**DATE: Wednesday 19 July, 2023**

**TIME: 19:00 hrs**

**LOCATION: West Tanfield Memorial Hall**

**PRESENT:** Councillors David Dumbleton (Chairman), Judi Horner and Anthony Mainprize

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Alison E Carter (Clerk)

**PRESENT:** North Yorkshire Council Councillor David Webster and twenty-three members of the public.

1. **WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Councillor Dumbleton welcomed all to the meeting.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were no declarations of interest of request for dispensation.

1. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS OR STATEMNTS – See below.**
2. **APOLOGIES TO BE RECEIVED AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE ACCEPTED**

Apologies received from Parish Councillor Peter Hull and representatives from England Heritage.

1. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –** The minutes of the meetings held on 28 June, 2023, were agreed as a true record

and for signing by the Chairman.

1. **NORTHERN HENGE**- The sale of the Northern Henge attracted a number of local residents and people from the wider

Community. English Heritage sent their apologies to the meeting but submitted the following statement and asked for

this to be read out at the meeting by the Chairman of the Parish Council:

Update from English Heritage for Tanfield Parish Council Meeting on 19th July 2023

Working closely alongside Historic England – the Government’s statutory advisory on England’s historic environment

– English Heritage was delighted to acquire two of the three Thornborough Henges at the start of the year. The two

henges – the southern and central henges – were donated to the nation by their then owner, the construction material

supplier Tarmac, and joined the 400 plus sites under English Heritage’s care within the National Heritage Collection.

Since then, English Heritage has welcomed thousands of visitors to the henges, created interpretation to explain the

monument’s significance, and most importantly received the help of a team of terrific volunteers and partners such as

the Lower Ure Conservation Trust to both care for the henges and to bring their stories for life. Recent activities at the

henges include the Lower Ure Conservation Trust planting over 10,000 wild flowers to address the long-term erosion

caused by livestock and rabbits.

English Heritage’s Thornborough team has been genuinely touched by the support it has received from the local

community in helping us to look after this national and local landmark, and we would like to thank everyone involved

for their help and support.

As you are all aware, the northern henge has recently come up for sale. English Heritage would love to see the three

henges reunited within the National Heritage Collection so that we can ensure that the public can explore, understand

and enjoy the entirety of this remarkable monument, and also to safeguard their long-term future.

Many of you will have seen the recent media coverage implying that English Heritage was no longer a prospective

purchaser of the northern henge. This was misleading; our desire to acquire the northern henge remains strong and

undiminished. With this in mind, we continue to explore a number of avenues which we hope will enable English

Heritage to acquire the northern henge, and in doing so to unify the three henges. However, we are a charity with more

than 400 sites to care for – the vast majority of which are (like Thornborough) free-to-enjoy but not free-to-maintain –

and we have limited resources. Anything the charity spends needs to withstand scrutiny and to be deemed a ‘reasonable’

use of funds, not least by our auditors.

We are very conscious of the desire to see the henges reunited under our care. We are extremely grateful for this and feel

the same way ourselves. We hope that we will ultimately be able to arrive at a solution that allows us to do this.

We will continue to keep the parish updated.

The meeting then opened for discussions/statements from people attending the meeting with regards to the possible

sale of the Northern Henge. The Chairman of the Parish Council stated that the Parish Council did not have the funds

to buy the Northern Henge and as it was a private sale would remain neutral during the discussions.

During discussions there were suggestions with regards to adding covenants re the sale of the Northern Henge,

discussions re public access to the land, on-going costs to maintaining/restoring the land, restrictions due to the land

being an ancient monument. Points made with regards to the three henges never being owned and managed by one body.

Following a long discussion, the decision was taken by several attendees at the meeting to form an independent group to

to liaise with English Heritage and see if it would be feasible to fundraise to purchase the Northern Henge and donate/gift

the Henge to English Heritage in the future. There was an amount of interest with regards to possibly volunteering with

English Heritage to maintain the Henges. The Parish Council wished the group luck and asked for them to keep in touch

as to what the outcome would be. The Parish Clerk agreed to ensure interested individuals and English Heritage were

able to contact each other.

1. **TRANSPORT PLAN STAKEHOLDERS’ ENGAGEMENT** – To note the on- line survey from North Yorkshire

Council with regards to transport, including public transport, walking, cycling, taxis, and trains. As well as the

transport network and the services North Yorkshire Council provide.

1. **YORKSHIRE AND HUMBER CLIMATE COMMISSION CONSULTATION** – Local Councils/Communities have

your say on: New Build Homes and Places, Nature Recovery, Infrastructure and Green Jobs and Skills. The on-line survey

can be accessed at Have Your Say Today – Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan - Commonplace

1. **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
   1. To consider the following applications and agree responses to the consultations being carried out by the planning authority:

Planning Application ZB23/01331/FUL – Construction of a new dwelling with associated landscaping, following the full

demolition of the existing (ruined) dwelling and garage. The Old Rectory, Main Street West Tanfield.

It was agreed the Parish Council would not submit any objections.

* 1. No other applications received for consultation since (see [www.hambleton.gov.uk/planning](http://www.hambleton.gov.uk/planning) for details of recently submitted

applications.

* 1. No updates or decisions on applications, appeals and enforcement investigations received since the last meeting.

1. **NEXT MEETING**

To be held on Wednesday 23 August, 2023 Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, the meeting will commence at 7 pm and be

held at the Village Hall, West Tanfield.

1. **ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Meeting closed at 20:15 hrs.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Alison E Carter, Clerk to the Parish Council.

**SIGNED: (Chairman)**

**DATE: …………………………………………………………………….**