

# Melbourne Parish Council

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Minutes of the Melbourne Annual Parish Council Meeting held at 7.10pm on 7 September 2020 in The Village Hall, Melbourne.

Present: Councillors Cooper (in the chair), Johnson, Kemp, Rollason, Breeze, Tomalin, Braidley and Downes.

Apologies: Cllr Lee

Members of the public present: 1

- 1. Parish matters - Yorkshire Water** – a resident, RP, attended the meeting to provide an update on issues with Yorkshire Water (YW) on Main Street near the Melbourne Arms. RP and his neighbour were experiencing significant problems with sewage breaches and other failures. As a result both were phoning and complaining to YW on a regular basis. However, YW had failed to take any substantive action instead choosing to pump out the system when levels were high which did not prevent reoccurrences.
- 2.** RP was of the view the St Monica's pumping station was not fit for purpose, particularly with the increase in people following the building of the new estate at the west end of the village. He had spoken to a manager at YW recently who had said he would instigate tankering at the station when the alarms went off to try to stop waiting for it to empty naturally. However, this was not sustainable in the long-term. The YW manager also said he had altered the alarms on the pumping stations so that when they were 25% full the alarms would trigger and YW would come out straightaway without waiting for a call from a resident. However, that procedure had not been tested yet.

RP said that YW would not record calls to the service as formal complaints. It would only accept written communications including the word 'complaint' or use of the online form.

The Parish Council offered to write to the Chief Executive of YW about the issues being experienced by the village. However, before that took place the Clerk would make a request to YW to provide details of the number of complaints received over the last 12 months.

It was agreed Cllr Breeze, with assistance from the Clerk and Cllr Cooper, would act as a Parish Council liaison with the affected residents.

Cllr Leo Hammond explained this was a common problem for this part of his ward. It was important to keep contacting YW whenever an issue occurred. He agreed he would speak to the relevant ERYC Area Engineer and pursue a solution for the village.

## **Agreed that the Parish Council would:**

- a. remind residents to contact YW whenever problems arose. This would be carried via the distribution of a leaflet to parish households and information on the noticeboard, website, Facebook community page and village newsletter;**
- b. make a request under the relevant legislation for information about the number of complaints YW had received over the last 12 months and the number of times the pumping stations had failed;**

- c. **draft a letter on behalf of the Parish Council, supported by Cllr Hammond to the Chief Executive of YW, specifying the ongoing problems experienced by the village; and**
  - d. **Cllr Hammond would try to set up a meeting twice a year with YW.**
- 3. Annual report by Chairman – Noted** – Cllr Hammond said that at the end February / beginning March 2021, all necessary roads will be resurfaced and the weight restriction will then be introduced once that had been completed.