

Land in Scarthingwell Park

A reply had been received from the Land Registry and circulated among members. It had been confirmed that there was indeed land in the ownership of the Parish Council, and the Clerk has followed this up by email, to discover the precise extent of the land, also to obtain title deeds to it. The question of further land in the ownership of the Parish arose, and the Clerk retrieved the title deeds to the Village Hall. Simon Rounding, a solicitor and former Parish Councillor, had reconstituted these deeds, and the Clerk was instructed to consult with him over any possible further land in the Parish in the ownership of the Council.

Attendance by Cricket Club Trustee

Chris Dennison, a trustee of the Cricket Club, was in attendance and requested a grant of £350 for the purchase of a fridge/freezer for the new pavilion; this was agreed. Mr. Dennison then presented a proposal that a new village hall could be built, funded by English Heritage, provided it incorporated a visitor centre for Towton Battlefield. He suggested that a feasibility study – which would be required whatever extraneous funding was sought – might be commissioned from the practice with which he works, at a cost of £2000. The Clerk suggested that in view of the considerable cash grants already made to the Cricket Club by the Parish Council, reciprocally the feasibility study might be provided free of charge, but this suggestion was not well received by Mr. Dennison. The Parish Council went on to express their concern at the increased traffic a visitor centre would engender, and the consensus of opinion was not to proceed. Mr. Dennison announced the official opening of the new pavilion on Sunday the 23rd June at 12 o'clock, and invited member of the Parish council for 11 o'clock. Cllr. Mr. Fairclough asked when the groundsman's shed would be roofed, and was advised that this would be before the end of season.

Drainage

The Chairman advised that Walsh Brothers' quotation was in the region of £30,000, but that the excavation of the dyke in front of The Cottage could increase or reduce the price, depending on the condition of the retaining wall and lining, which could not be determined until the work has begun. Under the circumstances, the Chairman suggested, and it was agreed, that the work should proceed in stages, beginning with the digging out of this dyke. It was felt that this would ameliorate the flooding threat to Manor Cottage, to the residents of which the Chairman pointed out the Parish Council had a duty of care. Cllr. Mr. Fairclough took pains to allay the anxiety felt by Cllr Ms Marshall that this action could exacerbate the threat to her property and those neighbouring to the north.

Finally, the question of the availability of sandbags was discussed, and the Clerk was asked to request a delivery of some 50 to 100, of a size able to be lifted by one person, to be delivered to the Village Hall at a pre-arranged time so that the delivery could be met and the consignment covered against the elements.

Scarecrow Festival

Cllr. Ms Barrowman reported that approximately 35 households had committed to making a scarecrow, and auxiliary attractions were also organised. There would be a cake stall, a book stall, a bouncy castle (wind conditions permitting) and refreshments in the village hall. There were ten scarecrows still in need of a venue. The one to be sited in the churchyard would be at a respectful distance from recent graves.

Damaged Lamp Posts in Saxton Lane

The Clerk reported that the electrician had telephoned to apologise for not starting work on the 27th May as promised, due to bad weather having delayed his groundworker. A new starting date of the 12th June was promised. Attention now turned to the concrete lighting column in Scarthingwell Crescent that Northern Powergrid had removed, and the Clerk was instructed to canvass opinion of the neighbouring houses whether they would like this reinstated.