

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held Wednesday 2 February 2022

Councillors: Steve Coetzer (SC) Peter Ward (PW), Janet Sugden (JS), Martin Banks (MB), Chris Hoskin (CH), Chris Smales (CS), Joanne Hughes (JH), District Cllr Simon Myers, Kath Ashby – Clerk and several parishioners.

1. To receive apologies for absence: County Cllr Gillian Quinn and Cllrs David Shuttleworth.

2. To acknowledge those present.

SC told the meeting that he was sure a few of you are wondering why I am sitting in the Chairman's position this evening.

At the budget meeting held on the 18th January, Cllr Peter Ward announced that he had decided to resign in his current role as Chairman which was discussed and accepted by the Parish Council. As a result of this a successor to Cllr Ward was needed and the Parish Council proposed and seconded myself to step up as Cllr Ward's successor.

Cllr Ward has made a valuable contribution towards the parish for the last 8 years with 5 stints as Chairman and I speak on behalf of the rest of the Parish Council that we would like to thank him for his contribution and dedication over the last 8 years. I am also pleased to announce that Cllr Ward will remain on the Parish Council as a parish councillor.

PW told the meeting that he realised he had been rather agitated last month. The Parish Council had agreed a way forward and then decided to back down on that decision. I thought it was better I step down at that time.

3. To receive any declarations of interest:

It is only fair that residents on Marton Road declare an interest in the planning application which has been submitted. Therefore SC and MB declared their interest. JH has already declared in interest which was recorded at last month's meeting.

4. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting held **Wednesday 12 January 2021** were accepted as a true record. Proposed by JS and seconded by PW. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

5. Matters requested by councillors:

5.1. County Cllr Gillian Quinn: Apologies received for this evening.

5.2 District Cllr Simon Myers:

Cllr Myers wished to say thank you to PW for all his hard work over the past eight years. PW has been a very good Chairman who has had to deal with some difficult matters, and unnecessary personal attacks over the past two years.

We must remember that each Parish Councillor does this work voluntarily to improve our village and therefore deserves everyone's respect.

He welcomed SC and felt sure they would work well together.

CDC held their last Budget meeting and agreed the spending budget of just under £9million for 2022/23 with an increase in council tax of £5 per year. We will end 2023 leaving the best possible financial position as we prepare to hand over to the new Unitary Authority.

There are a number of projects ongoing where funds are already allocated and still to be delivered. Any projects not already taken up, will be taken forward by the new Unitary Authority.

There has been a lot of work involved in creating new work streams. We have lost officers, who are very difficult to replace. We are committed to hiring more planning officers and we are determined to get it right. We cannot even get Agency ones at the moment.

On the matter of the recent planning application on Marton Road, the decision of CDC will not be an officer decision, it will be a member's decision at a Committee Meeting.

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

6.1. Police Report:

In November there was one reported burglary.

- Offenders attempt to steal quad bike. Thankfully the farmer had parked his tractor blocking the exit to the outbuilding. Offenders attempted to lift quad over the tractor, however they were unsuccessful in their attempts.

In December there was 3 reported.

- Offenders attempt to break into property, however were disturbed by house alarm.
- Offenders break into property via unlocked backdoor and steal items. Investigations are still ongoing. Suspected offender has since been arrested for an unrelated matter and is serving a sentence until 2023.
- Reporting person is woken by the sound of back door slamming. However unconfirmed if anyone had been into property. It is also unconfirmed if the reporting person had simply left the door open. No items were stolen.

Other incidents over the past two months include:

- Suspicious incidents 8
- Highway Disruption 3

- Violence related incidents 2
- Theft 1
- Fraud 4
- Drugs 1
- Criminal damage 1
- Anti-Social Behaviour 2

Also the Police have provided a link to a Burglary Prevention Leaflet. This will be placed onto the website and the information passed onto the Editor of the Parish Magazine.

6.2 Public Participation:

A spokesman for the GWWG put forward a request for one of their members to meet with the Grass Cutting contractor for possible adjustments to his contract. An amended cutting regime he felt would benefit wildlife, pollinators in particular and would not necessarily result in the vegetation growing any higher than it has been allowed to over recent years. JH told the meeting that we don't have to make a decision now but we could look at what other councils are doing.

It was agreed that the GWWG will keep the saplings recently planted on the Woodland Walk clear of grass and weeds. During dry periods these will need to be kept watered.

Another parishioner passed around a handout showing the junction by the Masons Arms. He gave a short presentation highlighting his concerns relating to the proposed new development. SC confirmed that the Parish Council plan to hold a meeting shortly to discuss this application in great detail.

Another parishioner has received a couple of complaints from residents living on Higherlands Close concerned about people who are coming off the towpath from the new development and using the gate as a short cut to the school. Is there anything that can be done as this is clearly marked Private for the residents of Higherlands Close?
Clerk to write to Yorkshire Housing.

Another concern he wished to raise was the two rear extensions behind Nos 22 and 24 Skipton Road, as it appears these have flat roofs which is different to the plans approved by CDC back in 2017.

Clerk to write to CDC Planning Department to make them aware.

6.3 Queens Jubilee:

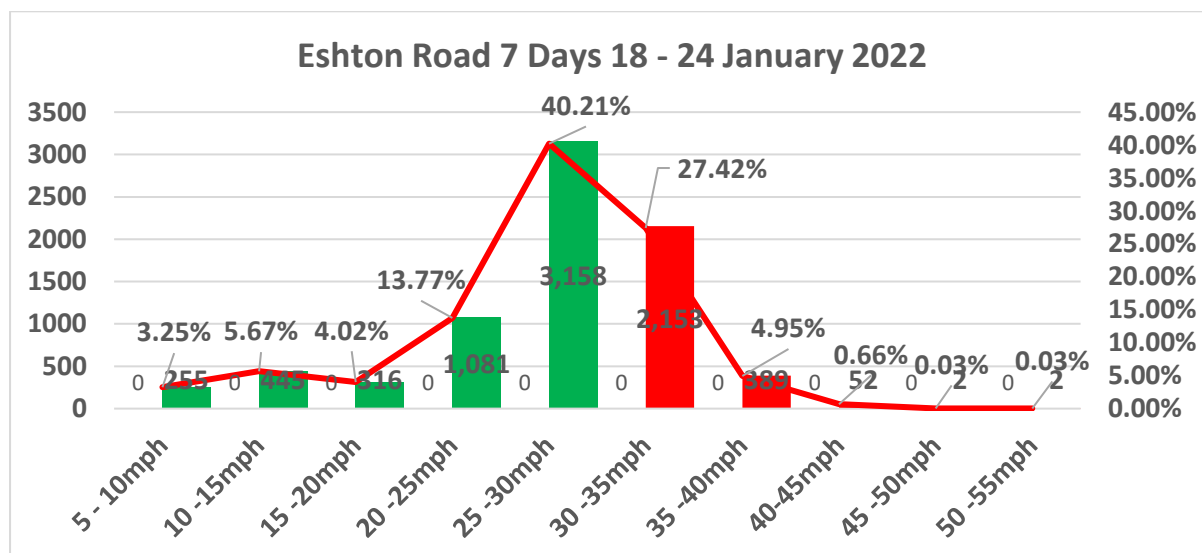
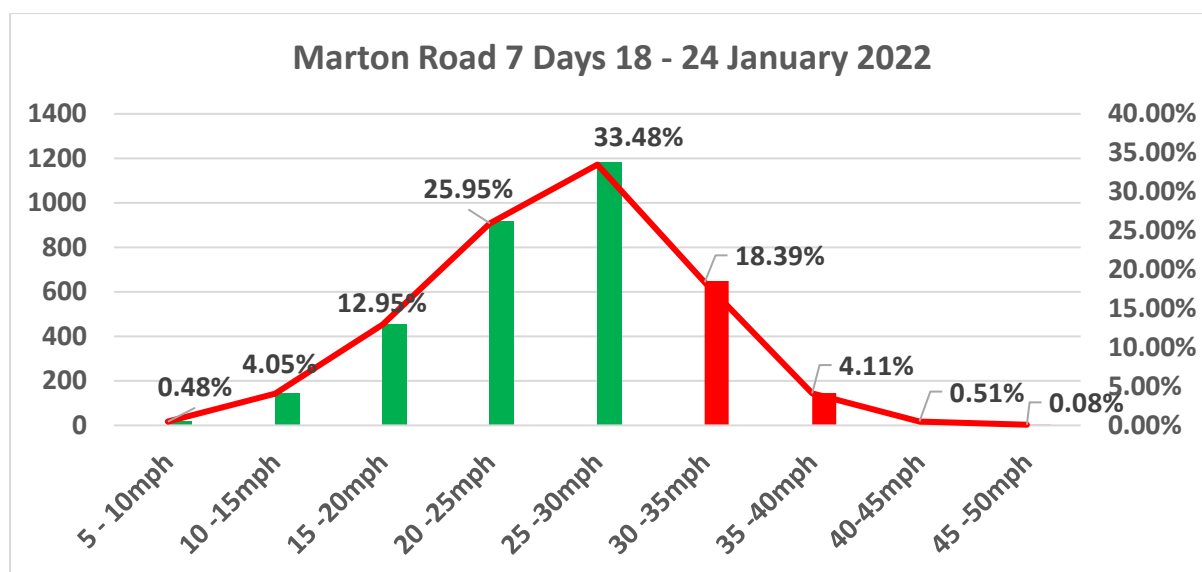
An allocation has been placed in the budget for the Queens Jubilee celebrations. We are aware that quite a few plans have already been made to host several different events throughout the Village. The Parish Council plan to purchase new bunting for displaying around the village and we are making enquiries to purchase a Beacon. SC did approach Reliant Engineering but although they would love to have become involved, they are too busy to make a beacon for the event. The location of the Beacon is yet to be determined.

6.4 Budget:

A budget meeting was held on the 18 January and we are in a reasonable financial position as we did receive £10,000 Covid Grant. It was therefore decided not to increase the Precept and this will therefore remain at £46,000 this year.

6.5 Speeding Update:

SC told the meeting the proposed VAS sign will be located at various points in the village. These are Chew Lane/Eshton Road junction, Marton Road, one as you enter the village on Skipton Road x 2 and as you leave the village along Hellifield Road. As part of this exercise, NYCC Highways suggested a traffic survey, especially for Marton Road and Eshton Road. SC provided a summary of the data provided over a seven day period, 18 – 24 January 2022.



6.6 Grass Cutting Contract:

JH wanted to look at the contract and has read this through and felt generally there is a lot of good stuff in there, no weed killer to be used anywhere.

The concern for the GWWG is to make sure we do not lose anything we have planted on the Woodland Walk and that the contractor is aware of the bulbs we have put in and the new saplings. She therefore wondered if it would be worthwhile to have a meeting with him at some point.

JH would like to have a chat with the contractor and MB is happy to go along.

MB also wished to raise the triangle of grass on Marton Road, top of Riversway and the cutting of this area to keep a safe visibility splay.

One suggestion was to include this triangle within our grass cutting contract.

PW felt firstly we should ask NYCC Highways to cut the area, as it is considered a dangerous junction if the grass is left too high.

Clerk to make the request to NYCC Highways. It was also agreed to do a letter of thanks to the family who live nearby who have kindly cut the grass for a long period of time now.

SC told the meeting that on behalf of the Parish Council he wished to thank the GWWG for planting the trees and the bulbs. Unfortunately we would not be challenging the Travellers, we simply contact the Police.

As the GWWG are willing to cut around the new saplings on the Woodland Walk, the Parish Council confirmed they were all in favour for the group to go ahead with the work.

To consider the planning applications and decisions:

See attached List.

8. Financial Matters:

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment.

INCOME

Stone from River Wall Repair (cash)	250.00
Rebate from Vodafone	33.60
Sale of Mobile	25.00

EXPENDITURE

Wages	645.16
Internet Services Annual Fee	17.98
Internet Services	5.99
Village Hall Rent	152.00
Council Mobile	17.23

YLCA - 2 Webinars	60.00
Cherry Picker Hire (3)	720.00
River Wall Loan Repayment	2207.76
S Claxton Christmas Lights	412.50
S Claxton Street Lights 2021	1037.50
S Claxton Street Lights -Jan 2022	75.00
CEF Street Light Parts x 2 Invoices	42.35
	16.50

Total £5409.97

NatWest £46,188.24
SBS a/c £20,692.15

Proposed by JH, seconded by PW, all in favour and accepted.

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

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 Wednesday 2 March 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Planning Applications – Meeting 2 February 2022

Appl. No. 2022/23669/FUL Residential development of 36 dwellings with access on Land off Marton Road, Gargrave

Appl. No. 2022/23680/HH Raising height of boundary wall. Erection of a lean to Garden Room at 3 Church Street, Gargrave

Appl. No. 2022/23681/LBC Listed Building Consent at 3 Church Street, Gargrave

Appl. No. 2022/23647/HH Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of new single storey rear extension. Garage conversion and changes to roof and exterior – 20 Eshton Road, Gargrave

Appl. No. 2022/23665/TPO T1 Apple – remove at 49 West Street, Gargrave

Planning Decision – 2021/23395/FUL Development of a commercial building at Airebank Mills, Skipton Road, Gargrave - **Permission Granted.**

Correspondence List – Meeting 2 February 2022

1. Various emails relating to the Water Quality in the River Aire, awaiting response from EA.

Website now update.

2. Letter from Yorkshire Internal Audit Services advising the PC will need to recruit a replacement Auditor this year. **MB to write to Auditor recommended by Hellifield PC.**

3. Freedom of Information Act Webinar Session- 25 Jan, sent out to all Parish Councillors.

4. YLCA Craven Branch Meeting – 23 February 2022 requesting issues we wish to raise? **Nothing to raise.**

5. I Dig Trees offering additional tree packs to existing recipients of this year's programme. **JH to follow up and order more packs of trees.**

6. Confirmation email sent to Insurance Company –GWVG are now covered under PC Public Liability Insurance.

7. GWVG thank you email to PC who are now covering the group under Public Liability Insurance.

8. Response from CDC advising due to staff shortages, there may be a delay in road sweeping.

This work has now been completed.

9. Breakthrough Communications – Free Social Media Check, link provided. **There is no plans to have social media for the Parish Council.**

10. EA request to install a small radar unit upstream of River Bridge on the left bank (roadside) to measure flow to replace meter currently at the Weir. **Permission Granted.**

11. Yorkshire Water request email to fit a monitor at rear of toilets to improve outfall performance. **Permission Granted.**

12. White Rose Weekly Bulletins, dated 14 January 2022 and 21 January 2022, plus NALC Ofcom Review of Postal Regulation dated 11 January 2022 and New Year Open Letter - 17 January 2022.

13. Copy of Resident's email to Cllr Simon Myers requesting Marton Road Appl be called in.

The application has now been called in.

14. Aire Rivers Trust email with attachment setting out proposal for Art Sculpture on High Green. **CH agreed to join a steering group.**

15. Precarious branch of tree in front of Milton Lodges, reported to NYCC Highways for attention. **Clerk to report to NYCC Highways and the owner of land where tree is situated.**

16. Letter from concerned resident of Eshton Road, relating to refused Planning Appl – 48 Eshton Rd. **Clerk to circulate this letter to all Parish Council for their consideration.**

