

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

It was decided to renew our membership, at a cost of £50.

New Dog Bin in Scarthingwell Park

It was agreed in principle to provide this, at a one-off cost of £193.20 + V.A.T. However, at this stage it was not known whether the proposed site was private or local authority land, and the Clerk was instructed to make enquiries.

Cladding of Houses in Saxton Lane and Scarthingwell Crescent

It had been decided by Selby District Council to clad numbers 21 and 30 Saxton Lane and numbers 11,12,15 and 16 Scarthingwell Crescent – all Council properties – in brick. The former Chairman, Matthew Spencer, together with Cllr. Mr. Fairclough, had protested at the appearance, and had demonstrated that to clad the properties in artificial stone would be cheaper, as well as being aesthetically more pleasing. The owners of the neighbouring private houses, some semi-detached, would be offered the service at the same time, but at their own expense, estimated at approximately £35,000 per house. The contractors had been contacted, and were amenable to the change. The Clerk was instructed to write to Selby objecting to the proposed brick cladding.

Drainage

Northern Gas had accepted liability for the work needed in Church Court, and it was now necessary to obtain a breakdown from Walsh Brothers of that part of their invoice pertaining to this work, so that we could request reimbursement from Northern Gas. The Treasurer would ask for an itemised bill. The Chairman cautioned that Northern Gas have a bad reputation for meeting their pecuniary obligations, and it was agreed that if they procrastinate in this instance, then the Parish Council will pursue them through the county court.

The question of a safety barrier to the newly opened dyke outside The Cottage was then discussed, and the point made that farm vehicles entering the road up to Manor Farm are likely to cut corners, also that Mrs. Robinson, the owner of The Cottage, is frail and vulnerable. In view of this, the Chairman would investigate the availability of collapsible wrought iron fencing, and report to the next meeting.

With regard to further work to the drainage, Howard Ferguson, assistant to our MP, has suggested that Cllr. Mr. Fairclough, Matthew Spencer and Lawrence Waterhouse together produce a budgeted list of this work in order to apply for further public funding. With regard to contractor working, the Chairman brought to the attention of the meeting that there are often times when a problem is encountered, and workmen are standing idle – while of course still being paid – until a solution is put in place. He therefore suggested that we should compile a list of work for just such occasions, and this would include lifting and re-laying flags where necessary, throttling down the pipe outside Maydene, which is currently 6" and discharges into 4". Lastly, the Chairman would continue to liaise with Mathew Spencer over the provision of bunds.

Ownership of Land in Scarthingwell Park

Cllr. Ms Marshall reported she had visited the Land Registry and been provided with a reference number; the Clerk was of the opinion that this number referred to the Village Hall registration. The item was again tabled for the next meeting.

Damaged Lamp Posts In Saxton Lane

It was acknowledged that the Parish Council needed to make a decision, and Cllr. Mrs. Hodgson undertook to do further research with a view to locating both lamps and fixing brackets to match those existing as closely as possible, and at an advantageous price. She would report either to the next meeting, or sooner by email.

Contract of Employment Parish Council Clerk

The Treasurer explained that the Clerk's present salary together with the hours she worked meant that she was below minimum wage. It was agreed to resolve the matter by including in her contract of employment a calculation of the hours at minimum wage, and that the extra/over time would count as voluntary work. The contract would be ratified at the next meeting.