

Clerks Report January 2017

Follow up from the December meeting:

New Clerk

Handover to the new clerk was completed on 4th January 2017. A Parish Council dedicated email account was set up: prestonunderscarpc@gmail.com.

Highways Report

An update from Steve Barker of Highways has been received with regard to the points not detailed in the previous email from Amy Ellis:

I can confirm that the additional points raised will be dealt with in due course as soon as the locations have been viewed jointly by myself and my Highway Officer. Please see below, for clarification, my comments to some of your notes:-

Mill Hill Lane

5. The grass verge is believed to be publicly maintained but unfortunately the County Council would not routinely cut verges of this nature apart from where there are any existing or soon to be installed marker posts.

6. Marker posts do tend to be a standard height so it may be difficult to find a supplier of the taller ones that would be useful on this particular verge.

Moor Road

10. Discussions will be held with Richmondshire District Council to see if their sweeper can attend Moor Road to clear the edges of the carriageway. If this is not possible I will ensure that it is added a list of sweeping sites for a time when the Area Office next has one on hire.

Phone Box

The clerk has forwarded a request, to Peter Featherstone, for retention of the telephone box (01969 623312) as it is considered essential for the community.

Peter Featherstone has responded to say that the District Council has lodged strong objections to the removal of all of the payphones included within this proposal with the exception of those boxes at Bolton on Swale, Dalton on Tees and Catterick Village where Parish Councils were not opposed to the removal of those particular call boxes.

Transparency Code Fund

YLCA have confirmed that Preston under Scar Parish Council has received funding for the financial year 2016/17 (£265.50 paid 14 October 2016). The council will be able to claim for ongoing costs for the financial year 2017/18 commencing 1 April 2017 but as yet YLCA have not received the application form for 2017/18 claims.

Notices Received:

Changes to Waste and Recycling Collection Rounds

I am writing to all Parish Clerks concerning the above change for households within Richmondshire. As from 16 January 2017, most households will see their waste and recycling collection day change. This is due to the Council changing working practices within the collection teams in order to reduce the number of refuse collection vehicles needed. A communications plan is currently being implemented to ensure that all our residents are aware of the changes.

Yorkshire Dales Local Plan

Following receipt of a report of examination the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority resolved to adopt the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan on the 20th December 2016.

The adopted Local Plan contains a number of modifications, required by the examining Inspector, to make the document sound and legally compliant. The new Local Plan replaces all of the 'saved' policies of the Yorkshire Dales Local Plan 2006, the Minerals and Waste Local Plan 1998 and the Housing Development Plan 2012, for the purpose of guiding new development proposals and land use changes, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Authority to adopt the Plan may make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, on the grounds that:

- a. the Local Plan is not within the appropriate powers conferred by Part 2 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; or,
- b. a procedural requirement has not been complied with.

Any such application must be made no later than six weeks from the date of adoption i.e. 31st January 2017.

The adopted Local Plan, the sustainability appraisal that accompanies it, and the Inspectors report of examination (including the main modifications required) are available at the Authority's main offices in Bainbridge (Yoredale, DL8 3EL) and Grassington (Colvend, BD23 5LB) between 9:00am and 5:00pm and on the Authority's website:

<http://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/living-and-working/planning-policy-section>

AUDITOR APPOINTMENTS FOR SMALLER AUTHORITIES FOR THE 2017/18 – 2021/22 FINANCIAL YEARS

The Local Council Associations have received notification that following a successful procurement exercise the Sector Led Body, the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA), have appointed external auditors for smaller authorities (including parish and town councils and parish meetings) for the 2017/2018 – 2021/22 financial years. The appointed external auditors for all parish and town councils and parish meetings in North, South and West Yorkshire who have not opted out of the Sector Led Body will be PKF Littlejohn LLP. PKF Littlejohn are currently the appointed auditors for North and West Yorkshire but not for South Yorkshire.

Please do note that for the financial year 2016/17 there will be **no changes** to your existing external audit arrangements and you should continue to work with your existing external auditors on limited assurance reviews for accounts for this financial year. The new appointments only become effective for the five year period in relation to accounts for the financial year beginning on 1 April 2017. Further information about the audit appointments can be found at the SAAA website below.

<http://www.localaudits.co.uk/appts.html>

BUSINESS RATES ON CEMETERIES

YLCA have been contacted by two member councils who have visited the Valuation Office Agency website and noted a proposed hike in 2017 in the business rates that they pay on their cemetery. You can check proposals for your cemetery here: <https://www.gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates>

➤ I have checked the website and the rateable value for the cemetery is £34 with an estimated bill of £10. Local Council may waive this as they do for Village Halls?

Business Rates Consultation Meeting – 23rd January 2017

I am writing to let you know that the District Council is holding a consultation meeting for Business ratepayers on 23rd January 2017 at 1.00pm at Mercury House, Richmond.

I would be grateful if you could publicise this to the Businesses in your area by sharing the consultation poster, available at the following link:

http://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/images/files/Business_Rates/Business_Ratepayers_Consultation_23_Jan_2017.pdf

The meeting will cover the 2017 business rates revaluation, localisation of business rates including discounts, reliefs and the ability to raise additional monies for specific projects. The meeting is designed to be interactive and there will therefore be an opportunity to raise questions and discuss issues.