



## *Committee Meeting, 9 February 2006*

### MINUTES

**Present:**

<b>Heather Thomas-Smith</b>	<b>(HTS)</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>
<b>Andrew Walkden</b>	<b>(AW)</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Malcolm Beresford</b>	<b>(MB)</b>	<b>Parish Council</b>
<b>Bob Cater</b>	<b>(BC)</b>	
<b>Gavin Dewar</b>	<b>(GD)</b>	
<b>Gillian Jones</b>	<b>(GJ)</b>	
<b>John Mathew</b>	<b>(JM)</b>	
<b>John Rodgers</b>	<b>(JR)</b>	

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#### **1.0 Apologies**

**John Finnigan**

#### **2.0 Matters Arising**

2.1 ???

#### **3.0 Correspondence**

3.1 **AW** will circulate a letter he received from Neil Carver (ex LoPRA member) detailing his support, but regretfully informing us of his move away from the area, explaining his non renewal.

#### **4.0 A65 – Public Inquiry**

- 4.1 **JR** reported that all witness statements have been collected, and endorsements for the case against the revocation of the bypass route received from David Curry MP (circulated to committee). Nothing has as yet been received from the school governors, nor from Councillor David Heather, nor Councillor Helen Firth.
- 4.2 **GJ** spoke to Councillor Helen Firth. Councillor Firth claims there's a delay due to not being informed, but she has now had LoPRA's statement of case for three weeks.
- 4.3 **JR** hadn't heard anything from Hellifield, but hasn't had a reply from Hellifield to the two previous letters either.
- 4.4 **GJ** said that Ian Evans (**IE**) would telephone **JR** regarding some lady from Hellifield (Parish Council?) who had called **IE** about a parish meeting regarding the A65.
- 4.5 **BC** reported that there are new funding processes for large civil engineering projects, and it appears that the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) has not yet put in any regional bid for a bypass (at least he garnered as much from Elwynn Williams at NYCC). It also appears that the Highways Agency (HA) have one winning point in their case, namely, that the public

inquiry has nothing to do with the *need* for a bypass for Long Preston. **GJ** argued that if the HA are to use this in their defense, i.e., “it's government policy”, then why bother having an inquiry in the first place?

- 4.6 **MB** confirmed that the Long Preston Parish Council have agreed to let LoPRA speak on their behalf at the inquiry.
- 4.7 **HTS** suggested that BBC North (Alan Whitehouse), and BBC Yorkshire had said that they *may* cover the inquiry, but that she'd had no response from Fresh FM, or BBC Leeds. **HTS** also reported that **IE**'s advice was not to proceed with a poster campaign, as it may rally people to speak in favour of the bypass line revocation at the inquiry.
- 4.8 **BC** suggested that it might be a good idea to approach newspapers that ran the 'most dangerous roads in Britain' story to do a follow up on the A65 inquiry.
- 4.9 **GD** reported that the results from the matrix sign and speed gun had demonstrated quite slow traffic, and asked us also to note that the records were of speeds of vehicles, not number of vehicles (i.e. several vehicles travelling together would only produce one count at a particular speed).
- 4.10 **HTS** suggested that after the inquiry, the A65 group could investigate the cost of matrix signs, as well as speed feedback signs. **JR** is to chat with PC Wilson about what happens with the matrix results.

## 5.0 Housing Needs Survey

- 5.1 **HTS** reported that in a conversation with Peter Scott-Smith (**PSS**), he had said that he would be willing to perform an analysis of the new Housing Needs Survey (HNS), but that he could not fit it in before March.
- 5.2 **HTS** reported that the HNS has placed Long Preston and Hellifield ward outside the National Park, and that between 1994 and 2004, there has been a 64% increase in new business in real estate (from VAT registrations) in the Craven area.
- 5.3 **HTS** also pointed out two very stark pieces of opinion in the HNS :
  - i) “39% of the influx to Craven cite 'affordability' as an attraction (interestingly)”.
  - ii) Efflux is clearly due to lack of affordability.Further more, the HNS is inconsistent in saying that (i) more elderly relevant housing is needed, and (ii) the housing that proves most difficult to shift is for the elderly.

## 6.0 TRAMPS

- 6.1 **GD** told us that if LoPRA put on the show, we'd need around 40 attendees to break even, and could donate the excess to the village hall fund. If TRAMPS put on the show, LoPRA will get no coverage or credit.
- 6.2 **MB** noted that if we engage TRAMPS to do the show, LoPRA could still associate itself with the advertising, and could sell refreshments.
- 6.3 **GD** is to approach TRAMPS regarding putting on a Saturday afternoon show in the village hall in March school half term.

## 7.0 Newsletter

- 7.1 **HTS** reported that **AW**, and **GJ** have sent in newsletter submissions, and that all other submissions should be made by 27<sup>th</sup> February at the latest. **GD** will be willing to do the printing, as **JM** is unable to do this any more. It was mentioned that photocopying is also available via the Parish Council, or Rev. Rachel Wilson, at a cost of 1p per copy at the vicarage.
- 7.2 **MB** reported that the Parish Clerk was to write a piece for the newsletter.

## 8.0 Membership News

- 8.1 **GD** reported that comparing 2004-05 with 2005-06, personal membership had dropped from 125 to 101, and that the number of households containing at least one member, had dropped from 79 to 64. **AW** is to confirm this by distributing a current membership list before each

meeting. A list of lapsed households is also to be circulated, so that committee members can pick people they know to approach, and find out the cause of their lapse.

## **9.0 Secretary's Position**

9.1 **HTS** wondered if it's worth advertising for a secretary. **BC** thought not, as an advertised secretary would be good for taking minutes, etc., but not for writing letters to the YDNP, say.

All agreed that the minutes could still be taken by committee members.

9.2 Nomination of a new chair was put over to the next committee meeting.

## **10.0 AOB**

10.1 **HTS** was unsure what other action it was appropriate for LoPRA to take regarding the developments at Townhead, and that she would likely telephone Wilf Fenten (WF) to follow up on her last letter.

10.2 **MB** said that the Parish Council discussion regarding planning permission for Margaret Miller's barn, has been deferred until after access across the village green has been debated. There is no danger of permission being granted until the Parish Council have discussed the matter.

10.3 **GJ** said that Daniel Child had stated clearly that the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) would only consider the conversion of barns to domestic use if a workshop was included in the plans. **HTS** corrected that this applied only to barns outside the village boundary, according to **WF**. For the moment, it is most appropriate to leave the matter to the Parish Council, but it may be appropriate for LoPRA to take a view on the parking issue on the village green. On this point, **MB** said that the Parish Council would appreciate a supportive letter from LoPRA on this matter, with regard to the barn conversion. **GJ** offered to draft the letter to the clerk of the Parish Council.

10.4 **hHTS** floated the idea of LoPRA preparing a stall for the May Day celebrations, and possibly sourcing some display boards for the purpose.

Next meeting at 19:30 in the residents' lounge of the Maypole on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006.