

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held Monday 13 February 2017

Councillors: Peter Ward, Janet Turner, David Syms, Derrick Evans, Alan Robinson, Brian Atkinson, Martin Banks, District Cllr Simon Myers and Clerk-Kath Ashby and several parishioners.

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr Janet Sugden, Cllr Pearl Holmes and Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall.

2. To acknowledge those present.

3. To receive any declarations of interest: Nothing declared.

4. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting held Monday 9 January 2017 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by DE and seconded by JT. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

4.1 Matters Arising:

4.1a) PW told the meeting that following NYCC advising that they have no funding available for extending the footpath up to the Railway Station, we had a site meeting to talk about what we could do. Following this meeting a proposal was put to NYCC to clear the area of trees and create an unmade footpath some 76 metres long but without a kerb. NYCC have now responded to advise the footpath would not be safe without a kerb.

Another set of steps was discussed at the other side of the bridge. JT suggested Moorland Posts and it was also suggested we go back to Highways and ask how much kerbs would cost.

DE made a suggestion of removing the hedging and verges further back which would create more room to walk. A discussion took place as to who actually owned the yard up by the Station and enquiries are to be made to ascertain this. We could then approach them to ask them to consider re-instating the wood steps at the Station side.

4.1c) DE raised that there was no number on the Defibrillator box which would need to be quoted in an emergency.

Clerk to contact the Ambulance Service to obtain this number.

5. Matters requested by councillors:

5.1. County Cllr Shelagh Marshall: Cnty Cllr Marshall sent her apologies for this evening but sent her monthly report through which PW read out to the meeting.

Parish Council News – February 2017

- **North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel**
- A public consultation on the precept closed on 11th January and suggested that the majority had voted in favour of the preferred 1.99% rise in precept. This would equate to 8p extra for a band D property.

- The focus for next year's spend will be to embed the investments made in things like street triage and mental health services as well as increasing the numbers of PCSOs.
- There was a public consultation on the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan, this showed that cybercrime and online fraud are issues of much greater concern to the residents than it was four years ago. The additional funding for this has been limited and both the PCC and the Panel acknowledge that the present resources are not sufficient to deal with the problem which is now facing all parts of the country. This is resonant in North Yorkshire where we have an increasing elderly population.
- **Trading standards**, most months I receive a press release which reports on another successful prosecution against fraudsters who have taken money from older residents, the majority still for building work which does not need doing.
- **Library Borrowers break all digital download records**
- Virtual visits to North Yorkshire's Library service broke all records in January as readers in the County embraced e-books and digital audio. The number of e-books issued in January was 6,338, up from 5,469 in December.
- Digital audio downloads also achieved a new monthly record. Customers rose alongside loans with the number of new customers registering for downloads reaching a record for single month at 270. More information about the library services can be found at:
- www.northyorks.gov.uk/libraries.
- **2017/18 Council tax.** In a press statement early this month the Council is recommending a general council tax in the next financial year of 1.99% as well as a 2% social care precept. The Government offered the Council the opportunity to raise a 3% precept for social care for the next two years. Then in 2020/2021 it would revert to 2%. I am supportive of this decision. In three years' time the number of older people will have grown and the percentage of those requiring care at home will have risen and the care services will have even greater problems responding to those in need. Reminder, the 2% precept for social care in this current financial year brought in £5m which did not even pay for the increase cost of services to pay for the living wage.
- As you know the Council has recognised the need to continue to invest in programmes such as superfast broadband, extra care facilities, prevention services for vulnerable people and the maintenance of our extensive network of roads. Having burst a tyre in a large hole on my way to a meeting in Ripon in January 2016 and lost my car as a result, this has cost me dearly in increased insurance premium. When I reported the hole it was filled next day.
- The cost of the recommended rise to the average band D household would be an additional £45.64 a year (£3.80 per month). The Council will set its council tax on February 15th.
- The Government launched its Commission on Loneliness week beginning January 30th. It is co-chaired by Rachel Reeves MP and Seema Kennedy MP.

5.2 District Cllr Simon Myers:

Cllr Myers advised the meeting that all Local Authorities have had their grants cut this year. We have a deficit of £200,000 + this year. We set a budget and then we have a surplus at the end of the year.

We have £100,000 in reserves.

This year we are facing £250,000 shortfall. We have various schemes in progress and we have not blown our new homes bonus. We have a substantial sum sat in the bank. We are going to have to find £560,000 next year. There will be no funding from Central Government from next year.

We will probably put your Council Tax up. This will be at the rate of £5 per year, this year. In 2020 we will get no funding from Central Government but we will get all of the business rates.

Cllr Myers told the meeting that he hoped that the development on Skipton South goes well but for the future of Skipton and villages like Gargrave, we want high skilled jobs in Craven. So we will get more business rates from this too. It is exciting news about getting that money and we do need jobs that pay mortgages.

We are also attracting more grants with the help of Julian Smith MP who has raised our profile. JT asked about the upgrade to the Towpath. PW asked Cllrs Myers if he could find out when this is likely to happen.

Cllr Myers also advised that they plan to do more Joint Ventures and explained to the meeting a little of how this would work.

A parishioner raised the matter of the increased cost of Garden Waste which has risen by 13%. Cllr Myers explained that the increase will be what it costs to provide this service.

6. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:

6.1 Police Report: PW read out to the meeting the report recently received from the Police. They did hope to attend the meeting this evening but must have been called away at the last minute.

6.2 Public Participation:

One parishioner raised the matter of the entrance to Middle Green which he felt was an absolute disgrace. He asked if a letter could be sent to the new owners to request they clean up this area. PW pointed out that at the end of the day it is their land but asked for suggestions of what could be done to tidy things up on the Parish Council land. Some hard-core maybe on top of the concrete on the PC land.

PW agreed to write to the landowner to ask that they do not park on it. What if we offer to put down some hard-core and share the cost?

6.3 Martin Banks – Website recommendations: MB explained to the meeting that some time ago we received some recommendations for changing the systems at a cost of £900

which was not taken up. MB has recreated the website on a test system at the moment to get a look and feel for how a new website could look and work.

6.4 Footpath to Railway Station update: This matter has been discussed earlier in matters arising.

6.5 Public Toilets:

PW read out the complaint we had received recently regarding the hand dryers in the toilets, advising that the air is blowing cold in the gents toilets and the one in the ladies, did not work at all.

JT pointed out that the building is owned by CDC and that some time ago we had a quote to repair the hand dryer and it was going to cost around £600 so special hand cleansing gel is now provided. The hand drier in the gents is just aired.

6.6 GNPWG Update:

Edward Bartle advised that the meeting went well at CDC offices, about five weeks ago. It was agreed that 0.3 hectares would be removed from the site on Marton Road on the south side and to remove the Saw Mill site completely. CDC were very happy with this.

We are now looking at a Consultation in March/April time and then Examination in the summer. Referendum in the village in autumn before the Local Plan.

There was a slight hiccup at the Spatial Planning meeting recently as it came to light that two of our green spaces were missing from their plan. These have since been added.

We are now looking at 80 houses instead of 100, so we only need about 18/20 houses to fulfil this requirement.

**To consider the planning applications and decisions:
See attached list.**

8. Financial Matters:

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment.

INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| NYCC Grant for Playground Fencing | 845.00 |
| CDC Grant for Defibrillator work | 150.00 |
| Hunt Donation | 60.00 |
| Toilet Honesty Boxes | 141.09 |

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Village Hall Rent | 152.00 |
| Staff Wage | 771.63 |
| Staff Wage | 419.60 |
| Staff Wage | 32.00 |
| Shorrock Trichem | 38.92 |
| Yorkshire Water 3rd Quarter | 360.54 |
| Scott Janitorial Supplies | 110.23 |

| | |
|---|--------|
| Craven Stationery | 31.99 |
| 2 Keys - J Sugden reimburse | 7.50 |
| Tony Blackwell - Summer Seat roof repairs | 156.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Barclays Community Account | 27,710.14 |
| Skipton Building Society | 22,738.19 |

DS proposed the accounts and DE seconded, all in favour and accepted.

9. To consider the following new correspondence received and decide action where necessary.

1. PW and DE to attend this meeting.
2. Clerk to ring for an update.
5. Clerk to report to the Police to establish the ownership of the vehicle.
6. JT to place in the Notice Board and the Church.
10. Clerk to read and report back.
11. Contact D Pope regarding the new fine if you cannot produce a bag.
12. JT to place the information in the Church Magazine.
13. Clerk to advise they can go ahead on that date and also ask where their beat starts.

10. Notify the Clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.

11. To confirm the date of the next meeting as **Monday 13 March 2017**