

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held Wednesday 6 December 2023

Councillors: Steve Coetzer (SC), Janet Sugden (JS), Martin Banks (MB), Chris Hoskin (CH), Derek Steele (DSt), Alan Sutcliffe (AS), Karen Hunter (KH), Gregory L Butt (GLB) District Cllr Simon Myers, Kath Ashby – Clerk and several parishioners.

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr David Shuttleworth.

2. To acknowledge those present. SC welcomed everyone to the meeting this evening including Cllr Simon Myers and Lesley Tate.

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 **Wednesday 1 November 2023** were accepted as a true record. Proposed by JS and seconded by AS. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

5. Matters requested by councillors:

5.1. District Cllr – Simon Myers:

Cllr Myers told the meeting that he has recently received an email advising 20% of councils in England are in danger of declaring Section 114, going bust.

He was pleased to advise we are not in that position but the Autumn Statement did not give us much to be thankful for and I think it is fair to say whatever happens at the Election next year, there is unlikely to be a handout to local government and so as a council we are going to have to double our efforts to make economies.

Cllr Myers told the meeting that he had not heard from Building Control regarding the failing wall up Church Street. The main control officer has been off for some time, so whether that is why I am not getting a response.

On the highways issue, he feels that physical means of slowing down traffic is the way forward. He will be able to help financially with some sort of physical speed restrictions in Gargrave. This should help on Eshton Road and Marton Road. SC pointed out that Church Street was just as bad.

The Hellifield VAS are going in any day. Coniston wants a sign now. The repair to Coniston Bridge has been cancelled. The reason is likely due to the Gisburn Road being closed and that is the diversion. They are trying to get a new date for the repair to the bridge before Christmas.

MB asked Cllr Myers what the situation was regarding an increase to the precept. Cllr Myers felt that this will be increased to the maximum with NYC.

As a Parish Council you can do what you like.

Cllr Myers wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

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

6.1. Police Report:

We have been unable to retrieve any updated figures for October. SC advised one parishioner that since she had raised the matter of providing more information relating to crime figures, this will be put together shortly and will show a full year, January to December and published on our website.

6.2 Public Participation:

A member of the public raised a concern following his email to The Parish Council regarding revised drainage strategy for the Marton Road development currently approved by (Highways). It states that highways drain is at full capacity and no surface water should be permitted from development and exit into highway drain. The same document has text and diagrams indicating this is the case. The resident has been in contact with highways for several weeks now without a response or acknowledgement of his email. He has also raised this with Cllr. Myers and requested the Parish Council to please raise his concern with the planning officer. He was happy for The Parish Council to forward his email to the Planning Officer

SC suggested we should use the email received from the Parishioner as this has now been raised in the public domain, and ask if we can please request a response from Highways.

A resident also produced a handout from the Planning Enforcement Officer regarding Kelber Farm to all Cllrs asking that the PC also write to the Planning Enforcement Officer to ask if the info he has received from him is in fact correct.

SC said we would send this through to the Planning Officer asking him to confirm that this is the case.

6.3 Hunt:

CH wished for this to be considered for review as each year the Hunt now use Middle Green to meet for the Hunt on Boxing Day. They donate £60 towards the Christmas Lights in thanks.

It was also mentioned that the annual hunt has been a long-standing tradition in the village and on balance was a good for the village as it attracted large numbers of people who would in turn support the local businesses.

CH pointed out that although they say in their letter they will clean up, they do leave the green in a state and the ground is extremely churned up.

It was agreed to review the Middle Green after the Hunt and if it is left in a state, we will write advising that they have not honoured their commitment so therefore we are going to have to review their contribution if they wish to continue using the green.

6.4 Communication within the Parish Council:

CH raised his concerns that it appears that not all information is being shared to all Parish Councillors and a discussion took place as to why it appears two councillors are making decisions without the rest of the PC being involved.

He asked what was going on as it should be, that all external communication should go through from the Clerk.

The Clerk also asked MB why she had been excluded from all email updates he provided to the Parish Councillors which related to the collation of comments he was preparing on the Marton Road application.

It was agreed by all Cllrs that the process for communication must be followed at all times.

6.5 Stepping Stones:

SC told the meeting that last month we talked about taking out two stepping stones. He believes prevention is better than cure as 3 stepping stones have now toppled over and believed we are in danger of more toppling over with the heavy rains we are having.

Therefore, he asked the Clerk to contact our contractor to get a quote to remove all of the stepping stones until we decided what to do with them.

These could be taken out and stored on the banking until we decide what to do next spring.

CH enquired why, as he thought we agreed to just cordon them off. Following a short discussion, it was decided to leave the stepping stones cordoned off until spring next year.

All in favour and accepted.

6.6 Church Clock:

SC told the meeting that we received an email from the Treasurer at the Church which says "As you know, the Church Clock belongs to the Parish Council". This is incorrect as the Parish Council do not own the clock.

Firstly, we do not own the clock and we did pay for some repairs a while ago after a lengthy discussion.

At the finance meeting we need to decide if we are going to continue to pay for the maintenance or not.

All in favour to go with Option 1: 3 years maintenance at a cost of £618.00 and to write back to the Church advising that the PC will continue to pay for the servicing for the next 3 years but any additional items which are repair costs not included in the maintenance agreement, would become the liability of the Church.

6.7 Playground Update:

MB told the meeting that he had been looking at all the required repairs to all of the playground equipment in accordance with the Rospa Report.

Costs will be met by the CIL monies and there is a list of equipment to be repaired on site by our contractor.

The CIL monies still stand at £20k. These new bits of equipment planned will be less than £10k.

We will be asking for suggestions for what we can use the remaining CIL monies at the Finance meeting on Tuesday 12 December 2023.

6.8 Standing Order Update:

MB advised the meeting that a new standing order has now been prepared and this will read as follows:

On the appointment of a new councillor, the Clerk will supply him/her with a copy of training courses available which the new councillor will be encouraged to attend where applicable. Attendance on these courses is not a mandatory requirement and the costs of attending any courses will be met by the council.

All in favour and accepted.

6.9 Christmas Closing:

The Parish Council Office will close at 2pm on Wednesday 20 December 2023 and re-open on Wednesday 27 December 2023.

To consider the planning applications and decisions:

See attached List.

GB asked if all planning applications as and when received by the Clerk could be forwarded on to all PC so that these can be looked at in more detail, prior to the monthly meeting.

8. Financial Matters:

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment.

INCOME

VAT repayment	12225.53
Pendle Hunt	60.00
Locality Grant – Xmas lights	400.00

EXPENDITURE

Land Registry 3 searches	18.00
Internet Services	8.40
Village Hall Rent, Office, storage	216.67
IMO Plaque V&M Smith	45.00
Wages & Holiday Pay	1127.59
CEF Parts for New Lighting	302.93
YLCA Training Day	70.00
YLCA Planning Webinar	25.00
Reliant – Kissing Gate repair	54.00
Walker Foster – Airedale Ave	725.00
JC Cowgill - flagging	420.00
Swarco – VAS point	1020.00

Total **4,032.59**

Proposed by AS, seconded by KH, all in favour and accepted.

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

See attached list.

1. All agreed to advise our Solicitors to proceed with letter to other solicitors.
4. Plaque to collect.
8. Letter to go to the Dalesman Café advising plaque to be fastened on small post into the ground, not on the railings.
9. Push back to Highways who own the trees.
10. Open Finance Meeting to be held in the Match Room 6.30pm, Tues 12 December 23
11. PC all in favour for the GWWG to go ahead and put in a wooden gate with fence. They will show the design to the PC before this is made.

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 3 January 2023**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Appl. No. ZA23.25497/TPO – T1 Ash-Fell at Taira Gardens, Church Street, Gargrave

Appl. No. ZA23/25281/LBC – Proposed sun room to rear elevation and detached garden room at 6 South Street, Gargrave

Planning Decisions

ZA23/25203/FUL Detached garage, two storey extension, single storey rear extension – **Grants Permission.**

ZA23/25118/LBC Replacement windows at 70 High Street, Gargrave – **Grants Listed building Consent**

2022/23731/FUL Proposed extension to Milton House, Marton Road, Gargrave – **Grants Permission**

2022/23732/LBC “ “ “ “ - **Grants Listed Building Consent**

ZA23/25349/HH Single Storey rear extension, new fence wall to boundary at 24 Eshton Road, Gargrave – **Grants Householder Planning Permission**

Correspondence List – Meeting 6 December 2023

1. Various emails relating to the boundary wall at the Playground, between PC and Solicitors.
2. Email from local resident at Park Croft, advising of traffic speed increasing when VAS sign removed.
3. Public Engagement in Planning – Consulting on Draft Statement of Community Involvement.
4. IMO brass plaque now ordered for new bench in South Street Plantation.
5. Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation, link and paper copy available.
6. New Up-lighters purchased with Locality Funding in time for switch on Sun 3 Dec 23
7. Email from concerned resident reporting further falling stones on Church Street, forwarded onto Cllr Simon Myers as urgent.
8. Update from Dalesman with photos of Acorn sculpture, requesting permission to fasten a brass plaque to Victoria railings.
9. Email from resident of Skipton Road, raising concerns on Ash Tree condition on verge of Skipton Road and enquiring who is responsible for the trees.
10. An open Finance Meeting is planned for Tuesday 12 December at 6.30 in the Match Room of the Village Hall. MB to provide Agenda
11. GWWG request to replace the wooden fencing with a gate and new fence.