



Osgoldcross Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2008 at the Fairburn Community Centre.

Members present: J Vause (in the chair), E Beechey, D Simpson, B Crossdale, F Blackburn, K Westwood, H Bickerton, L Amerigo, R Stephenson, J Mitchell, L Ruxton, M Skirrow, M Langhan, I Sewell, A Pound, G Ivey, S Ryder and J Clarkson.

Apologies were received from M Shepherd, S Gilbert, J Wilders, K Ronksley, R Dunning, D White, J Stables and S Gill.

Item 1. Minutes of the last meeting on 26th June 2008

The minutes were proposed, seconded and agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

Item 2. Matters arising from the Minutes

L Ruxton reported that the subsidised Smartwater scheme no longer existed.

L Amerigo asked if the Social Board had been formed. The Chair told members that work had been concentrated on matters raised by Eggborough Parish Council. He felt that this took priority over the formation of the Social Board.

Item 3. Local Bus Service Provision

The Chair introduced County Councillor Gillian Ivey and Wakefield District Councillor Graham Stokes.

Councillor Ivey told members that many of the travel problems in the area arose because Osgoldcross was in the centre of four areas to which residents wanted to travel and is served by many different bus and rail companies. North Yorkshire County Council subsidises some of the services but companies such as Arriva are running a business and need to make profits. These companies are not obliged to consult if they want to alter bus routes. If a route is under threat, NYCC can buy it back by paying an additional subsidy.

Speaking on the problem in Cridling Stubbs, Councillor Ivey told members that Arriva withdrew from the route but South Yorkshire Motors took it over. However, about three months ago, the company ceased trading. The situation that could have happened a year ago when Arriva withdrew has happened now. Residents in the village have the South Selby Village Bus but for various reasons, it is not working.

The deputy director of the Passenger Transport Service, Richard Owens has told Cridling Stubbs Parish Council via its Chair that a taxi service, running at specific times and charging bus rates, will be put in place if it is agreeable to the residents. Councillor Stokes said that part of his area had been affected by

the same cuts and he and Councillor Ivey had worked together to resolve the problem on behalf of residents living on Womersley Road in Knottingley.

The Chief Executive, Chair of Cridling Stubbs Parish Council, told members that this situation could happen in any village. Cridling Stubbs had a good service that stopped, literally, over a weekend.

A member said that bus services were deregulated and so anyone can set up a service. Councillor Ivey said that it was purely down to the number of people using it.

A member admitted that he had a bus pass as well as the majority of other bus users and asked if they could be used on the subsidised services. Councillor Ivey replied that NYCC pay the companies to accept the bus passes.

A member asked if the taxi service would use the South Service Village Bus. Councillor Ivey said it would not as Shaw's Coaches had not tendered to supply the service. The Village Bus is successful in some areas and not others.

A member asked if bus passes could be used on the taxi services and, if so, does the driver have to register the numbers. Councillor Ivey replied that the drivers must register how many bus pass holders use the vehicle in order to claim recompense from NYCC.

Councillor Stokes told members that now he was aware of the proposed taxi service, he could approach Wakefield Council to ask if they would pay towards the service.

The Chair of Kellington Parish Council said it had received complaints that the last bus from Selby to Kellington was at 16.05. Councillor Ivey told him she would take up the problem with Arriva but it may be run by WY Metro as it runs to Pontefract.

The Chair asked Councillors Ivey and Stokes to keep him updated. They agreed and Councillor Ivey asked members for feedback, good or bad, on the South Selby Village Bus as the contract is being reviewed.

Item 4. Selby District Play Ranger Project

The Chair introduced Nikki Simpson and Rochelle Adamson from the Selby District Play Rangers scheme. They told members they worked for Selby Groundwork. The scheme involved putting play parks into the area. They are to go to areas where there are little or no play facilities.

A member asked how long a contract they had. Nikki replied that it was for two years, funded by a Big Lottery grant. The member asked how they decide where to go. Nikki replied that the Selby Play Strategy has identified the areas with a lack of play facilities.

A member asked about their availability in the winter months. The Play Rangers said that they would still be there. Councillor Ryder said that if there are indoor facilities in the village when the weather is poor, they could be used.

The Play Rangers told members that the age range was from 8 to 15 but youngsters that were under 8 had to be accompanied by an older person e.g. a brother or sister.

A member asked what equipment the Play Rangers brought to the villages. They replied that their vehicle was full of outdoor play equipment for football, cricket and rounders, giant games such as Jenga and chess and den-making equipment. They also had arts and crafts material.

A member asked if the Play Rangers had to be booked. They replied that all schools had been written to offering their services and they were now waiting for replies.

The Chair thanked the Play Rangers for the informative presentation.

Item 5. The Osgoldcross Forum's Youth Board

The Chair of the Youth Board, A Pound, told members that the Board was trying to obtain the type of information the Play Rangers would need i.e. what facilities and groups are in the villages by asking the parish councils to complete a questionnaire. The information will be on a village-by-village basis and will be used to carry out the study of youth facilities in the area. The Coalfield Regeneration Trust did not grant the funding for carrying out the feasibility study but some good news should be received in the next two weeks.

Item 6. The Osgoldcross Forum's Environment Board

The Chair of the Environment Board, J Clarkson, told members that the Board had decided that it could not take on the problems of the Forum's individual member associations but only problems that covered a larger area. The Board is gathering a large amount of information that will be of use to members. The Board has taken a decision to promote recycling in the area. Funding is available for this type of project but the Forum will need to fund 25% of the cost.

Item 7. The Osgoldcross Forum's Highways Board

The Chair of the Highways Board, E Beechey, reported that the Board is to meet Steve Burrell of NY Police Traffic Division shortly to discuss a problem at Beal Bridge, raised by Beal Parish Council. He reported that after numerous phone calls and letters to NYCC seeking advice on how the Forum could get more involved with highways safety issues, a reply had finally been received advising the Forum to apply for membership to the Selby District Community Safety Partnership. He reported that the Forum had already been refused membership.

Mr Beechey also reported on a letter received from David Bowe of Highways North Yorkshire. The Forum's Chief Executive has been asked, as Chair of the South Selby JAG, to write to him concerning the lack of Highways representation at meetings. The reply stated that not all meetings could be attended due to limited staff resources. However, they are "reviewing the various partnering groups across the County to assess how we can best engage with them".

Item 8. Subscriptions 2008/09

The Chief Executive gave members a breakdown of what each parish council would pay if the subscription charge was pro rata the number of electors in each parish. One example was that Eggborough PC would pay over £75 while Cridling Stubbs PC would pay less than £6 rather than £20 as in 2007/08. He reported that the Executive Committee's recommendation was to retain the subscription at £20 for this year and increase it for 2009/10.

It was proposed and seconded that the subscription should be raised to £25 for this year. A member stated that if the Executive Committee thought that the Forum could manage with £20, why increase it to £25. A member replied that the Forum could manage on £20 but it could progress with £25.

The Chair asked for a seconder to the amendment to retain the subscription at £20. There was no seconder.

A member suggested taking the item back to the Executive Committee.

The Chair said that it had already considered it and now there was a proposer and seconder to raise the subscription to £25. Members voted on the proposal. All but one voted for the proposal. The subscription for 2008/09 was therefore set at £25 for all paying member associations.

Item 9. Payments

Stamps - £10.80

Paper - £27.98

The Chief Executive said that after these payments were paid, £660 would remain in the account.

All agreed to pay.

Item 10. Any Other Business

A member told Councillor Ivey that an illegal motocross course had been set up on Whitefield Lane at Whitley. Whitley PC had a letter from Selby DC stating that no planning application had been made.

The Chair asked Councillors Ivey and Ryder to investigate. They agreed

Item 11. Date and venue of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Thursday 11th December 2008 at 7.00 pm, provisionally at Eggborough Methodist Chapel. (*since moved to Beal Village Hall*)

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.