**STRENSALL WITH TOWTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

The Village Hall, Northfields, Strensall, York YO325XW

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Chairman : Mr A H Fisher

**MINUTES OF AN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

**Councillors Present:** Andrew Bolton Chris Chambers Tony Fisher1 Graham Green Lawrence Mattinson Alan May Daniel Pillai John Shirbon

**In Attendance:** Fiona Hill – Parish Clerk

**Public Present:** 1

1 City of York Councillor

1. **a) To receive apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting:**  Parish Councillors Chris Chambers and Susan Nunn **b) To consider the approval of reasons given for absence:** Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)
2. **To discuss the ordinary and casual vacancies** (Currently four)**:** Nothing to report
3. **To receive any declarations of interest under the Parish Council Code of Conduct or**

**Members register of interests:** None

1. **a) To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 08th and 22nd October**

**2024:**

Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)

**b) To endorse the approved Planning Committee minutes of 08h and 22nd October 2024:**

Resolved / Endorsed (Unanimous)

1. **Public participation on any subject relating to the agenda:** The Parish Council would seek advice from Atkinson and son regarding the wet areas on Northfield Park.

**24/180 To receive matters raised by/with City of York Ward Councillors:** Cllr Fisher reported that drainage covers had been stolen with Stockton-on-the-Forest, Skelton and Claxton.

**24/181 To discuss and, if necessary, agree action on matters arising/ongoing issues:** a)North Yorkshire Police monthly reports – Cllrs noted receipt of the October 2024 report.

b) Community Memorial Garden – Governance The Parish Council is still awaiting a draft of the legal document for both leasing and transferring ownership of the land from CYC. Three roses had been donated and would be planted.

c) Play Areas – post RoSPA works Resolved / The Parish Council accepted quotes from Park Lane – £2150.00 plus VAT for Northfields and £1950.00 plus VAT for Kirklands, for work as listed in the quotations. (Unanimous) Resolved / The Parish Council accepted quotes from Play Safety - £250.00 plus VAT for Northfields and £550.00 plus VAT for Kirklands, for conducting resistance penetration drill tests. (Unanimous)

d) Tree planting policy for non-councillors – currently drafting

**24/182 To discuss and, if necessary, agree action, on matters raised since last meetings:**

None

**24/183 To discuss matters raised by/with Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO):** a) Bank reconciliation, income received, payments made to date:

 

b) Payment Approval: None

c) Budget 2025-2026



d) Internal Controls Checks: The Interim Audit was delayed, but is now booked with Ruth Prins.

e) Yorkshire Local Councils Association: The Parish Council noted receipt of the National Joint Pay Scales for 2024-2025 and the back pay had been implemented.

f) Monthly Report from Parish Office:

Carnival - Saturday 14th June 2025

The Carnival Committee contacted the Parish Council about:

* Additional bins, similar to those at Haxby Carnival
* Additional emptying of parish bins before/after Carnival
* Parking restrictions (temporary) from the Village Hall to Brecks Lane (one side of the road) and on St Wilfrids Close and St Wilfrids Road

The Parish Clerk has contacted City of York Council who are assisting with these.

The Carnival Committee has asked the Parish Council for assistance as follows:

* Grant Funding – Grant giving policy and application form provided
* Volunteers – Is anyone able to assist with carnival day?
* Northfields Park – grass to be cut on Monday/Tuesday before carnival and the gate to be unlocked on the Friday prior to carnival
* Office – to be made available on carnival day

The Events Committee asked the Parish Council about –

* Land around St Wilfids Close/Road where the grass is/was overgrown. The land is privately owned, by the MOD, but I understand this will now be cut
* Tree Planting – the committee would like to fund and assist with planting some trees on the proviso that the Parish Council are happy to accept ongoing responsibility for the trees.
* Defibrillators – the committee has asked for suggestions of additional site.

Escheat Land

The Parish Councils insurance company has advised as follows:

“Although volunteers are covered under your policy, they wouldn`t be covered for working on land that no one has responsibility for i.e. there is no insurance place for said land.

Whilst it is a nice thing they will be doing to keep the area clean and tidy, we would advise against working on land with no insurance in place because if an injury arises due to the land being defective i.e. a volunteer trips on a hole or a tree root, then your policy would not pay out in the event of a claim, as the parish council has no legal responsibility for the land”.

Therefore, the Parish Council cannot allow anyone to work on their behalf on Escheat/Crown land.

Tree in memory of John Chapman

At the meeting on 12 March 2024 the purchase of Cherry trees, planting and locations was discussed. Cllr Fisher advised the possible Ward funding could be agreed, however this in no longer available.

Resolved / The Parish Council agreed to the purchase of a Cherry tree to replace the one which fell over and was removed on Northfield Park. The Parish Council will consult with the Chapman family regarding the wording of a plaque.

Grass Cutting (Additional)

York Landscapes has recently cut the grass on:

* The area adjacent to Kirklands Play Area, which was considered for wild-flowers as agreed at the last meeting.
* The area adjacent to the parcel cut annually by the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV) in preparation for 11 November, as a remembrance bench is sited there.

Fallen Leaves:

This year the Parish Council has received a few queries about fallen leaves. This is usually about trees on land owned/managed by the Parish Council, where leaves have fallen onto parishioners property. The Parish Council has advised that “Tree owners don't have to collect leaves that have fallen from their tree onto someone else's property. Tree owners also don't have to take back leaves that have been gathered from other properties”.

One resident asked – “I just wanted to double check the legality of something please before I go ahead. Is it okay and lawful for me to collect fallen leaves from public footpaths in Strensall - for the purpose of making leaf mould for my own garden? In view of the fact that lots of things have been tightened up environmentally, I didn't just want to assume that I can. Obviously, it goes without saying that if I am not allowed to, I won't”.

The Parish Council responded – “Thank you for your email. I am not aware of any laws which would prevent you from collecting leaves from public areas for personal use in your composter. The Parish Council would ask that you do not use a leaf blower, but has no objection to a rake. Below is some interesting information/tips, which I found when researching the topic”.

Here are the facts…

1. Fallen leaves on roads are cleared by your district or borough council.

‍2. Leaves on private land are cleared by the land owner.

‍3. Fallen leaves belong to whoever owns the land that they fall onto.

4. Tree owners don't have to collect leaves that have fallen from their tree onto someone else's property. Tree owners also don't have to take back leaves thathave been gathered from other properties.

‍5. It is unlawful to return fallen leaves back to someone else's land without their permission (this includes highway land such as the road and the paths and verges running alongside it).

‍6. Landowners or residents should never use a leaf blower (or other tool) to blow leaves from private land onto the road, pavements or grass verges.

‍7. It is unlawful to blow leaves from private land onto the highway. It can block drains and cause a hazard to road users. This also applies to other deposits including sap, fallen blossom, catkins, fruit, nuts, berries and cones.

So, next time you get your leaf blower out (or even your rake) to gather those pesky fallen leaves from your lawn, be mindful of where put them.

A top tip when leaf clearing

If you are collecting leaves from around your trees, you should not deposit them in a pile around the base of the tree. This will create an environment that will harm your tree.

Solar streetlight outside Durlston Drive SCYSA sports field

The SCYSA Chairman emailed the Parish Council as follows – “The approach and the car park at the Sports Club is very dark at night. I am looking at ways that it can be improved. There is a solar streetlight at the entrance gate of the Sports Club, but it does not seem to operate. Are you able to let me know it is broken, and if so, when is it scheduled to be repaired please? Please see images attached.

 

The Parish Council responded – “Thank you for your email. I cannot find any record of the Parish Council erecting this light and streetlights are usually the responsibility of City of York Council. I have reported it as a streetlight not working, to City of York Council, who will check if it their responsibility. Is it possible that it was obtained by SCYSA after they acquired the sub-lease?

Speaking to Cllr Nunn, her recollections are that it was purchased by Ward Cllr Sian Wiseman along with upgrading facilities such as the kitchen units, dishwasher etc.

**24/184 To confirm the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 10th December 2024 @ 7.00 p.m.:** Resolved / Approved (Unanimous)