

## **Bilsdale Midcable Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Chop Gate Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs M Bowes, D Hollingworth, C Devlin, I Brass and J Smith

In attendance: PCSO N Dunn, 2 members of the public and Clerk R Chapman

1. Apologies for absence received from County Cllr B Griffiths and District Cllrs R Hudson and R Kirk.
2. Declarations of any personal or prejudicial interests. None declared.
3. Minutes of the following meetings were reviewed and agreed:
  - a. AGM 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018
  - b. Closed meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 to select a new Councillor
  - c. Ordinary meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2018
  - d. The special planning meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> August
4. Matters arising from minutes:
  - a. Covered within Finance and Highways reports below
5. Police report:
  - a. PCSO Dunn reported that there were no recorded crimes in the Bilsdale area over the preceding 2 months
6. Finance:
  - a. The Clerk presented a summary of the financial status. Expenditure this year is projected to be within budget. The Chairman noted that the figure for total reserves included some grant money from the Transparency Fund that has not yet been spent. It was requested that future statements should show this part of the reserves separately.
  - b. The invoice for grass cutting has been received and payment of £429.60 to the contractor was authorized. Since this grass cut was performed later than normal, a second cut will not be needed
  - c. Some annual donation cheques have not yet been prepared for sending. These will all be sent before the year end in order to have them cleared for the end of the BMPC financial year.
  - d. The BMPC donation towards printing costs for the Bilsdale Beacon was higher than required in 2017/18. The donation will be reduced to £30 for the current year to compensate. The Editor of the Beacon was present at the meeting and confirmed that this was satisfactory.

- e. The closure of the Stokesley branch of HSBC makes it more difficult to deal with the bank but is indicative of the general move towards internet banking. The meeting reaffirmed the desire to move towards online administration of the bank account. This would include authorization of small payments online by a single signatory, provided that documentation exists to show that each such payment has been authorized in accordance with the Financial Regulations of the Council. There would be 3 signatories with online authority. Clerk to make enquiries with HSBC and report back.
- f. The BMPC Financial Regulations are due for update and this should incorporate any changes with online banking. Since all BMPC financial affairs are governed by the Financial Regulations, no new practices can be adopted until the Regulations are updated.
- g. New arrangements for VAT accounting are coming out in 2019. This will normally require special software for compliance which could come at cost. BMPC normally does a VAT reconciliation approximately at 3 yearly intervals with the next one being due by 2020. The Clerk understands that there may be a VAT claim outstanding from before his appointment. Meeting agreed that it would be prudent to bring forward the next VAT reconciliation and have it completed before the new accounting arrangements come into force.

#### 7. Highways:

- a. Meeting noted that apart from a new roadside grate on Carlton Bank, there has as yet been little progress on the action list following the meeting with NYCC Highways Area 2 on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017.
- b. There are some loose kerbstones in Chop Gate. This is a recurrent problem and a long term solution may be needed.
- c. Highways will be monitored and a followup meeting with Highways will be requested when necessary.

#### 8. Planning applications:

- a. NYM/2018/0170/FL High Crossletts                      Meeting noted that the proposed design has been changed. No comment needed.
- b. NYM/2018/0335/LB High Ewecote                      Meeting noted that this application has been withdrawn
- c. The meeting also confirmed the conclusions reached at the special planning meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018
  - i. NYM/2018/0451/FL Reprofile land at Mount House Farm      No Objection
  - ii. NYM/2018/0479/FL Track works at Mount House Farm      No Objection

iii. NYM/2018/0449/LB Conversion of former Methodist Chapel to holiday accommodation                      Objection due to unsatisfactory parking arrangements and the adverse impact on social amenity for close neighbours.

d. Draft National Park Plan.                      The 'Preferred Options' document has been studied. Councillors noted that the Chop Gate cricket pitch and school playing field are designated 'Community Spaces' but the document does not acknowledge that these are owned by private individuals who make the spaces available to the community. The owners would not wish any such designation to prevent them from using their own land as they see fit. BMPC will respond to the consultation by simply welcoming the new plan, with no comments.

#### 9. Remembrance Day 2018

- a. Cllr Smith reported that she routinely cares for the area around the war memorial including looking after the roses.
- b. Cllr Smith will inspect the memorial for safety prior to the Remembrance Day ceremony.
- c. Some railings around the memorial may be appropriate and there is a special fund that could provide a grant for this.
- d. Cllr Hollingworth reported that Mr Barker has agreed to make a speech during the ceremony, as in previous years and that Mr Barker will also arrange for a bugler.
- e. The Clerk reported that Dr Heading regrets that she is not available to take part in the ceremony this year. At the suggestion of Dr Heading, Mrs McGee has offered to say a closing prayer at the ceremony.
- f. The Clerk has received confirmation that the Police will be on hand to supervise the road closure.
- g. The Clerk is awaiting confirmation from Hambleton District Council of the road closure order but has already received provisional authorization.
- h. The Clerk has arranged for a wreath from Royal British Legion. The meeting agreed a donation of £40 to RBL.

#### 10. UK Government consultation on policy for shale gas exploration

- a. The Government is considering classifying exploratory drilling for shale gas deposits as 'permitted development' and is seeking comments.
- b. National Parks are specifically excluded from that proposed regulatory relaxation. Even given the technical feasibility of directional drilling from outside the Park boundary, it is highly unlikely that Bilsdale would be impacted by the proposal.
- c. Councillors nevertheless expressed concern about the vulnerability of private water supplies. The Bilsdale community is wholly dependent on a multitude of private water supplies and frequently, these are barely adequate to meet demand.

- d. Shale gas drilling would involve drilling through the aquifers on which rural communities depend. This could put private water supplies at risk of contamination and also of reduced supply through flow diversion. Councillors agreed unanimously that classifying such projects as permitted development would reduce the level of scrutiny. This in turn might encourage operators to be less thorough with their risk assessments thereby putting private water supplies in jeopardy.
- e. The Clerk will respond to the consultation and notify the BMPC viewpoint to Yorkshire Local Councils Association. Chairman will liaise with north York Moors National Park Authority.

11. Next meeting is planned for Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Chop Gate Village Hall

R Chapman, Clerk, Bilsdale Midcable Parish Council