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed Dated