

**A MEETING OF COPMANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL was held on TUESDAY,
14th FEBRUARY 2023 in the HOWELL HALL, SCHOOL LANE, COPMANTHORPE
at 7.30 pm.**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR ROBERT WEST Chairman
COUNCILLOR GRAHAM AUTON
COUNCILLOR DAVID CARR
COUNCILLOR TIM DUFFY
COUNCILLOR LARS KRAMM
COUNCILLOR DAVID SMITH
COUNCILLOR MRS MEGAN TAYLOR
COUNCILLOR PETER WHITFIELD**

**Mrs P D Greenwell Clerk
Six members of the public**

Before the business of the Meeting began Dr Glenis Wedzicha sought advice from the Parish Council as to how best to raise significant financial funding to make much needed improvements to the Children's Play Area at the Recreation Centre, which is in continuous use throughout the year. She believes that £100k plus will be needed. Cllr Kramm suggested that she approach Sports England and the Two Ridings Foundation. Dr Wedzicha has started to speak with parents and carers who bring children to the Play Area to seek their views on what they would like to see there. Cllr Auton suggested that Section 106 monies could be available from housing development sites in the village – Tadcaster Road and Moor Lane.

Mr Oliver Kneen spoke about Step Lightly – a Social Enterprise Company which he is setting up to help restore natural habitats and encourage biodiversity. He will start small, by working with owners of some of the gardens in the village. By way of illustration, he said that last year the grassed area at Vavasour Court was left uncut and is now home to a large range of plants and insects. He believes that we should be aiming to turn areas which are currently just grass into wildflower meadows. However funds are needed to set up this Enterprise, and Cllr Duffy suggested that he apply for funding from the Parish Council. He should also speak further with Cllr Kramm, and with the Scouts, who are both keen to encourage this kind of activity in public spaces in the village.

A resident raised her concerns about the newly installed signage at the Convenience Store. The Parish Council has reported this to CYC for Enforcement Action. The owner has since been told by CYC to apply for retrospective Planning Consent and, in the meantime, to switch off the night time illumination – which he has agreed to do.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr John Dobson
Cllr Tim Jarrett

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and DISPENSATIONS

None.

- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on Tuesday, 10th January 2023,**
having been previously circulated, were PROPOSED by Cllr Auton as a true and correct record of that Meeting. SECONDED by Cllr Carr. ALL IN FAVOUR.

4. NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

Very little to report. The damage to Low Green recently caused by a vehicle has been reported to the police.

5. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

a) Planning

The monthly report had been circulated.

A fully tarmacked front garden to a property on Manor Heath will be reported to CYC.

Cllr Mrs
Taylor

CYC are not intending to take any action on the property at Croft Farm Close. This could be an area suitable for re-wilding.

Enforcement Action is being sought in respect of the new signage at the Convenience Store.

b) Roads and Footpaths

Damage to the verge at the junction of Top Lane and Horseman Lane is probably being caused by large delivery vehicles, vehicles going through the village to the railway compound, refuse collection wagons and assorted other large vehicles. It is accepted that the buses are probably not responsible.

The bollard at the shopping centre car park has been knocked down yet again. A number of complaints have been received about the general condition of the car park. The Clerk will write to the owner seeking appropriate repairs. Clerk

Cllr West PROPOSED that a Working Group be established to formulate a response to the CYC Cycling Infrastructure Plan. Cllr West will be joined by Cllrs Kramm, Smith and Whitfield.

The Clerk noted that the village seats are in a poor state of repair. Cllr Auton will contact Community Payback to ask if they can help with refurbishment of the seats.

Cllr
Auton

c) Finance

An updated budget has been circulated. Cash reserves are still adequate for this stage in the financial year, and reserves are still ring-fenced for various items as before.

d) Allotments and Green Spaces

The last meeting had been well attended by allotment holders who were largely happy with facilities at the allotment site. Those present felt that maybe they should form themselves into more of a community, for example in order to share information and knowledge as well as seeds and spare produce. The Parish Council will support this in any way that it can.

The wood chippings are being left by Brighter Gardens, for the use of anyone who wants to take them.

6. COPMANTHORPE WARD

Cllr Carr noted that train speeds at the current crossing point on the railway will be considerably greater than they are currently, and that his main concern is that this already dangerous crossing is closed before it becomes even more hazardous.

The fallen bollard at the junction of Hallcroft Lane and Manor Heath has been replaced.

A solar powered street light is to be installed at the bus stop close to Smithson Court, using Ward funding.

The latest, and hopefully final, modifications to the Draft Local Plan are now out for consultation. These documents have been received by the Clerk and circulated to members.

7. WEED CONTROL PILOT SCHEME

Details of a pilot scheme for dealing with weeds in the verges have been circulated. It was AGREED that Copmanthorpe would take part in this Scheme which would entail a reduction in the amount of pesticides being used.

8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The final version, after various amendments, was handed in to CYC 5 weeks

ago. Receipt has been acknowledged, but further comments have yet to be received.

9. YORKFIELD LANE and RAILWAY CROSSING

The survey of the entire length of the Lane has been carried out, and A1 size prints of the findings acquired.

The exhibition staged by Network Rail for residents had been well attended, but no new suggestions had been put forward by NR. Two Zoom meetings have been held with Cllr d'Agorne and Officers from CYC, and notes circulated. Parish Council members are in agreement that the present dangerous pedestrian crossing must be closed, but were not able to reach a consensus on what kind of bridge would be acceptable. It was therefore AGREED that a further meeting with Network Rail would be sought in an effort to persuade them to explore other options. Julian Sturdy, MP and representative(s) from Bishopthorpe Parish Council would also be invited.

Cllr
Smith

10. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

There are currently 16 volunteers. All the necessary equipment has now been received, and deployments will start again on 1st March.

11. VEHICLE ACTIVATED SPEED SIGNS

Further information from CYC is awaited.

12. DEFIBRILATOR

It is likely that the School will be offered a second defibrillator, which will be sited outside the school. Members AGREED that the Parish Council should support this by paying for batteries and replacement pads as needed.

13. NOTICE BOARD AND HERITAGE BOARD

The application for advertisement consent will be submitted shortly. The Clerk had circulated photographs and prices for a notice board and heritage interpretation board from the same supplier as the new Church notice board, and it was AGREED that these should be purchased once planning consent is received. The total cost will be just short of £3,000, plus installation.

Clerk

It was noted that the old village sign, which is to go on the gable end of

Howell Hall, is not yet in situ.

14. SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL

A suggestion has been put forward for a swimming pool to be sited on the development site at the top of Moor Lane. Members believe that it is very unlikely that the developer will be willing to give up any land for this purpose, and in any case the increase in traffic along Moor Lane (about which the Parish Council has already expressed its concerns), and the difficult of emergency Vehicle access would make this project not viable. The Clerk will respond. Clerk

15. PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Only one qualifying photograph has been received, so the competition will not take place this year.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Network Rail is accompanied by a map from Carter Jonas showing that the Parish Council owns an area of land close by the railway. This is incorrect, and the Clerk will respond accordingly. Clerk

The Clerk has had some correspondence with a gentleman in the Isle of Man on the subject of the Drome Smallholders Association. He has sent a map and various documents, which will be added to the Heritage Trail before being returned to the originator. Clerk/
Cllr
Whitfield

17. APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Clerk explained that the firm which has carried out our internal audit for the past several years is not able to do so this year. She has made enquiries of three firms, from a list of approved suppliers sent by YLCA. Cllr Duffy, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, PROPOSED that Naomi Goddard be appointed as our Internal Auditor for this year. SECONDED by Cllr Auton. ALL IN FAVOUR. Clerk

18. ACCOUNTS**Balances at the Bank**

Business Current Account	£	48,047.08
Business Money Manager Account		22,013.64
	£	70,060.72

Credits to the Account this Month

City of York Council – Ward grant for Peace of Cake	£	175.00
Re: Tony Morton		80.00
CYC – advertisement consent fee for notice boards		66.00
Re: Allotments		25.00
Clerk's expenses overpaid		258.30
Re: Gerald Peter Myler		375.00
	£	979.30

Accounts to be Paid this Month

Peace of Cake – Ward grant	£	175.00
Electrotest – repairs to clock at the Medical Centre		99.00
Wel Medical Limited – defibrillator pads		73.08
NextGen Clothing Limited- hi-viz vests for Community Speedwatch		72.00
CYC – application for advertising consent for notice boards		66.00
John Dobson – re Coronation village picnic		60.56
IncDot – printing re Yorkfield Lane		24.12
P D Greenwell – salary		474.40
	£	1,044.16

Bank charges for month to 24 December 2022 - £24.50

The adoption of these Accounts was PROPOSED by Cllr Duffy. SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Taylor. ALL IN FAVOUR.

Following a suggestion from Cllr Duffy, Cllr Smith PROPOSED that Coronation commemorative medals be purchased for all children in the village under the age of 11, at a cost of approx. £1,000. These monies will come from the General Reserve. All other expenditure in relation to the Coronation weekend has been budgeted for. SECONDED by Cllr West. ALL IN FAVOUR. The medals will be presented at the school to all the children by Cllr Carr, the present Lord Mayor of York.

19. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Coronation event.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 14th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Howell Hall. This will be preceded by a Meeting of the Planning Committee at 7.00 pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28th March 2023 at 8.15 pm, and will be preceded by a Ward Meeting, to be chaired by Cllr David Carr, at 7.30 pm

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 10.10 pm

Signed Clerk