

SCRIVEN PARISH COUNCIL



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2010

Chair

Mr. Peter Long
Tel: 01423 863313

Vice Chair

Dr Lorraine Ferris
Tel: 01423 863330

Council Members

Mr. Ivor Fox Tel: 01423 542819
Mrs. Sarah Patterson Tel: 01423 862459

Parish Clerk

Mrs. Jenny Bradley Tel: 01423 552592

Update on road repairs

Many residents have made contributions to fund road repairs and some have said they are unclear on the overall plan.

The private roads (tarmac and gravel) alongside the Green are in a poor state of repair after several bad winters and no maintenance of the tarmac road for many years. After lengthy investigations, it has been established that the roads were conveyed to Scriven Parish Council (SPC), along with the Green, subject to the right of way of properties requiring access over the roads. The conveyance documents state that the owners of these properties shall share the cost of road maintenance.

WHAT IS THE PLAN FOR FUNDING OF MAINTENANCE?

During discussions at the Annual Parish Meeting held in March, there was a consensus that SPC should co-ordinate collection of an annual payment from the relevant properties and enter into a maintenance

programme. However, initially this scheme will by necessity be expensive due to the need to bring the road up to an acceptable standard. Once the road is in a good state of repair, it is to be hoped that the annual contribution might be reduced and allowed to build up over a long period so it is available for maintenance on an ongoing basis. In the short term, there is bound to be a tension between the need for expensive work and making the payment affordable.

CAN'T SCRIVEN PC PAY?

This was suggested but unfortunately, SPC does not have the funds. SPC has only a limited cash reserve of a few £100s that it must maintain as a contingency for normal annual expenditure. The conveyance documents state that the legal obligation for payment lies with the road users rather than with SPC. If SPC had a legal obligation to pay, it would be placed in a very difficult position, as it would necessitate a huge rise in the precept (tax) charged to households of over

100%, which would probably not be allowed by the higher tiers of government or be attractive to residents.

CAN'T HARROGATE BOROUGH OR NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILS PAY?

Neither of these will pay for repair as the road is unadopted. Getting the road adopted may appear a good long term option as it would take the responsibility of repairs and fund-raising from SPC and the residents. However, NYCC would charge the whole cost of resurfacing to residents at the time of adoption. If SPC continue to manage the arrangements, at least residents have some influence over the rate of expenditure.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

SPC have requested £30 from each household residing on, or accessing their property from, the private roads. Thanks to the 38 out of 40 households that have contributed to date, we now have a fund of £1,140 put aside for road maintenance.

SPC have gathered quotations from three suppliers for various

levels of work. For resurfacing of the length of tarmac running alongside the Green (not including the road further uphill which is also SPC owned), the cost would be around £15k or £375 per household, unaffordable for most people. Quotations for repair of the pot-holes from reputable contractors ranged from £750 - £1,870; SPC are about to go ahead with the lowest of these quotes to remedy the immediate problem and prevent any further deterioration during the winter.

WHAT WILL BE DONE IN THE FUTURE?

The work about to start is only a short term fix. Without further expenditure to improve kerbs, driveway junctions and drainage, the pot-holes might reappear quite soon. The whole surface of the road is crazed and in need of replacement but the cost seems insurmountable. SPC will seek advice from contractors on how the work might be phased over a number of years and consult with residents on the acceptability of the options and

expenditure levels. In addition to the tarmac road, the gravel road alongside the Green also needs to be considered; this has not been forgotten but SPC needed to focus attention upon the immediate hazard of the pot-holes in the tarmac road first.

Council Vacancy

Following the resignation of Councillor Shona Shires there is now a vacancy on the Council.

SPC would like to thank Shona for all her hard work for Scriven and for the contribution she has made to the parish over many years of service, particularly her Christmas parties and more recently in co-ordinating collection of the road maintenance fund.

Anyone interested in the position of councillor should contact the Parish Clerk on 01423 552592.

Remembrance Sunday

A wreath will be laid at the Scriven War Memorial on the Green on Sunday 14th November at 1pm. We encourage everyone to attend the short ceremony as a recognition of the sacrifice others, including former residents of Scriven, have made for us.



SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER

Remembrance Sunday wreath laying at War Memorial at 1 pm

THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER

SPC meeting at 8pm in Park Grove Methodist Church Hall

If you'd like to promote your business in this space and at the same time support the Parish by sponsoring the newsletters, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk on 01423 552592