

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN SAXTON VILLAGE HALL
TUESDAY 22 JANUARY 2013

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Present

Mr. M. Spencer Mr. B. Wilson
Ms. C. Barrowman Ms J Marshall
Mrs E Hodgson



Several members of the public were in attendance – Paul Jordan, David Readman, Peter something and his wife and Nadine Buck, the concern of all of whom was the flooding in the village. For this reason the Chairman brought the item to the fore.

Apologies for Absence

These had been received from Cllr. Mr. G. Fairclough

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

These were signed as a true record.

Drainage

Cllr. Ms Marshall began by saying that Blakeys, whose – July 2012 – tender was the lowest, had now advised that they needed to increase their price due to an increase in the cost of materials which will take place in February 2013; it was acknowledged that their tender price had been valid for 6 weeks only. In addition, they had pointed out by letter sent to Ms Marshall that they could not be certain that it is possible to use a pipe of 600mm diameter beneath Manor Drive due to the now known sewer inverts, plus they recommended the use of ½" thick steel piping beneath Manor Drive instead of ¼" thick plastic piping, which would be more expensive and necessitate the use of extra machinery to move them, so that a further cost of between £2000 and £3000 was envisaged.

Questions were now taken from the public, and David Readman began by drawing attention to the adverse publicity generated by the media coverage of the most recent floods. Ms Marshall insisted that on the first occasion she had been approached by the media, but did concede that on the second occasion she had approached the media herself. Later in the meeting the Parish Council was asked directly what action had been taken to counter the adverse publicity, but no answer was given. He then asked for clarification over whether the Parish Council were in fact in contract with Blakeys, and if they were how could there be extra costs now mooted. Ms Marshall advised that the Parish Council is not in contract with Blakeys, but **is** in contract with A.R.P. Building Consultancy, Adrian Pollock being the contract engineer. She confirmed that a letter of appointment had been signed, also advised that the scheme along Saxton Lane had been undertaken by Balfour Beatty under the auspices of North Yorkshire County Council, but that NYCC had declined to become involved in the Main Street work.

Regarding the Main Street work, Ms Marshall reported that four contractors had been approached, three tenders received, and this was detailed on page 395 of the Minutes. Asked why the lowest tender had not been accepted, the Chairman pointed out that the permission of Mrs Robinson had not at the time been received. The involvement of Jenny Lambert of the Land Drainage Consultancy was then discussed, and the former P.C. Chairman, Paul Jordan, gave his opinion that this company would have been willing to supervise the work in its entirety had they been approached. The PC expressed itself indebted to Ms Marshall for the sterling work she had put in, but felt that it was unfair to expect her to take responsibility which should rightly be that of a drainage professional, and discussion now ensued over whether negotiation could legally be undertaken with Blakeys, or whether a new tender should be put out, and it was decided that initially the Chairman would contact Ms Lambert, and Ms Marshall would obtain a copy of his letter of appointment from Adrian Pollock, since this was missing from the file.

Turning to the visit of our MP, Nigel Adams, complaint had been made that this had been held in camera, whereas there were emails in which Mr. Adams clearly offered to take questions from interested Saxton residents. The MP's assistant, Howard Ferguson, had promised to follow up on the question of enforcement regarding the water running into the village from the fields to the south and west, also the bottleneck created by Quarry Bridge on the north side of Saxton Lane.

* awaiting info. from someone!