

Marton Parish Meeting 04/03/25 - Minutes

Apologies

Wendy and Michael Fielding, Heather Lagan the Senior Flood Risk Engineer at North Yorkshire Council (NYC) Tony Harrison

Minutes of last meeting

Last meeting was Tuesday 21st May. Minutes of last meeting agreed. Minutes of this meeting to be added to the village website.

Election of officers.

Required to elect a chairperson for the year. Terance Collins (TC) as chair happy to remain another year, but cognisant that took this on in 2019, so has been in role 6 years.

Expressions of interest invited over the next year. Anyone with questions to approach TC for information. The same applies to the position of clerk.

Vote unanimous for TC to continue.

Visitors.

TC discussed the flooding and highlighted the community spirit that was shown in the immediate aftermath. Gratefully received by everyone involved, and this was agreed by all those present. TC wanted to put on record again his thanks on behalf of the village the assistance provided by Duffy Ltd with a variety of tasks from clearing up to moving furniture, and everything in between. TC received an email the night of the flooding from Andy Williamson the Project Manager that some of those present met at the engagement meeting held before the work started. This said they were suspending their work but were sending the guys here just to do whatever was needed. TC has written to Kevin Duffy the Projects Director on behalf of the village.

Update provided by Meirion Jones (MJ) the Team Leader from the Flood Risk Management department from NYC. This was requested ahead of the meeting as there was some confusion around mixed messaging taken away from the drop in sessions held in KMS and Sinnington. TC circulated a note to all villagers prior to the meeting clarifying the position - there were no further questions on this point.

NYC visited the village in the days after the flooding and spoke with residents, followed up with a number of people with telephone calls, and the road was cleaned, etc. A number of

villagers spoke to TC in the days after and found the response reassuring, so thanks passed to NYC for this assistance.

TC asked about the report being completed by NYC. MJ confirmed that NYC has statutory duty to investigate and identify the risk management authorities. Questions asked - did those authorities discharge their duties?

Yorkshire Water (YW), NYC surface water, (Environment Agency (EA) rivers.

Recommendations can be made for those authorities, but NYC have no power to do anything, only public pressure can be applied for action to be taken.

Question from Gary Payne about a deadline date for the – A MJ: there is nothing specific, approval has to be by a member. It then has to be approved by a committee

Question from Iain Flint (IF) – Does the report investigate all elements that contributed to the flooding? A: Yes, looks at the whole storm.

John Brooks – Is this a historical issue? Joe Allen from the EA. Hydrology Team confirm 60-70mm of rain in 24-48 hrs that rain is not extreme, every 3-5 years, but analysed rainfall radar 80mm in 24hrs which driven higher level. Highest level at Sinnington (queried by Andrew Ridley) so it is a 1 in 25 year event.

Andrew Ridley – Question about would the works have made it worse? If the new valve was shut, would it have prevented the water dropping as it did? TC confirmed that YW had not responded to Duffy who had asked for a method statement on how the process was expected to work going forward. MJ said it would be considered in the report.

Carolyn Jarvis from the EA discussed the benefits of having a community flood plan. Agreed by all that this was a good idea. Details to be sent to TC for further consideration.

Environment Agency: Meeting joined by a number of members of the Environment Agency, started with Chloe Morton (CM) from the Asset Performance Team, Joe Allen ??. TC updated that he met with Chloe immediately after the flood to discuss the damage to the flood bank behind the Mission Room and met with her on site. TC stated that there has been a temporary repair carried out, as asked what is the plan for the river bank in the longer term? CM replied that a bid to be placed in January 26 for permanent repair and extra works 26/27. Monthly inspections of the temporary repair are made to ensure it is fit for purpose. Any issues call the out of hours flood number.

CM explained that the yearly maintenance place includes grass cutting, wracking (debris removal), vermin checks, and structure maintenance.

Funding levels reduced each year so this limits the amount of work that can be done.

There is natural high ground to the north of the village and the EA are thinking about how they could work with the farmer to store water in the fields there.

NYC are looking at silting of the riverbed under the bridge.

Sara Hall – comment that pollarding is not helping the flow of the river. It simply stops the flow of debris by leaving the stumps in the flow. Renee Clarke followed this up with a comment that the Willow needs removing not cutting.

Peter Illingworth – as a question about how much silting is permissible? If there is no dredging then eventually the river bed raises up, so the effective depth of the channel is reduced as the flood banks are not increased.

Garry Payne commented that a strategic approach is required as it's the greatest issue that gets the most attention. It may not be the biggest issue here, but if you were to put all the assets together, rather than individual, then more likely to be successful when against the bigger bids in towns etc. EA agreed, but said they already take a strategic view, but this was an approach worth considering.

Lesley Smith (LS) highlighted a problem with a tree she had reported, but that so far had not been dealt with, and it was forming an increasingly large obstruction behind it. CM suggested LS contact her after the meeting and CM would look into it.

IF – Tree coming down caused unfortunate issues. When he moved in 2006, and water did come high on our side, he asked the EA and the levels on the other side in Green Lane are designed to be naturally lower. This time waves coming down the street appear driven by the wind. Can we have a proper height audit of the bank to check they are still acceptable. Are there trees and can they be removed? CM stated absolutely they can. Modelling carried out in 2018 did confirm that the right bank is set to allow topping on the right bank. Joe Allen from EA said that returning the banks to design specification is much more achievable.

There is a website that provides assistance/guidance on the ownership requirements of those who have flood banks in their garden and details will be passed to TC following the meeting. TC to pass all information to Nick Croft-Smith (NC-S) who will ensure that it is added to the village website (www.martonvillageinfo.co.uk)

TC asked about the permit scheme for carrying out works on the flood banks? CM to provide details. Anne Wilkins asked what happens if no permit has been granted. CM suggested anybody who has concerns contact the EA as a starting point, if no permit is in place, then they can assess and escalate.

Gerry Turnbull raised a query about ownership of a land drain into the river as water is allowed to flood back into fields. A discussion was had about split ownership between the EA, landowners and the local drainage board.

FloodRe insurance information provided by to the meeting by Meirion Jones for those who may not have attended the drop in sessions. The website will list insurance companies that provide cover through this scheme – details will go to TC after the meeting.

The issue of missed flood warning was raised. Before the meeting the number of people registered to receive them was checked and only 28 out of 94 homes were on the system. The EA strongly recommend residents go online and register properly.

Village Hall Nick C-S provided an update on the damage to the village hall sustained in the flooding. There was a substantial amount of work carried out in the Village Hall this last year, but this was mostly undone by the flooding.

TC asked if there will be a summer show this year, and it is hoped there will be. Should the hall not be ready a vote was put to the hall to contribute the sum of £500 to assist with the provision of toilets and/or additional marquee hire in the event that the hall was not ready. This was passed unanimously subject to the relevant permissions being granted and a confirmation vote being held later to ratify.

Drains TC provided an update on the drainage works. The current hope is to have the pipework finished by the end of March, and all works completed by Thursday 17th April. In the week following the meeting there should be a landscaping team on site to topsoil and seed the south side of the road where the work has already been completed, they will return to finish the north side at the end of the work here and they will also repair the damage done outside the mission room where the fire engine got into bother trying to get through the flood at the same time. The footpaths will all be reinstated at the same time at the end of the work, so the covers will be there for a while yet.

Query about the valve that has been put in the car park raised – who will operate it when we are expecting the river to rise, and will any parking restrictions be put in place to stop people parking on top of the cover that is required for access – there is no response yet from Yorkshire Water on that.

Chairperson's update on items raised at last year's meeting

Railing painting – money carried over again.

The maintenance of the footpath to the village hall – TC wanted thanks put on record for Garry Payne. TC and GP cleared the path in time for the show and all free of charge.

Update last year that “NYC are aware of the bridge at Marton, and it is still under discussion. This repair will take some time and has been assigned to our contractors to undertake. However, we need to seek permission from Heritage and the EA before any works can commence. We have no time frame for when these works will be undertaken.” Planning notices went up in the middle of last year, but nothing was actually carried out. TC grateful to Kat Smith who has provided an update as she has been in touch with NYP. There are 10 bridges in the same position as Marton and NYC has no budget to repair them. An external consultant has been appointed to look at ways of repairing them all, and we are number two on the list.

TC reminded the meeting of the need to clear up dog waste. Again!

Clerk’s financial report

Balance on hand 21st April 2024 = £1989.

Outgoings 2024/5

Bank Charges £43

Poppy Wreath £50

Room Hire £33

Outgoings total = £128

Income 2024/5

Precept £420

Balance as of 21st January 2025 (not a full year due to earlier than normal meeting) = £2283

AOB: Veronica Piercy (VP) raised issue of public transport consultation highlighted in press. At present no such consultation listed on NYC website but situation to be monitored.

Request was made to revisit the issue of the footpath on the bridge with regard the crossfall, specific to disabled people finding it difficult. NYC had previously been adamant that no remedial works necessary, but further approach to be made. John Brookes (JB) to draft letter for people to send to local councillor to seek assistance

No further business.

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