

# GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Closed Zoom Meeting held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 1pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Janet Turner, Bryony Lebeter, Janet Sugden, Robert Marshall, Peter Ward, Martin Banks, Derrick Evans and Kath Ashby, Clerk.

No apologies received.

JT welcomed everyone to the Zoom Meeting this afternoon.

JT told the meeting that if they had looked through the latest White Rose Update, it indicates that it is anticipated that the next face to face meeting will not be until June 2021 although things may change and we will discuss this with the Chairman of the Village Hall before this time.

We do need to have another meeting to do our Standing Orders to keep them up to date.

### **1. Bank Erosion of River Aire at Mill Lane and TPO's:**

It was Mr Gane, Tree Officer for CDC who started the process for the TPO's on the trees down Mill Lane/Airebank Terrace area. We contacted him to enquire how this process had begun and he advised us that he had been contacted by a member of the public and therefore he undertook a TEMPO assessment which showed that the trees were worthy of a preservation order.

We have therefore responded asking him to come out to the site and have a look to see the erosion of the banking and suggested he cross the stepping stones and look at the banking from the other side of the river. The matter of dropping a tree into the river at that point to protect the banking from further erosion and prevent flooding was first suggested by Mr Grey, of the Wild Trout Trust. To date we have not received anything further from Mr Gane.

### **2. Resolution to Borrow:**

It was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £75,000 over the borrowing term of 20 years for the construction of a new river wall. The annual loan repayments will come to around £4,300.

It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

This Resolution was proposed by JT, seconded by PW, all in favour and accepted.

### **3. River Wall Update and recent EA response:**

JT told the meeting they will recall we wrote to Mr Kitts from the EA, and copied in Mr John Woods, our local contact and JT read out the email from J Woods in which he stated he had not received anything from a local parishioner. He also suggested that a meeting would be beneficial with a couple of representatives from the Parish Council and himself, Mr Kitts and Mr Turner. The aim of the meeting would be to have a look together at and discuss any outstanding issues for either party.

JT suggested that RM, PW and MB would be best to attend this site meeting, all were happy to do this and a couple of dates will be sent back to Mr Woods with the hope that a mutually convenient date and time can be agreed.

Clerk to email Mr Woods with the suggested dates of 14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2021.

PW raised the matter of the gullies and getting them filled back in permanently and a discussion then took place, and RM referred to a recent response received from the EA where they indicated that an application would most likely have to now be made before these gullies can be filled back in permanently.

The meeting then discussed in detail the broken glass that had been unearthed in the river, near the River bridge and BL expressed her concerns about the digging under the river arch at the Church side.

PW pointed out that the rule of the river is NY Highways of the section under the bridge and we should not be getting involved. The PC should not take this responsibility off NYCC Highways. It is the same above the stepping stones on High Green. The tree will continue to split and eventually go into the road. This is NYCC Highways problem, not Parish Council.

In view of the response received from the EA, the meeting agreed that the matter of the glass in the river was now closed as the EA was not prepared to do anything further.

The Clerk to respond to the parishioner who raised the matter initially today.

The River Wall Update, MB has spoken recently to the contractor to determine a timescale. The permit has now been submitted to the EA and it is estimated this will take 4/5 weeks to be issued. It is therefore looking likely a start date will not be before May 2021.

JT confirmed that the Parish Council has applied to CDC to request the removal of the four trees within the plantation which have to be removed before the river wall replacement work can comment. We anticipate we should receive a response during April 2021.

It was agreed to prepare a Specification to be sent out to two Tree Surgeons requesting a quotation for the cutting down and removing from site the four trees. A plan of the area, which was prepared by Paul Waite Associates, will also be sent out to the Tree Surgeons.

PW is happy to meet with the two contractors, unlock the plantation and show them which trees need to come out. He will also mark the correct trees with a red cross beforehand.

The Clerk clarified with MB that the cost of the removal of these trees was not part of the quotation provided by the Contractor for the river wall replacement work. The Parish Council to pay the cost.

The Parish Council discussed and agreed that an application be made for a loan of £75,000 over a period of twenty years to the Public Loans Board for the replacement of the River Wall. This is termed as a Renewal of the Asset. RM and MB to complete the application this week and get it sent off.

This Resolution was proposed by JT, seconded by PW, all in favour and accepted.

#### **4. Ownership of Railings around Toilets and Sub-Station:**

A member of the GNAT group contacted the Clerk to inform the Parish Council that as they have been painting the railings around the toilets, they have discovered that some of the railings have corroded and need replacing.

It was suggested that they ask a couple of local firms to quote for the replacement of these railings and then get back to the Parish Council.

We understand from MB that they have received one quote already and they wondered if the Parish Council would be willing to contribute to the cost of the replacement of these damaged railings.

JT told the meeting that the land on which the sub-station stands is owned by Northern Powergrid and the public toilets building and the land surrounding this is the property of CDC.

We have contacted CDC to ascertain the ownership of the railings surrounding the Toilets first of all as they may be willing to contribute to these.

#### **5. New Parish Councillors – Code of Conduct:**

There is to be a new Code of Conduct and we have this week received a model of the proposed document from NALC. There is no time restriction in adopting the new code

We have received interest from one parishioner in joining the Parish Council and therefore sent out the most recent information which is in the form of a booklet, prepared by CDC.

No other interest shown to date but these vacancies have been advertised on our website, noticeboards, in local shops and will appear within the Gargrave News section of the Craven Herald this week. We also understand something will appear in the next Parish Magazine.

#### **6. Budget:**

JT told the meeting that MB has prepared the draft Budget which you have all received a copy of.

A discussion took place and amendments and additions were agreed.

This budget, once agreed will be going forward to NALC with the application form for the loan and the sign off needs documenting for Audit purposes.

Clerk to contact the contractor who painted the Victorian railings last year and request an invoice so that this can be settled. He has still not started the painting of the other section of the railings down to the Kiosk, for which a grant was also received.

RM and MB agreed to finalise the application to the Public Loans Board for £75,000 for the river wall replacement.

It was agreed that MB would amend the Budget produced and then send out to all later today. This being based on our request to CDC for a precept of £46,000 being the same as last year.

JT proposed, BL seconded, all in favour and accepted.

#### **7. Annual Meeting – 21 June 2021:**

JT asked the meeting whether they thought we needed another zoom meeting as it is usually at our Annual Meeting if we have new people coming on board, would you want the Chairman and the Clerk to meet with anyone wishing to join.

JS suggested the standing orders are sent out to all the Parish Councillors so that any amendments or comments can be made.

#### **8. Planning Applications:**

Planning comments were agreed, the Clerk to send these through to CDC early next week.

JT thanked RM for once again setting up our Zoom Meeting this afternoon.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm

Proposed by MB, seconded by BL, all in favour and accepted.