

## MARRICK PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 1 February, 2018 at Marrick Institute**

**Present:** Mr Barrie Braithwaite (Chair), Mr Mark Hodgson (Vice-Chair), Mr Bob Bradford, Dr Martin Bryce, Mr Keith Stones

**Also present:** Mrs Louise Clarke

**Acting Clerk:** Mrs Pauline Cordner

7.30p.m.

**10 Minute Question and Answer Session:** i) Several complaints had been received from residents regarding the refuse collection service, some properties having had infrequent or no recent collections. The refuse bin outside the Institute had been overflowing, but was eventually emptied after Councillor Bradford had sent several requests. Councillor Bryce said the bin at Hurst crossroads was in a similar state. This would be reported. Councillor Stones pointed out the winter weather conditions had caused problems, as the roads into Marrick and Hurst had been treacherous at times. Councillors agreed that better winter maintenance was required which would assist service providers as well as residents.

ii) The road sign at the crossroads needed attention and would be reported to Highways.

iii) Councillor Bryce reported the bridge towards Schoolmaster Pasture had been damaged. Highways would be notified.

iv) Plans by Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority to raise council tax on second homes in the Dales was discussed at length, following concerns expressed by a number of homeowners. The plan was designed to help attract and retain families in the area.

According to YDNPA second homes denied a home to a permanent resident and pushed up prices, they generated a substantial economic loss to the area because for much of the time there was no-one in them spending money or using local services. However Councillor Hodgson made the point that second home owners often provided work for locals by using local tradesmen, restaurants etc. It was reported a charge of £8500 was planned on a Band D property, the full charge in Richmondshire was at present £1702.80, and currently some owners of second homes could receive up to a 50% discount. Council members agreed it would be preferable for all homeowners to pay the full amount of council tax, but such a large increase was unwarranted. Any increase in council taxes above 100% would require government approval. The rise would not apply to holiday lets.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** None

**2. Minutes:** The Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 30 November, 2017, previously circulated, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**3. Matters Arising:** Electricity Undergrounding Works: The Freedom Project Manager had offered to attend a site meeting to discuss the problems in Marrick, following the undergrounding of the electricity lines. Councillor Hodgson would contact him to arrange this. Councillor Bradford, who had also previously contacted Freedom & Highways on several occasions about the problems, would also attend the meeting, and a representative from Highways would be requested to attend.

**4. Declarations of the Existence and Nature of Interests:** None

**5. Planning Matters:** Update on application to remove agricultural occupancy condition at Moor View, Marrick. The meeting was informed that YDNPA Planning Department were awaiting a reply from the applicant's agent, before a decision could be made.

**6. Parish Land:** The Chair had nothing to report following his inspection of parish land.

**7. Management of Marrick Institute:** Councillor Hodgson was thanked for his work sectioning off the area of cloakroom space to provide secure storage. The insurance renewal for the Institute was due and would be attended to at the Institute meeting. The Annual General Meeting of the Institute would follow this meeting. There were no issues to raise.

**8. Appointment of Parish Clerk:** Notices had been placed regarding the vacancy for the position of Parish Clerk and an advertisement would appear in the Reeth Gazette. Some interest had been shown, but no application had yet been received. Mrs Cordner would act as Clerk temporarily, but did not wish to fill the vacancy on a permanent basis, having retired from the role previously.

**9. Transparency Code:** The meeting was informed that compliance with the Transparency Code was compulsory for all smaller authorities with a turnover of less than £25,000. The Acting Clerk reminded Members of the issues relating to local transparency and distributed information on items which should be published. It had been agreed at the September meeting that the Clerk would contact Richmondshire District Council with a view to including the Parish Council's information on their website. However, having studied the assessment criteria for the Government's Transparency Fund, which would enable the Parish Council to develop its own appropriate website, and in turn comply with the Transparency Code, it was resolved that Mrs Cordner and Councillor Bradford would source the items required and submit an application for funding.

**10. Financial Officer/Clerk's Report:** Bank balance of Community Account £3232.99. The Acting Clerk did not request a salary, but would be reimbursed for the stationery supplies which had been required. Authorisation was therefore given for the issue of a cheque to Mrs Cordner to the sum of £45.75.

**11. Correspondence:** Various items of general correspondence had been received for which no action was required.

**Date of Next Meeting:** The next meeting would be held on Thursday, 22 March, 2018 at Marrick Institute at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further items of business, the meeting closed at 8.14 p.m.