

SOUTH FERRIBY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Holly Hanson

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Minutes of the meeting of South Ferriby Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Monday 8th March 2021, via a WHYPAY conference call.

Present: Chair - Cllr Roy Holloway,
Cllr Dave Mouncey, Cllr Alan Fisher, Cllr Andi Wilford, Cllr Noreen Cecil-Purvis, Cllr Sara Haddon, Cllr Dewi Bennett, Cllr Sharron Sibson
Clerk – Holly Hanson

Cllr Rob Waltham, Cllr Nigel Sherwood
6 members of the public attended.

Public Participation

A spokesperson from the Humber Bank Preservation Society gave a statement on behalf of the group. This statement is documented in full as an appendix to these minutes.

Cllr Wilford thanked the spokesperson for making the statement.

Cllr Holloway stated that he appreciated the offer from the HBPS to collect and present information and evidence as required to relevant parties and added the Parish Council does have a responsibility to represent all parties and felt that a meeting of all stakeholders might be the next step.

A representative of Scawby Estates stated that any action to declare the Humber Bank a Public Right of Way before the land was handed back to the landowners was premature, as he does not currently have the right to walk on the land and neither do the tenants. It was stated that once the land was handed back, Scawby Estates would be happy to reinstate access at Fulseas Drain but would not be in a position to grant access at other points unless their neighbouring homeowners are also happy to do so. Scawby Estates do not object in principle to permissive access, however, would not grant access if it could cause distress to their neighbouring homeowners.

A member of the public asked if the access at Fulseas Drain could be reopened earlier than the forecasted date of completion of the bank at the end of June 2021.

Cllr Haddon stated that there may be the possibility that works are completed on the East Bank ahead of that date but that this had not been confirmed yet and was weather dependent.

Cllr Holloway re-iterated that no access could be granted until all construction works were completed.

A representative of Scawby Estates stated that they would be nervous about taking on the liability of a construction site.

The owner of Glebe House had no further comments since their statement at the February Parish Council meeting as they were still in consultation with the EA and waiting for works to be completed and the land handed back to them.

Cllr Holloway stated that until the bank was complete and handed back to the landowners no-one was sure what the whole area would look like.

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The owner of Packet House agreed with this statement, however stated that they would welcome discussions with the Humber Bank Preservation Society and stated that they could accommodate viewing the bank at Packet House to enable people to see the situation for themselves.

Cllr Holloway thanked the owners of Packet House for this but stated that prior consent would need to be granted by Bentley's as there were health and safety considerations as it was still a construction site.

20/21 – 0301 **Apologies**

Apologies were noted from Cllr Carl Sherwood, Ward Councillor

20/21 – 0302 **Declarations of Interest**

- a) Cllrs Holloway, Haddon, Mouncey and Bennett – Item 20/21 – 0307 b) To update on flood defence works progress.
Cllr Bennett – Pecuniary Interest - item 20/21 – 0304 Footpaths, Permissive Paths and access to the Humber Bank.
Cllr Bennett – Personal Prejudicial Interest – item 20/21 – 0308 a) i) – Planning Application No. PA/2021/209
- b) Dispensations given to Cllrs Holloway, Haddon, Mouncey and Bennett in respect of discussions around Flood Planning – 1st June 2020

20/21 – 0303 **Minutes of Previous meeting**

Resolved – That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th February 2021 were reviewed and agreed as an accurate and true record and signed accordingly.

Cllr Bennet stated that he wished to declare a pecuniary interest in item 20/21 – 0304 and left the meeting at 7.31pm

20/21 – 0304 **Footpaths, Permissive Paths and access to the Humber Bank**

- a) Councillors discussed at length footpaths, permissive paths and access to the Humber Bank. Discussing that whilst there was a need to remain neutral as there were residents who had requested support with people trespassing on their property and being abusive towards them, there were also at least 18 Village residents whose ashes had been scattered on the Bank.
Cllr Mouncey stated that he would like to propose that the Parish Council fully support a Public Right of Way application. Cllr Wilford stated that she was in agreement with this. No other Councillors spoke in support of this proposal; therefore the motion was not carried.
After much debate there was no consensus between Councillors.
Cllr Waltham offered further information on the process of determining Public Right of Way status, stating that it was a lengthy process within which North Lincs Council was the administrator and responsible for collecting evidence from all parties, including a Public Enquiry ahead of submission to the Secretary of State for decision. The decision would be made on a technical recommendation from a legal perspective and could take between 3-5 years, during which time access to the Bank would likely be refused.
Cllr Waltham stated that it might be beneficial if a mutually agreeable position between all parties could be sought and negotiated and made the offer of Chairing any such meeting to negotiate.

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Councillors discussed the item again and Councillor Wilford proposed the following 2 resolutions which were seconded by Councillor Cecil-Purvis, no amendments being made the following proposals were resolved:

Resolved – Councillors resolved with a vote of 6 votes for and 1 vote against that a decision on the Parish Council formally supporting an application for Public Right of Way status of the Humber Bank Path be deferred to the April Meeting.

Resolved – Councillors resolved with a vote of 6 votes for and 1 vote against to support facilitating discussions and negotiations with all parties with a view to reaching a mutually agreeable resolution.

Cllr Mouncey gave apologies for the remainder of the meeting and left the meeting at 7.57pm

Cllr Bennett re-joined the meeting at 7.58pm.

20/21 – 0305 Report from Ward Councillors

Cllr Waltham gave an update on progress of outstanding highways issues which is detailed in item 20/21 – 0306 below.

Cllr Waltham gave an update on the budget stating that free car parking had been protected and additional spending approved for Adult Social Care, however Council Tax increase remained the lowest in the area.

The Humber Freeport that had been announced would be of benefit to the area creating around 2,000 jobs.

Vaccinations were going extremely well with the over 50's group being vaccinated next and a mass vaccination centre coming on board in the area to meet demand when the over 40's age group was reached.

Several Councillors gave thanks for the excellent organisation and service they received whilst getting their vaccinations.

Cllr Waltham also stated that KCom had expressed an interest in South Ferriby so residents would be receiving a leaflet advising them of how to register in the coming weeks.

20/21 – 0306 Highways & Footpaths

- a) Cllr Waltham gave an update of the following:
- i) Scheduled works during A1077 road closure – All scheduled works were completed during the closure.
 - ii) Hole at junction of Post Office Lane and Low Street –Completed
 - iii) Dropped kerb on the corner of Low Street, opposite the farm gates – This is programmed to be done in the Summer
 - iv) Footpath at top of School Lane – This is still being investigated
 - v) Road breaking up North End – This is in the scheduled programme of works
 - vi) Drainage issues opposite Skinners Lane – Cllr Holloway thanked Cllr Waltham and stated that this had now been resolved.
 - vii) Abandoned Cars in the Car Park – Ongoing, this is currently sitting with the Environmental Health Team, and notice to remove the vehicles had been issued to the last registered keeper.

Cllr Fisher again raised that the barrier on the A1077 opposite the Ermine Street turn needed repairing as the end is damaged and potentially dangerous – this is in the programme of works for repair.

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Cllr Holloway stated that the Parish Council had arranged for the footpath opposite the shop to be widened during the road closure, but that additional tarmac was required to resurface the path.

Cllr Cecil-Purvis gave thanks for the replacement No Through Road sign at the entrance to Beaulaland.

Councillors raised that Skinners Lane required resurfacing as a result of the water that had flowed down during the cold weather.

Cllrs also raised that the road surface on the B1204 to Horkstow had also deteriorated, Cllr Waltham confirmed that this is within the programme of works.

20/21 – 0307 Community Matters – CEMEX, Flood Defence, & Police

- a) Cllr Haddon gave an update on CEMEX matters, stating that CEMEX using contractor to help with clinker going forward with only a low level of movement in next two months. It is estimated it will take 18 months to complete. Silos were still being used to store cement, with approximately 6 loads going out each day.
Additional security had been implemented at the Quarry with 2 dog patrols per day.
- b) Cllr Haddon gave an update on the flood defence works stating that the road closure went well, and the gates were now in place.
Piling at the Hope and Anchor was also progressing well and may be completed earlier than expected.
Cllr Haddon stated that the financial end of the project was the end of March 2021, and it was expected that the Village would be watertight in April. Further reinstatement works would be required ahead of formal completion of the project and the end of June 2021.
- c) Councillors discussed the increase in attempted dog thefts in the area and urged that any instances should be reported to the Police.
- d) Cllr Holloway reported that an agreement had been reached to get the fence erected in the Play Area.

20/21 – 0308 Planning

- a) Councillors discussed the following planning application:
 - i) Application No: PA/2021/209
Proposal: Planning permission to erect a single-storey rear extension
Site Location: Hope and Anchor Inn, Sluice Road, South Ferriby, DN18 6JQ
- Resolved – Councillors had no comments or objections to the application.
- b) Councillors received the decision from North Lincs Council on PA/2020/961
 - c) Councillors received resident correspondence regarding PA/2020/961

20/21 – 0309 Community Facilities and Open Space Management

- a) Councillors discussed the management of Beulah Courts.
- b) Councillors discussed the management of the Children’s Play Area.
- c) Councillors discussed flowerbeds and open space management.
 - i) Councillors reviewed spending to date
 - ii) Councillors discussed spending for the forthcoming month

Resolved – That remaining unspent monies from the £300 budget approved at the February meeting be carried forward for the forthcoming month.

- iii) Councillors requested an extension to the entry deadline for Best Kept Village 2021 – Clerk to action.

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- iv) Councillors requested an extension to the entry deadline for East Midlands in Bloom 2021 – Clerk to action.
- d) Councillors reviewed the Verge and PROW cutting provision for the 2020/21 season and stated that they were very happy with the standard of work and had received comments from residents about how nice the Village was looking. Councillor Cecil-Purvis proposing to remain with the existing contractor for the 2021/22 season, this was seconded by Cllr Fisher.
- Resolved – Councillors resolved unanimously to remain with the current contractor for Verge and PROW cutting for the 2021/22 season.

20/21 – 0310 Website

- a) The Clerk gave an update on the new website and requested that Councillors e-mail detailed feedback on the new design to her.

20/21 – 0311 Low Villages Community Matters

- a) Councillors discussed the revised proposal for shared speed sign.
- Resolved – To support the revised costs of purchase of a shared speed sign.

20/21 – 0312 Winter Community Support Plan and Clerk's Report

- a) The Clerk gave an update on the progress of the project and requested again that Councillors nominate any residents that they felt would benefit from the support voucher.
- b) The Clerk reported on items requiring attention since the February meeting on any subject not separately on the Agenda

20/21 – 0313 Accounts

- a) Current financial position reviewed by all Councillors.
- Resolved – That the Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation be noted and signed by Cllr Holloway.
- b) Bank statements reviewed by all Councillors.
- Resolved – That the document be noted and signed by Cllr Holloway.
- c) the Clerk presented the following payment which was approved by Councillors for payment:
- i) Kyanite Consulting – New Website Build - £246.00

20/21 - 0314 Ongoing, Minor Items, Correspondence and Agenda Items for the next meeting

- a) There was no progress on items not requiring decision and resolution, not otherwise detailed on the agenda
- b) Councillors noted 2 items of correspondence that had been received from residents regarding footpaths.
- c) Councillors noted correspondence received from a resident concerning the quantity and speed of Wren Lorries passing through the Village.
- d) A flood defence update will be submitted to the Low Villages News
- e) No items were received for the April Agenda

20/21 - 0215 Date and time of forthcoming meetings

- a) The next meeting of South Ferriby Parish Council will be held via WHYPAY on Monday 12th April 2021.
- b) The date of the next meeting of the Flood Committee will be held via WHYPAY on Monday 22nd March 2021.

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20/21 - 0217 **Councillors resolved to exclude the public and press in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2) due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed.**

- a) To authorise payment of Clerk's salary and expenses
Resolved - To pay Clerk's salary and expenses.

UNADOPTED

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Appendix – Statement from the Humber Bank Preservation Society

The Humber bank preservation society was formed to act an interest group. Its aim was to celebrate the many benefits of living in our wonderful area but also to help to safeguard continued access to the Humber Bank; a matter of deep sensitivity to so many in the village.

One of our first tasks was to establish the facts.

We understood that the Parish Council, has not always been well supported by North Lincolnshire council over the years in regards to the path. Assurances have been made publicly by several agencies and the community could be forgiven for thinking that the matter was settled several years ago. Indeed, there was further placation regarding the path in a public consultation in 2018 when the Environment Agency stated that after the works had been completed, “access to the existing permissive path will be maintained until such time that this path is unsafe for public access “(published Nov 2018). This statement is inaccurate, misleading and reflects poor research by the EA and in our view a wider failure by the officers in the council to give us clarity as to the precise nature of the path’s status. In fact, on the 30th October 1976 our Parish Council wrote to Humberside County Council to ask them to make the footpath a Public Right of Way.

In June 2020 the Parish council were asked to intervene when they received notice of a potential closure to the path. Once the village became aware of this in early February 2021 many villagers opposed this, and feelings are running understandably high due to the position of the landowners affected and the inaction of the Parish council to mediate over such a long period. Once the letter had been received, the Parish Council resolved to wait until the flood defences were completed. This resulted in even more unnecessary stress to landowners and ultimately the villagers in potentially taking away a much loved and historic walk.

We accept that the parish council represents a parish who don’t all want the same thing. We also understand that the landowners have had a very difficult time over the period of the flood defence work and have faced considerable difficulties.

The footpath along the banks of the Humber is an emotionally charged subject on both sides.

It has become clear to us that since the 1970s there has been much correspondence with the council for the path to be made a PROW. It is clear that there are parts of the path where there has never been an agreement in place and others where it has lapsed. At the same time the council has promoted the Nev Cole Way and other walking opportunities within the village. Regrettably, the response from North Lincolnshire council has been variable to different stakeholders, this has not progressed matters and has not helped. We believe that it is vital the North Lincs council actively work with residents on both sides of the table to facilitate a solution to a problem that is partly of their making. This has contributed to the heightening of tensions in the village.

The next logical next step is to support the Parish council to submit an application to make the path a PROW. It is now part of the Nev Cole Way and has been walked upon for the past 80 years.

However, If the Parish Councils’ position is that they would, after explaining their reasons to the council members, prefer for the Humber Bank Preservation society to take on this role then we will do so, on condition that the Parish Council:

1. Make a written documented motion to support our society taking this application forward on behalf of many residents (now nearly 100 testimonies have been received for PROW evidence)

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2. Become a conduit for interaction with interested parties and stakeholders to help the society to make the application as strong as it can possibly be.

UNADOPTED