

A meeting of the Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 13 January 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr J Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk. County Councillor J Watson and District Councillor A Alton also attended.

Apologies: Mr R Naish, Mr T Joynson

Members of the public present: 3

The minutes of the December meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

County issues

- a. Road Gritting: The County Councillor explained that NYCC had been unable to sufficiently grit village roads during the four weeks of heavy snow and ice, having continually had to redirect resources at keeping main roads passable. The extremely low temperatures have meant that salt was not always effective. Highways will have to re-jig their already constrained budget to deal with the many potholes resulting from the freezing conditions.

The PC suggested reviving arrangements for snow clearing with local farmers. Also that proper maintenance, instead of patching, would lessen the regular reappearance of potholes. The PC will ask Highways to assess whether the village meets the criteria for provision of salt bins or heaps on the two hills.

- b. Proposed Incinerator: Brian Cooper was invited to report to the PC on his recent visit to NYCC Council Offices with DISC. He understood that the preferred bidder would be announced in the next 2-3 weeks and a planning application would be submitted by April. He expressed concern that the largest project NYCC had ever undertaken was being rushed in the absence of a formal waste strategy, for approval by its own planners, without sufficiently robust consultation or evidence to support the proposal.

The County Councillor confirmed that the Executive had taken the decision to proceed, based on legal advice, even though the Council's waste strategy had been put in abeyance at a public enquiry, pending provision of evidence to justify its content. He confirmed the Planning Committee will make the planning decision, even though NYCC is a partner in the project. The PC indicated to the County Councillor that it shared the concerns expressed by Mr Cooper and that it was continuing to watch the situation very carefully.

District issues

- a. Council Tax: The District Councillor advised that HBC had received a windfall payment following an EEC ruling on VAT, as a result of which they are likely to recommend a nought per cent increase in Council Tax.

- b. Limebar field: A letter from the Head of Planning advising of a request for three mobile field shelters was discussed, in the light of the continued presence of caravans and residential occupancy of the shed.
- c. Recent attendance at Planning Committee: The PC expressed disappointment at the negative treatment of the Parish Councillor who attended a recent Planning Committee to put the PC's views, particularly as the PC had been encouraged to attend and present its views by the District Councillor. The PC asked that there might be a better communication of information and opinions regarding applications such as these between it and the District Councillor.

Matters Arising

1. Church Clock: Having now established where the key to the clock is, JC and TJ will check the gearing.
2. Playing Fields: JC has obtained two tenders for a container on the field and will seek a third. The cost of cutting the village greens has remained at £750 plus VAT since 2003. The Chair proposed an increase, for discussion and approval at the next meeting. NW declared an interest and withdrew during the latter item.
3. Village Shop/Village Hall: A raid on the shop took place early on Tuesday morning. The PC were glad to note that no-one had been hurt.
4. Proposed Incinerator: This was discussed under County issues (b) - above.

Planning

- Croft Farm: Retrospective planning permission approved by HBC (to include removal of window overlooking the green)
- 3 Springbank: erection of two storey side extension - the PC had no objection
- Limebar field: A draft response to Head of Planning will be circulated to the PC

Accounts

In:	VAT refund	£271
	Shop rent - £3,500 less repayment of £3,000 initial deposit	£575 (incl VAT)
	NEDL wayleave rental	£206
Out:	A J Hawkrige (final payment)	£767
	VHC - repayment of VAT element on bill for chairs	£237

Thanks were expressed to Brian Cooper, Andrew Ainley, Miles Stanyard and the Parish Clerk for valued assistance in preparing the detailed response to Mazars, who require full background details and supporting paperwork for the shop/hall project, before signing off the Audit for 2008/9. The draft letter to Mazars will be circulated to the PC for approval prior to dispatch.

Correspondence

None.

Any Other Business

- JC suggested the PC consider applying for outdoor gym equipment for the playing field. He is seeking further information for discussion at the next meeting.
- Clerk to report pothole outside New Pastures Farm on the York road.
- Village website: The need to consolidate the two village websites was discussed. The Clerk was asked to check on funding that might enable the PC to expedite this matter.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, 2 February 2009

The meeting was opened to the public:

- It was noted that reopened Stonelea footpath is now being used.
- A resident has contacted NYCC who will visit the footpath through the buildings at Grassgills to check if the path has been diverted.

The meeting closed at 9.22 pm

A meeting of the Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 2 February 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN), Mr J Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk. District Councillor A Alton also attended.

Apologies: Mr T Joynson, County Councillor J Watson

Members of the public present: 8

The minutes of the January meeting were amended then signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

District issues

- a. Council Tax: A zero increase is anticipated.
- b. Limebar field: The recent letter from Enforcement was discussed.
- c. Harrogate car parking monies, which had been used to fund the rural safety scheme for villages, will now go into NYCC's general funds. The rural safety scheme will end after completion of current projects.

County issues

Proposed Incinerator: An email from the County Councillor was read advising that the announcement of the preferred bidder has been delayed, as the Treasury feel that better financial terms might be obtained for the PFI. Whilst not strictly necessary, he will advise the PC should the matter be put before the full Council. He clarified that the Council's Waste Management Strategy is in place: it is the Waste Site Framework, which identified individual sites such as Allerton Park Quarry, that was postponed at the Inspector's hearing. The Council intends to proceed even in the absence of the Framework; he will discuss in more detail at his next visit.

Matters Arising

1. Police Matters:

The Chairman welcomed PC Neil Waite, Safer Neighbourhood Officer based at Boroughbridge. PC Waite explained his role and gave up to date crime figures - which are good. Recent issues in the village have been his attempts to get the parking problem at the school sorted out (he is pushing Highways to paint zigzag lines on the road) and the raid at the post office. Poaching is active at the moment. The issue of cars racing around the playing field was discussed, and PC Waite recommended reporting registration numbers so the police can warn drivers under Section 59. Ron Sneddon has "volunteered" to help with setting up Neighbourhood Profiles which will involve a meeting in Pickering. PC Waite agreed this seemed unnecessary and will feed this view back to his team.

2. Church Clock: JC and TJ still to check the gearing.

3. Playing Fields:

Grasscutting: NW declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting during this item. It was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously agreed that the annual cost of grass cutting by Dalton Enterprises should rise from the £750 plus VAT figure approved in 2003 to £950 plus VAT for the year ending December 2010 - in line with inflation.

Steps: JC will arrange a volunteer party of about six people and liaise with RN to repair the steps.

Cars driving on to the cricket pitch: This is an ongoing problem and the possibility of fencing off the pitch with a locked gate was discussed. It was agreed the PC would meet on the field and have a look.

Container: It was agreed to purchase a container from Moor Lane Autos Ltd for £1,000 plus VAT, including delivery. This was the cheapest of three quotations. The Clerk will seek reimbursement from Commuted Sums. The container will belong to the PC but security will be the responsibility of the Cricket Club.

Parish Meadow: The PC agreed to look at the meadow (at the same time as the cricket pitch) and decide on where the access point should be. RN will seek a lower quotation from Webster's for a post and wire fence (BTCV have quoted £853 plus VAT for 75m).

Skatepark bin: Rather than remove it, RN offered to empty the bin but asked the Clerk to obtain a "no dog waste" sticker.

Moles: Agreed that RN should arrange for the mole man to visit.

4. Village Shop/Village Hall: A detailed response has been sent to Mazars regarding the project. It is now hoped they will sign off the audit.

5. Proposed Incinerator: This was discussed under County issues - above.

6. Proposal to install outdoor gym equipment on playing field:

JC reported 65 signatures in support of this on a list left in the shop, as well as 20 emails. He estimated costs at £850 per item plus installation of £380 - say £5,000 in total. Zurich Insurance had indicated there would be a small increase in the premium.

Questions were raised as to whether it would be fully used for much of the year (bearing in mind the experience of the skate park) and further thought needs to be given to maintenance issues, health and safety and possible over-development of the playing field area, in view of the interest in tennis courts and possible allotments. It was suggested the PC visit another Parish where such equipment had been installed. JC will obtain more information.

7. Residents' request to re-establish tennis courts adjacent to playing fields:

RN declared a personal interest. Tony Cole and Emily Bennison put the case to reinstate one or two courts on the site of the former bowling green and sought the

Parish Council's approval before proceeding further. Cost estimates ranged from £25k for a single tennis court to £45k for a multi use double court. Funding would be sought from village activities, the Lawn Tennis Association, Sport England, the Lottery Fund etc. Fifteen families in the village have volunteered to form a committee and there is interest from the school. A membership club with reasonable fees would be established to provide an estimated £1,000 a year to cover maintenance, insurance and a sinking fund. The question of the actual location of the court(s) and the ownership of the scheme (ie the PC or the new Committee) was left open, but the PC gave its approval in principle to the establishment of a Committee to look further into the possibilities.

Planning

- Beck House: Crown cleaning & thinning of willow tree - approved by HBC.
- Beech House: Consent from HBC to crown lift, lateral reduction and crown clean of 1 beech tree; refusal of crown thin of same tree.

Accounts

The following payments were reported and approved:

In:	T Long - garage rental	£50
Out:	Dalton Enterprises	£862.50
	Clerk's fee £650 + £122 expenses	£772.44
	M&E Seldon (emergency light in shop)	£86.25

The PC's insurance is due for renewal on 1 April. Last April's payment to Zurich was £1,967 which will exceed £2,000 from April 2010. Arkendale PC has recommended Aviva's Parish Council Insurance and a quotation has been obtained for £1,592 for the coming year. This can be reduced by 5% to £1,512 by entering a three year agreement. In addition to our existing cover, Aviva offer enhancements including doubling the public liability indemnity to £10m. It was proposed by the Chair and unanimously approved that the PC accept Aviva's quotation for a fixed term of three years.

The Chair proposed to review the Clerk's honorarium at the next meeting.

Correspondence

Boroughbridge High School have invited a Councillor to the opening of their refurbished Sports Centre on 4 March. JC will attend.

Any Other Business

- Standing Orders: The PC has reviewed its Standing Orders, including the Register of Assets, the Risk Assessment and Financial Regulations, and approved these for another year.
- The Clerk was asked to report that grass is encroaching over the footpaths across the village greens in both Marton and Grafton.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- Potholes need attention on Braimber Lane and Limebar Lane.
- The regular flooding on Grafton Lane has resulted in a danger particularly to cyclists and horse riders during the recent icy weather.
- The PC was urged to get the clock working again.
- It was suggested that cricket has a wide boundary line which might preclude putting tennis courts on the playing field.
- It would be helpful to have a dog refuse bin on the roadside near the entrance track to the playing fields.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 4 March 2010

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

A meeting of the Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 4 March 2010 at 8.00 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr J Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk.

Apologies: Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr R Naish (RN) and from the County and District Councillors.

Members of the public present: 6

The minutes of the February meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

Matters Arising

1. Church Clock: TJ and JC have checked the gearing. TJ has circulated a recommendation that Smiths be invited to repair and refit the escapement wheel at a cost of £700 to £1,000, following which the PC find a way to inspect inside the tower and construct a protective cover to prevent debris jamming the works. This was unanimously approved.
2. Playing Fields:
The PC visited the playing fields on 14 February and discussed all the current proposals. It was agreed to replace the fencing around the meadow with a stock proof wire fence. RN has obtained a fourth, cheaper quotation from Webster's for £681 plus VAT. This was unanimously approved and RN will be asked to arrange for the work to be put in hand.

RN is obtaining prices for materials, and it was agreed that work on the steps should proceed as soon as possible with a volunteer working party from the village. AL and JC will meet with RN on his return from holiday to set the wheels in motion.

Outdoor gym: It was agreed that a genuine need has to be established before going ahead. The Clerk advised that Great Ouseburn are currently seeking approval from HBC to spend an outstanding allocation from Commuted Sums on gym equipment. JC proposed visiting similar installations in Bradford to help the PC come to a decision whether or not to proceed.

Proposal to install tennis court(s) on the playing fields: Tony Cole reported that a committee of six has been formed. It has been decided to limit use of the courts to tennis only, in view of the costs and greater need for supervision if multi use courts were installed. The committee has approached HBC Planning and is considering the various funding streams. It will be necessary to decide on the preferred location, and who has responsibility, ie whether the PC is the project leader, with the sub committee managing the project on their behalf.

3. Village Shop/Village Hall:
 Mike Popple said the VHC are still awaiting a visit by the Fire Officer to approve the box junction in the doorway. The soak away in the garden has been extended and surplus water has been directed towards the road, which it is hoped will overcome the flooding problem.
 The PC have incurred a £400 increase in the audit fee as the project pushed the accounts into the next audit fee band. The VHC recommended that some of the surplus from the Building Fund could be utilised. It was unanimously agreed that £400 from this source be put towards the audit fee.
4. Proposed Incinerator:
 It was agreed to ask TJ to circulate around the village the recent email regarding incineration but making it clear this was just for information and without any endorsement of the PC.

Planning

Alnwick, Marton: Erection of first floor side extension and single storey rear extension - no objection.
 Beech House, Grafton: HBC have advised confirmation of a Tree Preservation Order on the beech tree.
 Telephone box in Grafton: There has been some confusion at HBC and BT are still awaiting final approval for removal of the telephony. It was agreed to accept BT's option 1, that they will continue to be responsible for the electricity supply to the box.

Accounts

The 2008/9 accounts have been signed off by Mazars and the new insurance policy with Aviva, through Came & Co (brokers) is in place from 1 April. The Clerk's honorarium will be discussed at the next meeting.

In:	£1,215.76	Reimbursement of grass cutting by HBC
Out:	£1,512.80	Aviva Insurance policy (Broker Network)
	646.25	Mazars
	169.00	YLCA subscription

Correspondence

- Rural Action Yorkshire have invited each Parish Councillor to a budgeting consultation meeting on 25 March.
- A resident has raised the issue of littering on Braimber Lane and the A168. The Clerk has taken this up with HBC who confirm that now the snow has gone the litter is unsightly. Cleansing Department send teams to pick up litter from village hedgerows about three times a year, and we are on the list for an early visit.
- A further problem has been reported with dog walkers picking up after their dogs then throwing the bags into the hedge on Church Lane, Legram Lane and Priestcar Lane. The Clerk was asked to investigate the provision of a litter bin on the grass triangle at the bottom of Legram Lane, prior to drafting a note to residents.

Any other business

- The Limebar situation was discussed and the PC is waiting to see what action HBC takes following the early April deadline to the last Inspector's decision.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- The village's Neighbourhood Watch representative reported on his meeting in Pickering. It was agreed that the information he has been asked to provide to the Police on residents and their property is totally inappropriate, and he will decline to complete the questionnaire.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, 1 April 2010.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

A meeting of the Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 1 April 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN) and Mr J Crawford (JC)

Apologies: County Councillor J Watson and District Councillor A Alton

Members of the public present: 4

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

Matters Arising

1. Church Clock: Smiths are to visit on 9 April to replace the repaired escapement wheel and get the clock going. They will advise on the best way to construct a protective cover for the works in the tower. In the meantime the PC will investigate how they can safely get up into the tower.
2. Playing Fields:
Parish meadow: Websters will carry out the fencing some time this month. RN will mow the field and try to find stocking for later in the year. The PC will visit to decide where the stile should be.

Steps: At 2 pm on Saturday, 17 April a working party will clear the debris from the steps and subsequently resurface them. RN will order a wagon load of stone from Peacocks at an estimated cost of £250/300 (approved by the PC). The Clerk will email the village for volunteers and put up notices.

Outdoor gym: It was proposed and agreed that this be deferred for a year and reconsidered in the light of Ouseburn's experience.

Proposed tennis courts: Tony Cole said that consideration had been given to sites on the meadow, the playing field and the former tennis court location. A meeting is being sought with the Tree Officer to obtain his agreement to felling of some of the self-seeded trees in the latter area, which is the most likely location for a tennis court. The next stage is to set up a properly constituted committee and to inform village residents, inviting public consultation to support any grant applications.

3. Village Hall/village shop: A faulty security light outside the annex has been repaired at a cost of £67.01.

Proposed Incinerator: TJ has returned from his contract work to a multiplicity of emails. It was agreed he would get up to date and circulate those that are pertinent. He has become aware that Dr Rolf, owner of Allerton Park, is holding a conference for NYCC Councillors on 18 May. The Chair expressed an interest in attending.

Planning

Ives Farm: Erection of detached agricultural building - no objection.

Croft Farm: Permission to retain window overlooking the green - The PC objected and supported HBC's condition, imposed in the interests of visual amenity in the Conservation Area.

Alnwick, Marton: Erection of first floor side extension - approved by HBC.

Telephone kiosk, Grafton: A contract to adopt the kiosk has now been signed and £1 has been paid. BT will remove the payphone and send an information pack.

Enforcement Notice re stables on Back Lane: There appears to be some confusion as to which location and owner this applies to. The Clerk will check with HBC prior to the PC's comments being sent to Bristol.

Accounts

A Notice of Audit of the accounts for 2009/10 has been received from Mazars. The Clerk will prepare the books and Miles Stanyard has confirmed that he is happy to continue as Internal Auditor.

Payments approved	£1	BT payphones
	£67	M & E Seldon for repair to security light at hall
Received	£148	VAT reimbursement

The Clerk's honorarium has remained unchanged since 2004. The PC discussed this in her absence and approved an up-grade to £800 with effect from 2011. This was considered good value!

Garage behind the hall: The PC owns a portion of the land on which this garage is built. A 21 year lease was signed in 1999 with an annual rental of £50 to be index linked and with a seven year review clause. The PC failed to review the lease in 2006. It was decided to raise the rent by £10 at the next payment and to review it again in 2017. The lessor has been very amenable during building works at the hall and the Clerk will express the PC's appreciation, when writing to confirm the new rent.

Correspondence

1. A complaint has been received from a resident that she and her children were almost run down by a bus whilst walking up the hill from Grafton to the school. The Clerk has spoken to the bus company and the issue of the narrow pinch point and increased traffic at school starting and leaving times was discussed. A 20mph sign or rumble strips were suggested. The Clerk will (a) ask Highways for advice; (b) write to the school to ask parents to drive carefully to enable families to walk safely; and (c) suggest to the County Councillor that NYCC consider compulsorily purchase of land to establish a footway.
2. Peter Sutton has emailed advising that his wife has collected over 30 sacks of litter from the lanes around the village, including bags of dog excrement that had been thrown into hedges. The Clerk was asked to write thanking Cynthia Sutton for her much appreciated efforts.
3. A school governor and church warden has written regarding litter and dog waste. The Dog Warden has agreed to attend a future PC meeting and help with ideas to tackle the problem of dog fouling. The Clerk was asked to contact HBC to suggest placing a rubbish bin on Church Lane, rather than at the bottom of Legram Lane, and to put up notices and email the residents highlighting this issue. She will acknowledge residents' letters and copy them to the Dog Warden.

4. NYCC Integrated Passenger Transport Section have sought the PC's views. The PC considered there should be a bus service to Harrogate and the provision of an evening service to York. In view of the emphasis on school services and the indication that there would be no opportunity to increase the existing services, the PC decided not to respond.
5. Local Development Framework: HBC have written to advise of the outcome of the recent consultation. This village is earmarked for growth and the next consultation will start in late September.

Any other business

1. A proposed new design for the village hall garden, replacing the worn paving and removing the hazardous drop step, was considered and welcomed. The VHC are hoping to have the work done in time for the Open Gardens weekend.
2. A new public footpath sign has been erected near Stonelea.
3. NW and TJ will spray and rake out the sundial in Grafton.
4. TJ will get things moving with the village website.
5. The police neighbourhood meeting asked residents to look out for signs of terrorism, such as unusual or suspicious activity.
6. It was suggested that a drain has been put across the parish owned field on Braimber Lane, without consulting the PC. RN will make enquiries.
7. Ouseburn have obtained a defibrillator and various people in the village are being trained to use it. The Clerk was asked to obtain details.
8. The PC was advised that there is an intention to fence the field behind the pub and put horses in. The landowners were cautioned that this field contains a heavily used public footpath and that any use of livestock in this area needs doing carefully.
9. The Clerk was asked to check on the enforcement position in relation to the Limebar Lane field, noting that compliance with the most recent Enforcement Order was due by April 1st 2010..

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- It was reported that many cars drive too fast even at the Marton entrance to the village and that a 20 mph limit might be worth consideration. Rumble strips were thought to be preferable to sleeping policemen.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday, 4 May - in view of the General Election which has been called for the Thursday of that week.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Mermorial Hall on Tuesday, 4 May 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof Antony Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN) and Mr J C Crawford (JC). District Councillor Alton also attended.

Apologies: None

Members of the public present: 4

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

Harrogate District Issues

- The PC has noted confusion locally as to whether or not planning permission is required for temporary structures on agricultural land. It was suggested there be an exceptions policy, whereby any structure would require planning permission, but with three months' grace or a prior identification notice to permit truly temporary usage. The District Councillor agreed this was a grey area and encouraged the PC to put the idea to the Head of Planning.
- Limebar situation: The District Councillor said Enforcement was aware that the date for compliance following the refusal of the latest Appeal Hearing had now passed. He will ask that the PC is advised of the latest position.

Dog Fouling Issues in the village

- Mark Lee and Emma Fraser from HBC Dog Warden service attended. The problems of dog fouling and throwing of bags of dog excrement into the hedges were discussed. The Parish Council has obtained an extra litter bin at the Grafton entrance to the playing fields and hopes to replace the skate park bin with a lidded version. HBC has refused to supply another litter bin on Church Lane. A member of the public is considering installing and emptying a further bin.
- The Dog Wardens can issue on the spot fines of £50 with two weeks to pay. In the cold, dark winter months there is more fouling within village boundaries. Probably only a few individuals are causing the problem, and peer pressure is the most effective way of changing their behaviour. "Dog Days" are undertaken from time to time when several members of the team target an area, with a high profile, to raise awareness.
- The Wardens agreed to provide notices encouraging walkers to place wrapped waste in litter bins and agreed to patrol the village. The PC will attach stickers to bins, continue to raise awareness and encourage the school to invite the Warden to speak to pupils.

1. Church Clock

The clock is now working, although the chimes are silent. The Clerk will contact Smiths to seek an estimate for further work and also ask for details of an annual maintenance contract. This item will be removed from the monthly agenda.

2. Playing Fields

Fencing: Websters hope to fence the meadow in the next two weeks.
Steps: The working party has cleared the steps. Pam and Paul Grant were thanked for returning to finish the job. A load of road planings has been ordered to resurface the steps.
Cricket Container: This has fitted neatly behind the pavilion and a ramp has been constructed up to it.
Proposed Tennis Court: Discussions have been held with the Tree Officer.

The Chair thanked RN for all he has done.

HBC have refused to cover the cost of the container from Commuted Sums. There is an amount of £56 under Sport which needs to be spent by the end of June. RN and NW agreed to look at the bushes on the swings which require attention, so that any costs can be applied for before the deadline. AL agreed to pick up a lidded bin to replace the open one on the playing field from Harrogate Cleansing Department.

3. **Village Shop/Village Hall**

The garden outside the hall has been redesigned and the hard landscaping is nearing completion. Thanks were expressed to Mr Bradley who has undertaken this work at cost, and to Felicity Blunt who did the design and is working on a planting scheme.

4. **Proposed Incinerator**

Parish Council representatives will attend the conference which is to be held at Allerton Park later this month.

Planning

Sycamore Lodge: Crown lifting of 1 willow and crown reducing and thinning of 1 willow and 3 poplars (TPO) - no objection.

Croft Farm: Deletion of condition 1 of previous planning permission, to allow first floor window to west elevation to remain - HBC have refused to delete the condition. HBC have provided an up-date on Enforcement action within the area.

Accounts

The books have been passed to Miles Stanyard, who has agreed to act as local auditor for another year.

The following payments were reported and approved:

Payments in:	£1,650 from HBC - first precept payment
Payments out:	£893 Smiths of Derby - clock repair
	£1,175 A A Skip Hire - provision of container

Correspondence

- A resident has walked the footpaths through Grassgills with the diversion officer from NYCC. Whilst there are unlikely to be objections to a diversion around the field, the cost could total £1,200. As the diversion is already being walked with the agreement of the farmer, it was considered too expensive to formalise this. A way marker has been placed on the field access to the Dew Farm footpath. The Clerk was asked to thank NYCC for their help in reopening this path.
- Marton cum Grafton Cricket Club has written to thank the PC for the container

- and particularly acknowledge the assistance of RN.
- A resident has experienced problems with horse riders riding two abreast on narrow corners in the village. The PC will speak to the riders concerned.

Any other business

- Lights and a siren going off at the old pumping station have been reported to the emergency number on the premises, with an extremely negative response from Yorkshire Water. The Clerk was asked to contact Yorkshire Water.
- The village website has been simplified and is well on the way to completion. The PC agreed to pay the domain registration cost of £56 plus the £12 per annum charge.
- The Clerk was asked to write to the County Councillor about the proliferation of business advertising signs on roundabouts which are distracting to drivers.
- Also to query the quality of standards set for contractors who are used for pot hole filling and road repairs, particularly citing the recent Braimber Lane and Arkendale works.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- A local resident has a huge supply of Ure Walks leaflets. He will arrange for them to be given out at Open Gardens.
- Less than half of the potholes were done on Braimber Lane during a whole day's work, with the worst ones still untouched. The County Councillor will be invited to the next meeting to discuss.
- The footpaths across both greens (particularly Marton) are growing over, despite being reported to Highways several times.
- Many grass verges are damaged following building works.
- There is still a problem with cars speeding through the village. The culprits are a small number of local people. The Clerk will ask the County Councillor to consider with Highways a possible 20mph limit or rumble strips.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, 3 June 2010 - This will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting finished at 9.15 pm

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 3 June 2010 at 7.00 pm

Present: Prof Antony Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr R Naish (RN) and Mr J C Crawford (JC). County Councillor J Watson also attended.

Apologies: Mr N Wilson

Members of the public present: 3

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

County Issues

1. Allerton Park Conference/Proposed Incinerator: Councillor Watson summarised North Yorkshire's position and stated that, if landfill continues, there will be financial penalties and Council Tax will rise by £40 for Band D in 5-6 years. Allerton Park is virtually certain to be the sole site, to include incineration producing electricity and an anaerobic digester producing methane, and will be the Council's biggest contract ever with a £250m capital element and a total cost of £900m over a 30 year contract. A vote in full Council will be required and York City Council will vote in full meeting, as joint contractors. The contract only involves domestic waste.

Councillor Watson said the three public concerns appeared to be (1) the level of traffic; (2) the visual impact of the tall chimney and (3) potential toxins coming out of the chimney. He believed traffic would reduce and that emissions would be safe.

Projected waste levels for the next 10 years were discussed and the possible impact of the recent change of Government. There might be powerful objectors at the planning stage and, in the event of refusal, NYCC have no "plan B". At the recent Allerton Park Conference a strong case was made to increase recycling and reduce waste. The PC questioned the justification for investing a huge amount of money in an incinerator in present economic conditions when increased recycling will mean a lower input of waste over coming years. If levels fall, NYCC will have to pay penalties to the contractor, or possibly import waste from elsewhere in the country or introduce industrial waste. The PC's concern is that momentum is now carrying this project forward, when it would be sensible to step back and scrutinise the whole issue in the light of current economic conditions and recent advances in waste handling methods.

The meeting was briefly opened to enable members of the public to put forward their views.

2. Other County Issues: The County Councillor has investigated the many issues raised at the last PC meeting and responses have been circulated.

The County Councillor departed and the meeting was adjourned at 8.05 pm when the

AGM and APM took place. The meeting resumed at 8.15 pm.

Matters Arising

1. Playing Fields:

Fencing: This has been completed, including a stile at the bottom. A handrail could possibly be put in. Some trees have been planted which could be damaged if stock is put into the field; more thought needs to be given to this aspect. The meadow is currently in full flower and will be mowed after flowering.

Steps and zigzag path: BTCV have been in touch to say they have access to a grant for 50% of costs. RN will contact them to see how much it would cost for them to undertake the work.

Lidded Bin for the skate park: This has been collected from HBC and needs a concrete base - Councillors will meet on Monday 7 June to install.

Proposed Tennis Court: Still awaiting permission from HBC to fell trees.

It was reported that someone has scorched the seat by placing a throwaway BBQ on it.

2. **Village Shop/Village Hall**

Nothing to report.

3. **Proposed Incinerator**

See comments under "County Issues" above. A report was made on the Allerton Park Conference. It was proposed and approved that:

- a precis of the Conference and a summary of the PC's views be prepared
- it be made clear that the PC is arguing for a reconsideration of the strategy
- this be placed on the website and a leaflet drop be made in the village
- a letter be sent inviting the MP to attend a joint meeting with other PCs
- letters be emailed to all County Councillors.

Planning

Ives Farm: erection of detached agricultural building - refused by HBC.

Potential building land: An email from a landowner was discussed, in which he sought the PC's support in recommending selection of his land on the edge of the village for building of normal and low cost housing. The PC has previously expressed concerns regarding the need for affordable or other housing in the parish at the present time, and is therefore unable to recommend use of this (or any other) land.

Accounts

Payment In:	£36.07	Wayleave agreements NEDL
	£425.00	Skatepark donation
Payments Out:	£311.38	Shire Aggregates (stones to repair steps)

The Skate park committee has now been disbanded. This final payment of £425 will

close their account and they advise that it may be used for any purpose connected with the playing fields.

The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts and Return for Mazars which were approved and signed. A letter of thanks will be addressed to Miles Stanyard for producing the accounts so efficiently and speedily.

Correspondence

- HBC are running a Commuted Sums workshop. It was not considered necessary to attend.
- Church Clock: Smiths of Derby have written suggesting further work. The clock has in fact stopped again. We await proposals and an estimate of costs.
- HBC has written to invite the PC to become involved in setting up contingency plans for emergencies. JC will discuss the letter at the next Police Liaison meeting.
- An email from Great Ouseburn advises that the outdoor gym equipment is now in place; also that their PC is starting a Community First Responder team with local volunteers training to use a defibrillator and other equipment. The PC was invited to consider providing a volunteer and contributing to the £1,800 cost. The Clerk will obtain further details.
- A resident has emailed to complain about speeding through the village, in particular by a named resident. There have also been complaints about road parking near the shop by residents who are not using their off street parking. It is hoped that the Road Safety and Travel Awareness Officer will attend the next meeting when these issues can be discussed and a possible email be sent around the village.
- The Village History Project co-ordinator, Tony Hunt at Ivy House, advises that the project is still alive and has its own website www.martoncumgraftonhistory.com. He is looking for photos, stories, memories, objects (such as ancient pottery or coins) and can be contacted at tony.hunt@c-o-s.co.uk or on mobile 07977 447712 or 01423 322917.

Any other business

- The phone box in Grafton is currently illuminated by BT - but this will probably be discontinued in the near future.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- Concern was expressed about Highways' policy of "waiting for an accident to happen" before taking action about the recent pedestrian problems. It was suggested that the Road Safety Officer be invited to visit the problem areas before the next meeting.
- Further problems with dog fouling were reported. The PC may be able to obtain a further lidded bin from HBC if a local resident is prepared to empty it.

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, 1 July 2010

The meeting finished at 9.15 pm

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday, 7 July 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk. County Councillor John Savage attended the first half of the meeting.

Apologies: Mr J Crawford, County Councillor J Watson and District Councillor A Alton

Members of the public present: 30

The minutes of the last meeting were dated and signed as a true and accurate record by AL.

Matters Arising

1. Incinerator:

A public meeting took place at the school on Friday 25 June attended by the County Councillor, John Watson, and the local MP, Andrew Jones - both of whom expressed their opposition to the proposed incinerator. On the following Monday the preferred bidder, Amey Cespa was announced and distributed pre-printed leaflets about the scheme - with no mention of an incinerator.

Councillor Savage spoke briefly to provide background to the audience and then took questions from the floor. Concerns raised by the public included air quality and health issues. However, the main areas of concern were costs, the lack of any attempt to investigate other cleaner and more environmentally friendly ways of dealing with waste and the 25-year commitment. Examples were cited of other areas moving away from incineration, utilising alternative and newer technologies and maximising recycling with impressive results. There was concern that the wider waste strategy implied by these plans was flawed.

The public were urged to visit the website - www.marton-cum-grafton.org - sign the petition on it, and encourage others, particularly those living in other parts of North Yorkshire, to contact their local County Councillors. Details of DISC, a campaign group who are also working to stop the incinerator, can be found on the website. The Parish Council is promoting its message and continuing to widen its lines of communication, including with other PCs across the region, and welcomed any offers of help from the public.

The question of funds to support the Parish Council's campaign was discussed. Some money remains in the dormant MAGNOMS fund - which was set up several years ago to fight plans for a service station. A public vote was taken and unanimously approved the use of these funds by the Parish Council to cover the costs of preparing and mailing letters for the anti incinerator campaign.

2. Playing Fields:

- The lidded bin has been installed near the skate park. The liner is too short - RN will place a log underneath.

- BTCV are still to be approached about the cost of work on the zigzag path and the steps. Websters have completed the fence and stile. It was suggested a group of trees be planted, still retaining an open wildflower area. A local resident has offered to do the work. It was agreed that this individual should be approached to consider undertaking regular maintenance work. This will be considered again later in the summer.
- Proposed tennis court: Permission has been received to fell the trees, enabling the project to continue.

3. Village Shop/Hall

Nothing to report.

Planning

1. Beech House: Crown lift of Copper Beech - JC had declared a personal interest and expressed a strong personal objection. The PC had no objection.
2. Jays Cottage: Conversion of roof space and outbuilding etc - NW declared a personal interest. The PC objected to the installation of solar panels and roof lights on the street side in a conservation area, also to the proposed porch and doorstep projecting over the narrow pavement.
3. Blossom Cottage: Erection of ground floor extension, bay window, gate and installation of heat pump - NW declared a personal interest. No objection.
4. Sycamore Lodge: Crown lifting of 1 willow and reducing and thinning of 1 willow and 3 poplars (under TPO) - part approval and part refusal by HBC.
5. 3 Spring Bank, Grafton: Erection of two storey side extension - HBC's refusal has been overturned at appeal.

Accounts

Out:	Nil	
In:	£2.84	NEDL - telegraph pole at Dunsforth

Correspondence

- The Road Safety & Travel Awareness Officer was unable to attend this meeting, but visited the village on 1 July. He said NYCC had no funds available whatsoever. In respect of speeding, he ruled out 20 mph limits, any signage or road markings as the road is wide enough for a white line. Regarding walking children to school on the hill between Grafton and Marton, he could only suggest walking over the fields or possibly creating a short path inside the hedge between the Old Chapel and the telegraph pole. The Clerk will contact the farmer.
- More dog fouling has been reported. The PC has done everything it can think of - but will raise this issue again in a residents' newsletter.
- HBC has booked a playground inspection for August. The PC will tidy the site.
- HBC has invited subjects for the Consultation meeting on Monday 11 October at Minskip - to be submitted by 29 September.

Any other business

- One of the Councillors has succeeded in getting the clock going and keeping good time. He was warmly congratulated. Smith's are to give an estimate for work on the gear box to get the bell working again.
- Great Ouseburn PC has now got the defibrillator and has invited a representative from Marton cum Grafton to be trained to go on the rota. Such an individual would hold the machine for 24 hours and be called out within a 3 mile radius to attend someone until an ambulance arrived.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- The PC had seated itself at the top of the hall - it was requested that this happen each time as the acoustics were much better!
- Broken glass had been picked up near the skate park, caused by youths in cars.
- On the subject of waste, it was confirmed that York City has improved its recycling box system and anticipates making a profit. It was also confirmed that RAF Linton would have an opportunity to comment on the proposed high chimney.

Date of the next meeting

In view of the ongoing incinerator situation, it was agreed exceptionally to hold a meeting in August - to be Thursday, 5 August.

The meeting closed at 10.02 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 5 August 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr R Naish (RN), Mr J Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk. County Councillor John Watson attended the first item of the meeting.

Apologies: Mr N Wilson

Members of the public present: 9

The minutes of the last meeting were dated and signed as a true and accurate record by AL.

Matters Arising

1. Incinerator:

(a) The County Councillor summarised the present position. Whilst NYWAG appears to be well-organised and articulate, he felt the recent demonstration at Northallerton had given the wrong message to Councillors, focusing on the height of the chimney and reinforcing the impression of "nimbyism". Of more importance was the question of recycling and the proposed capacity of the incinerator (320k tonnes). He handed out his own personal estimate based on Office of National Statistics projections on housing growth (Appendix I) indicating a projected input far below the 320k tonnes required.

These observations chimed with those being pursued by the PC, whose main argument is that this lower projected figure could be managed without incineration. There is over-capacity in Europe and NYCC should not waste taxpayers' money on a facility we do not need.

The plans will be debated at each of the Area Committees and a PFI project group has been established by the NYCC Executive to conduct a due diligence review of the PFI. The PC will make a submission to this group.

Whilst appreciating that Councillor Watson is on the Executive, the PC urged him to make NYCC aware of the public's concerns regarding over-capacity, financial risk and the potential provision of a commercial facility at taxpayers' expense.

(b) Up-date: Representatives of the PC have spoken at meetings of: NYCC, York City Council, Harrogate Area Committee, Boroughbridge Town Council and at Whixley village meeting. The PC has written to 550 PCs across North Yorkshire and has received many letters of support. NYWAG is up and running and Councillor Tim Joynson was specially thanked for his considerable efforts in setting up effective communications.

(c) Future plans: At the end of August the PC will meet with Clare Wood, the County Councillor responsible for the scheme, together with other local PC representatives. NYWAG is intending to have representation at Area Committees across the region. It was agreed to send another mail shot to North Yorkshire Parish Councils in early September.

(d) Funding of the Campaign: A local resident has donated £50 towards the campaign. The balance remaining in the MAGNOMS fund of some £600 has been offered to the campaign by the account signatories; it was agreed to hold this in reserve for possible future legal costs.

(e) Environmental Impact Scoping Document: It was agreed the Chair will draft a very brief summary of the main objections to the scheme.

(f) Nomination for Community Liaison Group to be set up by AmeyCespa: Volunteers have been sought, and Dr Sally Eden has agreed to represent the village at the proposed monthly liaison meetings.

2. County Issues:

The PC reported a lack of help from Highways in tackling a footpath problem for mothers taking their children up the hill from Grafton to the school. The County Councillor referred to the huge budget constraints facing all departments, due to the swingeing cuts that have to be achieved over the next 3-4 years. This will lead to job losses and reductions in non-statutory services, such as libraries.

3. Playing Fields:

- A local resident is to help with maintenance work on the footpath at the playing field and is looking at a planting scheme.
- The bushes on the swings have been greased and rotated and the closure of the gate improved.
- A suggestion that more equipment should be installed on the playground was noted but more feedback was required to establish a need.
- Help has been offered by 2/3 members of the cricket club to improve the track up to the playing field.
- Proposed tennis courts: Little response has been elicited by an e-questionnaire - a paper version is to be circulated to establish how much support there is. WREN has indicated that 90% funding might be offered.

4. Village Shop/Hall

Nothing to report.

Planning

1. Beech House: Crown lift of Copper Beech - Approved by HBC with conditions.
2. Jays Cottage: Conversion of roof space and outbuilding etc - Approved by HBC.
3. Ives Farm: Revised plan for erection of detached agricultural building - no objection.
4. Sycamore House: Retention of access track - the PC believed the boundary between domestic and agricultural land should be restored.
5. Croft Farm: Deletion of condition in order to allow first floor window in outbuilding to remain - Appeal dismissed.

Accounts

Out:	£917.64	W T Webster & Sons (fence round meadow)
	£244.10	Mail shot to NYCC Parish Councils
In:	Nil	

Correspondence

- A resident has offered to plant two mature trees, at his expense, either side of the village hall. It was not considered appropriate to plant beyond the shop side of the hall because this might disturb old drains underground. Any tree on the other (penfold) side would have to be 15/20 feet beyond the old penfold wall but could be too near the road - the PC agreed to visit the site with the resident and decide at the next meeting.
- The resident who rents land behind the village hall is querying the rental increase and wishes to buy the land. This was carried forward for discussion at the next meeting.

Any other business

- Church clock: Smith's have submitted a quotation for £1,500 to repair the auto wind unit that winds up the strike. It was agreed a Parish Councillor would examine the works at the ground floor level. The drum also requires attention that would involve scaffolding. This has been deferred for the time being.
- Potholes were reported on Limebar Lane, Reas Lane and near to the Orchards.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- Cars are still speeding through the village. Members of the public were encouraged to report details (not names of individuals - number plates are sufficient) to the police. The Clerk will investigate temporary speed signs.
- There is no signage on the bends on Braimber Lane where there have been five accidents this year. The Clerk will raise this with Highways.
- The top wire on the new fence has come undone.
- Children have established their own skate park on Yorkshire Water land.
- Hazel nuts have appeared on the hazel that was planted several years ago.

Date of the next meeting

Thursday, 2 September 2010.

The meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

Appendix 1

FINDING “X”

	Do nothing (continued landfill) tonnes	Current proposal tonnes	Possible alternative tonnes
Domestic waste arisings by 2019	470,000	470,000	470,000
Less recycling ;			
@ 50%	(235,000)	(235,000)	
@ 60%			(282,000) *
Tonnage for landfill	235,000		
Tonnage reaching the quarry		235,000	188,000
Further recycling from the MT		(20,000)	(16,000)
Reclaimed from the AD plant		(4,000) net	(16,000) **
Tonnage for incineration in 2019		172,000	156,000
Assumed household increase 2019 to 2039 (12%)		21,000	19,000
Assumed increase in arisings per household :			
@ 55%		107,000	
@ nil			nil
Required incinerator capacity		300,000	175,000
LIFETIME COST	£1,640 million	£1,320 million	“X”

* assumes recycled domestic food waste

** with food waste enabling agricultural use

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 2 September 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN), Mr J Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk. County Councillor John Watson and District Councillor A Alton were also present.

Apologies: Mr T Joynson

Members of the public present: 3

The minutes of the last meeting were dated and signed as a true and accurate record by AL.

County Issues

1. Incinerator (see also below, under Matters Arising - item 1):
 - (a) The County Councillor announced that the Full NYCC Council discussion of the Allerton Waste project has been deferred until mid December, to allow the County Council's PFI Members' Working Group more time to review the proposals.
 - (b) The issue will be an agenda item at each Area Meeting across the region but the decision as to whether the councillors, or the public, will be allowed to vote will be at the discretion of the chair in each case.
2. Budget cuts: The impact of the Government's reduction of 24% in its grant to NYCC is beginning to be felt. There will be unpopular decisions to be taken and high profile cuts affecting areas such as libraries, elderly people's homes, youth and music services. Where possible, cuts are being made centrally at Northallerton to minimise the impact on wider public services.

District Issues

1. Recycling: HBC is planning to roll out an enhanced roadside collection scheme in late 2011/12 which will involve major investment and educating those residents who currently fail to use the service. Details will be announced in the next few weeks.
2. Money is extremely tight at District level and, whilst HBC is not currently planning to close services down, there will be no new expenditure other than for the proposed recycling improvements.

Matters Arising

1. Incinerator:
 - (a) The PC has submitted a detailed paper to the County Council's PFI Working Group that has been set up by NYCC to review the viability of the Allerton Waste proposals. It was agreed that one or two Parish Councillors would offer to meet the committee, if required. The PC's paper will be placed on the village website in the next few days.
 - (b) Individual Parish Councillors are currently attending various meetings in local parishes. JC gave a full account of a residents' meeting at Coneythorpe attended by Andrew Jones, local MP and Nigel Adams, MP (for Selby). It was suggested that the Government is reviewing PFI contracts and that one of our councillors may be invited to a committee meeting in Westminster.
 - (c) The Chair of the PC attended a meeting with Clare Wood, the Cabinet

Member responsible for waste strategy; representatives of NYCC; and about 15 parish councillors. NYCC are recognising a potential shortfall in household waste and it appears this shortfall will simply be filled with commercial waste. Ian Fielding, officer responsible, and his deputy David Bowe, have agreed to a discussion with the PC Chair in the near future.

(d) If possible, a member of the PC will attend the Hambleton Area Meeting and a note to residents will encourage locals to attend the Harrogate Area Meeting at The Old Swan at 4 pm on 22 September. Dr Paul Connett is to speak at The Bridge Inn at Walshford, at an event being organised by NYWAG.

(e) It was agreed to send a follow-up letter to other NY PCs, to include a summary of the PFI Working Group report. This will be signed by several local PCs, some of whom have offered financial support towards postage and printing.

(f) AmeyCespa will be putting on a presentation in the village hall on Saturday, 25 September.

2. Playing Fields:

- RN will obtain three estimates for work on the zigzag path.
- The tennis club committee had a successful meeting in the pub and are now planning a feasibility study in the village and a petition, to be started at the coffee morning on Saturday, 4 September. There is £340 in commuted sums for outdoor sports to be claimed before end January 2011. If this cannot be reserved for the tennis club it might be used for the zigzag path.

3. Village Shop/Hall

Nothing to report.

Planning

1. Ives Farm - Erection of detached agricultural building (revised scheme) - approved by HBC.
2. Blossom Cottage - Erection of ground floor extension, heat pump etc. - approved by HBC.
3. Sycamore House - Retention of use of office accommodation with formation of first floor and installation of double doors: RN declared a personal interest. The PC objected on the grounds that the original approval was conditional upon agricultural use. Further extension of office accommodation is not considered commensurate with the original planning application.
4. Stonelea - Erection of first floor extension and single storey extension: In view of the fact that the proposals will greatly increase the size of the building, it was decided the PC would visit the site before making any recommendation.

Accounts

Out:	£470.00	Mazars for audit
	60.00	BPS Printing (re incinerator mailing)
In:	£183.02	VAT repayment
	50.00	Donation from resident to incinerator costs

It was agreed that £200 be transferred from the building account to cover the extra cost of the audit, caused by volume of final bills for the building work.

Correspondence

- The meeting with a resident who wishes to plant a tree near the penfold is still to take place.
- The tenant of a small piece of land beneath a garage behind the village hall, wishes to buy the land. The Parish Council was not averse in principle and will consider the possible value of the land before contacting the tenant again.
- It was agreed that a question on HBC's proposed improved recycling plans would be drafted for the annual Parish Consultation meeting, seeking their comment on how HBC might influence NYCC's waste disposal plans.

Any other business

- A suggestion that the empty phone box in Grafton should be used as a book exchange was approved for a three months' trial period.
- Highways are considering the possibility of placing white lines on the bad bend on Braimber Lane, or possibly installing "road narrowing" signs. They have asked NYCC to contact us about possibly borrowing a portable speed monitoring machine.
- It has been reported that the caravans from Limebar Lane have been placed on the field behind the pub.
- It appears that a joyrider has driven into the first field on the left on Grafton Lane. RN will speak to the land owner and suggest the gate be closed.
- Potholes have been reported on the York road near the entry to Hundayfield Farm. Also on Thorny Hill Lane, caused by the spring.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- It was reported that a caravan with gas cylinder has appeared in a field on Gallabar Lane.
- Broken glass has been removed from the skate park.
- It was suggested something be placed beneath the bag in the playing field bin - RN will put an old bucket there.
- The structure of the NYCC Members Review Group was queried and explained.

Date of the next meeting

Thursday, 7 October 2010.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 7 October 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk.

Apologies: Mr J Crawford, County Councillor Watson, District Councillor Alton

Members of the public present: 7

The minutes of the last meeting were dated and signed as a true and accurate record by AL.

Matters Arising

1. Incinerator:

The PC met informally with officers from the Environment Agency prior to the meeting in order to understand their role in any forthcoming planning application.

Letters were sent to County Councillors suggesting questions they could put to the PFI working group, ahead of the Area meetings that took place in September. Brian Cooper spoke at the Harrogate Area meeting on 22 September. The PC prepared and submitted a second report to the due diligence group, and have also met with John Moore, Chief Finance Officer of NYCC. At this meeting the PC emphasised the uncertainties relating to estimates of volumes and other contractual issues which underlie the proposal. The risk of the time delay between signing the commercial contract and the financial contract was highlighted. Whilst appearing to acknowledge the risks, the message appears to be that NYCC have no choice but to proceed, as bureaucratic procedures are so lengthy it would take too long to review the scheme and come up with a better proposal.

A further meeting has been arranged with Ian Fielding, head of Waste at NYCC. County Councillor Watson has also raised concerns with the PFI working group. About 30 people attended a meeting in the hall, with a useful discussion, following AmeyCespa's recent roadshow in the village.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public on this issue. Concern was expressed that other waste treatment facilities are already struggling to meet capacity, and this project was now focusing on commercial and industrial waste in order to justify its size.

2. Playing Fields:

- The playground inspection report has been received and raises no issues.
- An estimate for work on the zigzag path from Webster's for £400 plus VAT may be accepted providing this is the lowest of three.
- The Cricket Club has assisted in repairing the track to the playing field.
- An upside down bucket has been placed in the bin to support the bag.
- The old tennis court and bowling green have been mown.
- It was agreed someone should be called in to tackle the rabbit problem.
- The sun dial has been sprayed to kill weeds.
- Websters are to be asked to quote for fencing off the top area to include a barrier to prevent cars driving on to the pitch - for consideration by the PC.
- The PC has obtained another bin which they will install in Marton.

3. Village Shop/Hall:
The Fire Officer has now issued the final certificate for the hall extension.
4. Speeding:
Traffic is to be monitored and a temporary flashing 30 sign placed in Marton in about two/three months' time. This is in response to residents' concerns about speeding.

Planning

1. Sycamore House - Retention of the access track has been refused by HBC.
2. Highfield House - Erection of single storey side extension with roof lights and sliding door: No objection by the PC, but a query about HBC policy on velux windows in a Conservation area.

Accounts

Out:	£70.50	HBC for playground inspection
	£62.36	Expenses re Incinerator mailings
In:	£1650.00	2 nd Precept payment
	50.00	Donation from Whixley PC re Incinerator campaign

The Parish Estimate forms have been received and will be discussed at the next meeting. It was agreed to reimburse the rail fare (£130) for a member of the PC and a village representative to travel to London next week to meet a Government Minister to discuss the NYCC waste PFI.

Correspondence

The meeting with a resident who wishes to plant a tree near the penfold is still to take place.

- HBC are undertaking a consultation exercise from 1 October to 26 November on proposed new homes in villages, including Marton cum Grafton.
- The parish's question appears to have been omitted by HBC from the agenda for the consultation meeting in Arkendale on 11 October.
- A note has been received advising that the Emley Moor transmitter will switch over to digital in September 2011.
- NYCC's Road Safety Officer advises that rumble strips would cause noise on the hill from Grafton to Marton, but bar markings and the word "STOP" would be suitable. However, NYCC have no funds and they asked if the PC could find £3/5,000 - the answer was negative.
- Skipton East Lancs Rail Action Partnership has approached each Councillor for support in reopening the missing Colne to Skipton line - it was left to Councillors's individual discretion.

Any other business

- Grafton phone box has been set up as a book exchange and thanks were expressed to the resident's father who has installed the book shelves. An unexpected amount of publicity has resulted, including features in the Yorkshire Post, BBC Look North, You and Yours and Radio York.
- Another potholes was reported on the A6265 near Hundayfield Farm.
- The pub's request to put an advertising board on Grafton Green was considered, but felt inappropriate as it could set a precedent for other commercial advertising.
- Some hedges and trees need trimming back from roadsides. Members of the PC will mention this to property owners.
- Recent heavy rains caused a mudslide near the beck on Grafton Lane.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- It was felt there was an issue with mature trees around the village, and there appeared to be a reluctance by the Tree Officer to allow action to be taken. The Clerk was asked to clarify the rules.
- A suggestion was made that a rain shelter be erected for children on Marton green, but the consensus was that children would be unlikely to stand under it.

Date of the next meeting

Thursday, 4 November 2010.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 4 November 2010 at 7.30 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN), Mr J Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk. District Councillor Alton (AA) was also in attendance.

Apologies: County Councillor John Watson

Members of the public present: 7

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

HBC issues

- AA outlined the extremely tight financial situation facing the council in the current economic climate.
- Alternate weekly waste collections are being proposed to facilitate improved recycling, with general waste in wheelie bins that hold approximately 4 sacks. There will be additional receptacles for plastic, cardboard, paper, bottles, cans and green waste. HBC need to achieve 40% recycling by 2013 to meet Government guidelines. A final decision will be taken after Christmas, with a planned two year roll out.

Matters Arising

1. Incinerator:

AA indicated that he believed this was an NYCC issue and he did not consider it appropriate for HBC to take a view until it came to a planning application.

The PC emphasised the need to stop this before it gets as far as planning and believed it was the responsibility of all of us, including HBC, to prevent the unnecessary major expenditure over 25 years which will impact on every ratepayer. The PC is aware of modern, cheaper options that offer significantly improved value for money. A question was posed as to whether HBC is legally bound to dispose of its waste through NYCC if cheaper options were to become available. AA agreed to seek clarification on this, and to approach the Executive to enquire if Marton cum Grafton PC could make a presentation to them outlining their calculations regarding the financial impact that will result if NYCC's scheme goes ahead.

A second letter has been sent to Parish Councils across North Yorkshire, on behalf of McG and several other PCs in this area. Thanks were expressed to Arkendale, Goldsborough and Whixley PCs for their financial support and to Paperworks for handling the distribution. The MP for Elmet and Rothwell has come on board, making a total of 6 MPs now opposed to NYCC's plans.

The Parish Council reported their study of potential alternative schemes that offer significantly better value for money compared to that under consideration by NYCC. A nearby local authority is operating a scheme whereby, after removal of paper and glass, the remaining 70% waste is stored in conditions that result in it heating up naturally and, after two weeks, drying out. The drying process removes 20% of weight. Mechanical sorting removes a further 30% of recyclates, leaving 20% for landfill (meeting NYCC's objective to remove 80% of landfill). The capital cost is 20% and the gate fee is 60% of the Allerton proposal. Schemes such as this could be operated on 2/3 sites, reducing

high fuel costs for areas such as Scarborough, who may have to close the state-of-the-art Seamer recycling plant if the Allerton project goes ahead on the planned scale.

Thanks were expressed to TJ and Brian Cooper for undertaking the above research.

It was reported that County Councillor Watson (JW) has met with the Head of Waste at NYCC, who anticipates a substantial increase in waste arisings in North Yorkshire despite actual figures for the county, and the country, continuing to fall. JW is concerned that AmeyCespa may be able to bid for commercial waste at lower rates than competitors, which could prompt those competitors to make a claim against NYCC on the basis that public funds have been misused.

For the future, local PCs and NYWAG are meeting to discuss tactics before the NYCC vote is taken at County Hall on 15 December.

NYWAG has made two requests: firstly that the PC increases its precept request in anticipation of legal costs; secondly that we act as a holding base for funds for legal expenses etc. After discussion it was felt (1) the PC could not assume public support from all ratepayers in the Parish for an increase in the precept. On previous occasions the PC has been very well supported when the need has arisen and a specific request for help has been made. (2) It was inappropriate for the PC to act as a holding base in this way.

2. Playing Fields

- Tennis Courts: Research is continuing and advice has been given by various bodies such as North Yorkshire Sport, HBC and the Lawn Tennis Association. It is proposed that the Tennis Committee would have charitable status but also be a subsidiary of the PC for VAT and control purposes. At the point that an application is made for grants, an agreement for lease of the land for say 25 years at a peppercorn rent would be required. There was no objection to the provisional proposals that were considered.
- Playing fields: Websters will be asked to commence the work repairing the footpath, having given the lowest quotation, and it has been agreed by HBC that this can be claimed against commuted sums.
- RN asked if anyone had a leaf blower to clear the area at the bottom of the path.

3. Village Shop/Hall

The shop rent is due and the clerk will prepare an invoice.

It was agreed RN would walk round the hall/shop with the committee during one of their reviews of the building and the committee would furnish the PC with a copy of their report once a year.

4. Planning

- Sycamore House: Retention of first floor office accommodation; change of use of part of ground floor - approved by HBC.
- Consultation for future growth of housing in the village: HBC is seeking feedback on the need for new homes. After discussion, the PC agreed that recent building had, in the main, enhanced village life. They believed this piecemeal development should continue, but did not wish to change the character of this rural area and particularly wished to maintain the present aspects at the approaches to the village. The PC did not identify any new land for development and a report to this effect will be returned to HBC.

Accounts

In: £50 from Arkendale Parish Council

Out: £228.60 for train fares in connection with interview with a Government Minister
£219.58 to Paperworks for printing/mailing of letters to NY Parish Councils
£260 to McG Cricket Club for grasscutting

Precept: The PC's finances were discussed and it was noted that a total of £800 has been spent so far on the incinerator campaign. So far, contributions of £200 have been received towards this cost and the MAGNOMs balance remains available in case of need towards legal fees. The PC has built up appropriate contingency funds and, particularly in the light of Government constraints, it was decided to leave the precept figure at the same level of £3,300 for 2011/12.

Any other business

- Three quotations have been obtained for a new outdoor noticeboard to replace the old one affixed to left of the hall entrance. The Clerk will seek funding of £440 to cover the cost of the lowest estimate.
- It was agreed the PC would meet for a Christmas meal at the Punch Bowl (at their own expense!) immediately after the next PC meeting, which will be held at the earlier time of 6.00 pm. A Quiz based on the PC minute books was being prepared.
- The pothole on York road has still not been repaired.
- Discussions have taken place with residents where trees are overhanging the road.
- It was noted that solar panels have been installed on the historic town house behind the maypole in Aldborough. The Clerk was asked to check on HBC's policy on this.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- It was reported that HBC has a new tree officer who appears to take a more reasonable view of requests regarding tree management.
- A response was requested regarding the suggestion that white lines be painted on Braimber Lane - Highways have been considering this.

Date of the next meeting:

Thursday, 2 December at the earlier time of 6.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

A meeting of Marton cum Grafton Parish Council was held in the Memorial Hall on Thursday, 2 December 2010 at 6.00 pm

Present: Prof A Long as Chair (AL), Mr T Joynson (TJ), Mr N Wilson (NW), Mr R Naish (RN), Mr J C Crawford (JC) and Miss L Bullus as Clerk.

Apologies: District Councillor Alton

Members of the public present: 8

The minutes of the last meeting were signed and dated as a true and accurate record by AL.

Matters Arising

1) Proposed Incinerator:

Representatives of the PC are meeting weekly with other local Parish Councillors and also having discussions with NYCC. At a recent meeting with the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council an alternative, value for money option was put forward, highlighting the price differential between AmeyCespa and what is available in the open market. Despite the Leader's promise to put this alternative to the PFI working group, this was not done and officers merely confirmed their existing proposals. Enviro, the environmental consultants who have been advising NYCC all along, have seen the PC's alternative proposal but failed to address the key issue, that of value for money. The Executive subsequently approved submission of the scheme to full Council on 15 December.

The local Parish Councils group is approaching the various audit bodies that might have an interest, as well as generating local publicity and alerting the media. Efforts will continue to persuade County Councillors to call for a review but current indications are that the contract with Amey Cespa will be approved on 15 December. It will then go for planning consideration, after the Government's waste plan is announced, at which stage the incineration option may be contrary to policy leading to NYCC's requiring AmeyCespa to pursue an alternative strategy.

On 15 December there will be ten speakers from the collective Parish Councils putting forward a case in a final effort to make County Councillors understand the folly of voting in favour. It is hoped local residents will attend.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public and answered questions. He agreed to pursue with the collective parishes a suggestion that large A-board signs be erected in the villages giving details of the 15 December meeting to encourage people to attend. It was also agreed to prepare flyers for distribution in the village.

2) Playing Fields:

Websters will be asked to complete the work to the track to enable the paid invoice to be reclaimed from Commuted Sums before the end of January deadline.

3) Village Shop/Village Hall:

It was reported that the shopkeeper, Mr Stott, has had a visit from the Fire Officer requiring various work to be done to meet safety standards. The Village Hall Committee is pricing the work and will determine how responsibility for the work should be allocated. They will bring a report to the next meeting for discussion to decide any contribution that the Parish Council might make.

4) Planning:

1. Stables on Legram Lane: HBC have written to advise that the appeal against enforcement has been dismissed, as the stables are considered a permanent structure.
2. Stonelea: HBC advise that a complaint has been made regarding work to trees.
3. Stonelea: Erection of first floor and single storey extension and conversion to two storey dwelling - approved by HBC.
4. Highfield House: Rear extension - approved by HBC.

Accounts

In: £100 contribution to the Incinerator Campaign from Great Ouseburn PC
£377.65 VAT repayment

Out: £297.15 repayment of VAT to Village Hall Committee in respect of landscaping of village hall garden

The Clerk advised that the Section 137 Expenditure Limit for 2011/12 is £6.44 per head of population. Also that £1,019 is available under "sports activities" in Commuted Sums for draw-down before the end of November 2011.

Correspondence

A questionnaire from NYCC regarding consultation on the minerals core strategy was discussed and completed. The Chair would be willing to attend a consultation meeting provided this was at a convenient time.

Any other Business

- A letter has been received from the owner of 2 Priest Cottage offering to buy approximately 20 square yards of land under his garage, together with a further square yard on his side of the fence following the recent works in the village hall garden. The proposed price of £750 plus payment of legal costs for both parties was considered fair, and the PC agreed in principle subject to the PC obtaining legal confirmation that they are entitled to sell this land. A final decision will be taken once this confirmation is to hand. This in no way sets a precedent in respect of any other land owned by the Parish Council.
- Braimber Lane: Following recent accidents, Highways has informed the PC that this lane does not meet the legal requirements to permit white lines to be put in place.
- The Clerk was asked to circulate the village residents' email list to seek the help of existing subscribers in encouraging other local people to add their names.
- A resident had reported that the new telegraph pole opposite the shop appeared to have fractured a sewer. Yorkshire Water have attended and hope they have resolved the problem.
- The recent freezing temperatures and lying snow has virtually cut off the village for a week. A suggestion was made that the PC bulk-buy a store of salt and a spreader but there were concerns about public liability. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways for advice and tell them that whilst Highways' snowplough did a good job, the contractor merely smeared the snow resulting in glassy surfaces.
- One Parish Councillor proposed forming the McG Cross Country Ski Club! A track has

been set out and there are already three members with two pairs of skis. Another Councillor objected that this was not a PC issue.

The Chair opened the meeting to the public:

- An item on Radio 4 has apparently highlighted that farmers had been criticised for clearing snow without public indemnity cover, or for using the wrong diesel.
- A complaint was made that the village had been cut off by the snow and the bus service had just missed McG out, particularly as old people were struggling to get about.

Date of the next meeting:

Thursday, 6 January at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 7.12 pm.