

CHAIR: Councillor Julie Sadler  
CLERK: Mrs Juvina Janik  
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**MINUTES of HILLAM PARISH COUNCIL held Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
ONLINE VIA ZOOM PLATFORM at 7.30pm**

**1. Present and apologies**

Councillors Sadler (Chair), Lupton, Mitchell (from 7.45pm due to technical issues), Robertson and Tuddenham were present. County Councillor Pearson and District Councillor Mackman was also in attendance. Also in attendance: J. Janik (Clerk) and residents Jonathan Bracken, Julie Curran, Alison Judge (from 8.05pm) and Linda Walker. Apologies were received from Councillor Collinson who does not have access to the Zoom platform.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

**3. To receive Attendee questions on Agenda Items**

Mr Bracken had submitted questions in advance of the meeting as requested, relating to Agenda Item 4a. The chair invited him to address the Councillors with his questions at Item 4a.

**4. Planning Matters**

a) To discuss recent actions taken by Selby District Council Planning Department with regards to the unauthorised development of land on Hillam Lane, decide on any further actions to be taken by the Parish Council

Mr Bracken requested information on any success to date of other actions instigated following the failed stop notice:

Councillor Mackman summarised the actions that had been taken by Selby District Council – on the Saturday when development started a Temporary Stop Notice was served and details of the occupants of the land were taken, some work continued on the site in spite of the TSN. The District Council applied to the courts to have a temporary injunction served to prohibit any development taking place with the exception of sanitary facilities, this was granted and served later in the week, and was then extended indefinitely. The District Council have applied to the court for a full injunction to have the occupants removed, this is currently with the courts for review and the District Council must await the outcome.

Mr Bracken asked what action can be taken by SDC if the Injunction application failed:

Cllr Mackman explained that SDC would be forced to take the Planning Enforcement route, where the occupants will get 28 days to appeal against the Enforcement Notice and also have the right to submit Planning Applications which would go through the regular Planning Application system. Any Appeal by the occupants would go to the Planning Inspectorate, and will be subject to an inquiry, it will not be a District Council decision. *At this point 7.45pm, Cllr Mitchell joined the meeting.*

Mr Bracken asked about the provision and availability of Traveller sites within the District and whether the lack of such could be detrimental to the case for removal of the Hillam Lane site occupants:

Cllr Mackman explained that SDC have approved 20 new pitches around the district in the last 6 months, but each proposed site inevitably comes up against strong resistance and objections from the nearest residents. There is provision but the pitches are almost always occupied.

Councillor Sadler (Chair) then summarised the actions being taken by the Parish Council – after alerting the District Council as soon as fencing was starting to get built, the Parish Council have since been communicating

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with the District Council and the police about the matter. A letter calling for action was sent to the Chief Executives of SDC and NYCC, the NY Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, the Leader of SDC, the Head of Planning at SDC and Nigel Adams MP. SDC have acted swiftly and the PC will continue to lobby the authorities to keep the pressure on. **Action:** Hillam PC will be in touch with the neighbouring Parish Councils to ask that they do the same and it will also be writing to all local landowners to ask that they ensure land is only sold to those with a genuine interest and legitimate reasons for buying. The PC will also be requesting a more of a police presence due to reports of dangerous driving and other insalubrious activities but urge people who witness these activities to note down vehicle registrations or any details and report them to the Police.

*At this point 8.05pm Alison Judge (resident) joined the meeting*

Linda Walker requested that the PC ensure the residents of Hillam are informed about such planning matters including the current Application by Ten Acres' occupants (Agenda Item 4c). **Action:** The clerk will distribute the information via the Hillam News Facebook page and the village email network.

Regarding the occupants of the field driving over the verge to access the land, County Councillor Pearson explained there will be an access with the field but this will be permitted for Farm Vehicle Access only.

b) To receive and discuss pre-application plans for Maspin Grange Farm Councillors had reviewed the plans in advance of the meeting and in general the plans look acceptable, positively looking at sustainable and ecological design. It was agreed the original Hedgerows should be retained and this should be made clear. The main concern was the text that strongly suggested further development in the future and the fact that a further acre of land has been purchased.

**Action:** It was agreed to request the developer attend a meeting to discuss the development.

*During this discussion, at 8.20pm, Cllr Sadler, Cllr Robertson and Alison Judge lost connection, the meeting was paused to give the Councillors time to reconnect. A problem had occurred through Hillam and certain properties had no internet connection. Cllr Sadler called the clerk to be part of the meeting via speakerphone. Cllr Lupton took on the role of Acting Chair. Cllr Robertson and Alison Judge did not return to the meeting.*

c) Comments on Applications:

- i) Section 73 Application to vary condition 1 and 2 of Planning Appeal no. APP/N2739/C/14/2227549/50/51/52/53/54 continuation of the use of the Land as a gypsy caravan site, including the retention of caravans, hardstanding, lighting, outbuildings and chattels including sheds, a lorry/trailer body without the benefit of planning permission granted by appeal on 21 January 2016

Councillor Mackman has already lodged a request for this application to go in front of the planning committee rather than being determined by an individual officer. This will automatically happen if 10 letters objecting to the application are received. **Resolved:** Council will object for the following reasons and the residents of Hillam will be made aware via Facebook and email network:

- The site is in the Green Belt which is a highly protected area by both National and Local Planning policy
- The site is inappropriate development in the Green Belt and the Openness of the Green Belt is severely affected, already the site is detrimental to the Openness of the Green Belt area
- Concern over how much effort has been put in by the occupants to find alternative sites knowing the temporary period was coming to an end and still concerns over the businesses being run from the site without permission

*At this point 8.48pm Jonathan Bracken, Linda Walker and Julie Curran left the meeting*

- ii) Notices of decision – deferred whilst the clerk reviewed the list

## **5. To approve and sign the minutes for Hillam Parish Council Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record by Cllr Sadler who held the paper copy.

## **6. To receive County, District and Parish Councillors updates on items not on the agenda**

County Councillor Pearson:

- NYCC have agreed a bid to be submitted for consideration with regards to the move to a unitary authority. The bid is a proposal for a Single Unitary Council for the whole of North Yorkshire with the exception of York City Council which will continue as a Unitary Council in its own right.

District Councillor Mackman:

- SDC will be discussing its proposal for North Yorkshire to be divided into an East and West Unitary Councils at the next Full Council meeting.
- The Appeal from Woodyfuel in Birkin has been dismissed – apparently mainly down to the access issues and the damage being caused to the highways. Cllr Sadler reported the current pot hole problems, made worse by the increased HGV activity on Austfield Lane, to Cllr Pearson.

Councillor Tuddenham:

- Joint Burial Committee is working towards changes to ensure it is operating in line with the Good Practice and the updated Financial Regulations. A bank account will be set up by Monk Fryston Parish Council, who will be the lead overseeing Council to which the Joint Burial Committee will now be a part of. The signatories of the account will be the existing signatories for the Joint Burial Committee, not Monk Fryston Parish Councillors. Audit will go ahead as usual and all assets will be apportioned based on the split percentage of residents according to the precept.

### **4c) ii) Notices of decision**

There were no other Notices of decision other than the Woodyfuel Ltd Appeal

The dismissal of this appeal is thought to be excellent news for the people in Hillam and will result in the reduction of HGV traffic through the village, this traffic had been putting pedestrians in increased danger and damaging the road surfaces to the point where the edges had crumbled and disintegrated, narrowing the road further. The news is to be distributed via the Facebook page and village email network.

## **7. To receive the Clerk's report**

- Lights 38 and 24 reported as faulty
- Betteras Hill footpath to Hillam Lane - entrance path laid by Core Groundworks and NYCC have had the owner cut back the hedges. Core Groundworks also laid new pavers leading to the footbridge at the path to Monk Fryston.
- Ring Tree electrics are out, the tree was pruned on Sunday and the guy ropes were installed on Monday. Electrics will be going back in no later than 24<sup>th</sup> November. Invoices all included in this month's finance.
- Zoom annual subscription purchased, included in this month's finance.
- Community buildings sustainability project – presentation next month.
- One person interested in the vacancy – no formal application yet.
- Community Speed Watch – email received against the project.

## **8.To approve the NALC pay award for the clerk and discuss and decide if additional hours should be approved temporarily**

Cllr Sadler proposed and Cllr Tuddenham seconded that the pay award should be implemented. Resolved: All in favour – motion carried. Cllr Sadler will contact the payroll team. The hours will remain the same for the time being but can be reviewed should the workload increase on a regular basis.

## **9.To report any Village Maintenance matters to the clerk**

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- Cllr Sadler suggested the village may benefit from CCTV – for the purpose of anti-social behaviour such as fly-tipping. Council agreed this was worth looking into and Cllr Sadler will do some research with regards to the type and the locations that would benefit. The item will remain on the agenda.
- Quote for cleaning and re-varnishing the notice boards and the two benches in The Square was received from Steve Booth. Notice boards £90, Ring Tree bench £180, 2015 bench £80. This quote was deemed acceptable. The work is to be actioned by the clerk.
- Venerable Tree Care; following the pruning of the Ring Tree, clerk is to ask if they are interested in conducting an annual check-up of the tree and taking care of the guy rope maintenance and tightening.

**10. Finance matters**

a) The financial summary was received and the reconciliations were checked against the bank statements.

RESERVE ACC CASHBOOK			
OPENING BALANCE: 25.09.2020	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	CLOSING BALANCE: 23.10.2020
£ 1,230.53	£ -	£ -	£ 1,230.53
BANK STATEMENT BALANCE: 23.10.20			£ 1,230.53

b) The following payments were approved for November

**11. Meeting close 9.23pm**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_