

# GRINTON & ELLERTON ABBEY PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Grinton and Ellerton Abbey Parish Council held in St Andrews Church, Grinton on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllr Coates (Chair), Cllrs Barningham, Jones, Porter and Forest, the Clerk, press reporter T Little, David Bowe and Emily Mellalien – NYCC, Chris Ashcroft – Environment Agency, Leah Humphries – Yorkshire Water, Tony Clarke and Angie Dale – RDC, Alan Hulme - YDNPA and 15 members of the public

## 1. Apologies:

J Fletcher-Lee

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

The minutes of the meetings held on 1<sup>st</sup> July and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 having been circulated were approved and signed.

## 3. Flood Recovery Updates:

Chris Ashcroft, Environment Agency: The works by the Agency on Grinton beck are now complete, 100 tonnes of material have been removed from the Beck and 400 tonnes from the River Swale. The removed materials are stored locally and are available people to access if they require it for tracks etc. At total of £25,000 has been spent.

David Bowe, NYCC: Restoring road access to the area has been a priority with the B6270 quickly re-opened. The landslip has been permanently fixed and a temporary bridge has been put in place at Cogden Hall. The bridge on Grinton Moor is also now open with a temporary bridge but this took slightly longer than anticipated, opening just passed the advertised date. The route of the UCI World Championships will now remain the same. Work is now on-going on the design of the permanent repairs to both bridges with actual works on the ground starting after winter and hopefully in early spring. There should be relatively little inconvenience to road users whilst these works are carried out with perhaps some minor traffic management. Mitigation works on Grinton Beck have been carried out working with RDC and contractors used via the Environment Agency, All materials that have been removed are stored locally and can be access for track repairs etc. NYCC have spent a total of £61,000. The works being commissioned by RDC via Emergency Recovery i.e. risk to life and property in the future and should be recoverable by the Bellwin Fund.

Leah Humphries, Yorkshire Water: All properties now have access to a clean water supply. Any blue pipes that still can be seen are from private water supplies. All properties except Moor House have been reconnected to the public sewer. There are currently still some temporary pipes that will be replaced with permanent ones once tracks etc. have been re-instated. With regard to the four properties between Corner House and Heather Lea, YW are currently liaising with insurance companies and property owners. Monitors have been placed into the sewers and should anything be disturbed this will trigger the monitors to alert YW of the situation.

Tony Clark, RDC: The authority has now moved into further recovery stage and is collecting silt from properties and gardens. Council tax discounts are available to flooded properties and to date £100,000 worth of discount have been taken up. The main role of RDC now is to get money from central government via the Bellwin Fund. A total of £250,000 has so far been spent. The claim can only contain works that have been completed by 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The claim should be submitted within the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Alan Hulme, YDNPA: All footpaths and bridleways have now been surveyed. A total of 10 bridges have been destroyed. The footbridge at Ellers on the Coast to Coast path has already been replaced. There are legal closures on 16 routes. A total of 3.5 km of routes have been damaged within Swaledale and Arkengarthdale. None of the works needed qualify for Bellwin Fund money and no other funding has been secured. Lord Gardner, Under-Secretary of State for DEFRA has visited the area and is pushing hard for funding to repair the public rights of way. A total in the region of £600,000 will be required for all the repairs needed and around £18,000 has already been spent. The budget for Rights of Way is already set until March 2020 so some works may have to wait until the new financial year. Over 1,000 volunteer hours have been used clearing paths and bridleways. Rights of way can be closed for 21 days on an emergency closure notice then for 6 months on a temporary closure notice and if further closure is needed an application must be made to the Secretary of State justifying why it is necessary. If signs are ignored then YDNPA have no liability but if signs have been moved or gone missing the authority will be liable.

#### Questions and Answers:

##### Richard Sharp – East View

Q. Thanks to NYCC for the works so far but the beck under the road bridge on Moor Road is still silted up and endangering properties if there was another flood. Also the road bridge at Brownagill on the Harkerside road has damage to the parapet wall that has not been repaired.

A. David Bowe - NYCC – The culvert under the bridge is NYCC's responsibility to clear and it would be looked at again. The responsibility for any other sections of the beck would fall to the riparian owners. There is no legal obligation for NYCC to take the river bed back to its previous level. If the community wishes to remove more debris from the river bed NYCC would be happy to advise but as a river bed is a constantly changing environment it would not necessarily be at the same level as before and there will never be a situation when there is no risk of flooding. A Section 19 report is being compiled to look at the ways to reduce the risk of flooding.

The bridge on Harkerside will also be checked.

##### Anne Coates – The Grange:

Q. Would Yorkshire Water be undertaking works on the exposed blue water supply pipes as they will need to be looked at before winter to stop supplies freezing?

A. Leah Humphries – Yorkshire Water – Although Yorkshire water have reconnected all properties to a clean water supply, their responsibility for water supply pipes ends at the public highway and they then become a private supply that homeowners are responsible for. They can offer advice as to how to protect these pipes and to what depth they need to be buried but are unable to undertake this work.

Catherine Weetman – Flood Group:

Q. Would there be any future dredging of the River Swale?

A. Chris Ashcroft – Environment Agency – There are no plans to routinely carry out dredging, it would be an emergency measure only but the river bed will probably self-cleanse anyway.

Keith Webster, Waterford House:

Q. Is this something that the Environment Agency monitor or would it be the job of the Flood Group?

A. Chris Ashcroft – Environment Agency – The Flood Group are the eyes and ears on the ground and any concerns can be passed onto the Agency.

Catherine Weetman – Flood Group:

Q. Would the supply of sandbags at Grinton Youth Hostel be replenished?

A. Tony Clark – RDC – This will be checked and will be reported back to the Parish Council.

M Bilton, Pedley House:

Q. Pedley House was flooded from water running from the beck down the road. The river bank of the Swale has been damaged by the volume of water that came down via the road, will the riverbank be re-instated?

A Chris Ashcroft – Environment Agency: The Agency will check the area.

G Coates, Parish Council:

Q. Would the various agencies be able to advise the Parish Council regarding the best ways for them to spend funding received to enable the best results for the Parish?

A. Emily Mellalien – NYCC: A Section 19 Report is being compiled that will look at what happened and contributed to the flooding. This was a very exceptional event and there are no measures that could be taken that would prevent it happening again. However, it is possible to identify pinch-points and the report will highlight these and offer recommendations to elevate them in the future. A drainage study is also being carried out by NYCC and all the information will be available to the community when it is completed. The Section 19 Report will be published in January 2020.

Mrs Henderson – The Vicarage

Q. How was the Two Dales Ridings Funding being distributed?

A. Caroline Hewlett, Vicar: The Two Dales Ridings are administering the funds on behalf of the various fundraisers and funding streams. Money will be available to each of the affected Parish Councils. Stage 1 payments of £300.00 each are available to every flooded household. Stage 2 payments are also available for further payments and the CAB have caseworkers going out to help the public with the application process.

Cllr Coates thanked all the agencies for attending the meeting and for their hard work during the flooding and stated people appreciate all their efforts.

**The Officers of the various agencies then left the meeting.**

#### **4. Correspondence:**

##### The Two Ridings Community Foundation:

£10,000 has been given by Ard Rock for the Parish. The money will be paid via the Two Dales and a separate bank account has been set up for the funds.

Lord Peel has also donated £1,000 to the Parish and also donated an unknown sum to the Two Ridings Foundation with the instructions that it should be distributed between Reeth, Fremington and Grinton.

Another £1,000 donation has also been received from a Mrs Hutchinson who sent a cheque to the Chair.

##### Michael Briggs, YDNPA Ranger:

An email has been received confirming that the footbridge over Grinton Beck near Waterford House will be replaced. It was felt that the bridge should be painted white as the original one was. A site visit will be arranged with the Ranger.

##### C Weetman and M Jones, Beck Cottage:

The Chair read out a letter received regarding works that are to be carried out in the area of Beck Cottage and Blaeberry. The owners of the property requested the permission of the Parish Council to go ahead. This was agreed unanimously.

The Parish Council are not the owners of the track at this location nor Vicarage Bridge. The registered village green is on both sides of the beck near The Grange. Cllr Coates has spoken to Jayne Applegarth at NYCC regarding the commons registration for the Parish and has received 16 pages of information.

##### K Webster, Waterford House:

The owner of the property has requested permission to cross the village green to carry out works in the beck near his property. It was decided that more details were required of the exact works to be carried out. Cllr Jones will speak to Mr Webster to clarify this.

##### RDC

##### Polling Station Review:

The recent review of polling stations in the district has recommended that the usual site of the Village Hall will no longer be used and that residents will have to go to Reeth to cast their votes. It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Porter that the Parish Council object to this. When put to the vote the proposal was defeated by 3 votes to 2. However it is possible that individuals can express their view via the RDC website.

## **5. Finance:**

A cheque was signed for Northern Electric

## **6. Any Other Business:**

Removal Notice in Public telephone box: a notice has appeared in the telephone box stating that it will be removed due to lack of use. Consultation regarding this is stated to be via RDC. As nothing has been received from RDC regarding this the Clerk will contact them to object to any removal.

## **7. Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

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The next meeting will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.15pm in the Village Hall