

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held Thursday 1st February 2024

Present: Steve Coetzer (SC), Janet Sugden (JS), Martin Banks (MB) Karen Hunter (KH) David Shuttleworth (DS) Derek Steele (DST) Chris Hoskin (CH) Allan Sutcliffe (AS) and 1 member of the Public and the Press.

1. Chairmans Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Cllr Simon Myers and Leslie Tate from Craven Herald and the member of the public to the meeting.

2. To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Butt – Reason for absence Pantomime Dress Rehearsal

3. To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or any members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Nothing declared.

4. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on the 3rd January, 2023, as true and correct record;

The minutes were accepted as a true record and were proposed by Cllr Shuttleworth and seconded by Cllr Sugden all in favour and accepted unanimously.

5. Reports from Invited Guests and North Yorkshire Councillor.

Cllr Myers mentioned to the meeting the budgetary setting process and challenges North Yorkshire Council (NYC) are facing, there is a likelihood that due to this Council Tax will rise to the maximum. He told the meeting to put this in perspective the inflation effect on the Council was in the region of **8%** and the most that NYC can increase Council Tax is **4.99%**.

Cllr Meyers also reminded the meeting that several Local Authorities are going bust and declaring section:114. NYC have already identified **£46mil** savings across the council which he said would not affect frontline services which is very important. He also mentioned that the situation is made slightly better in that NYC will receive **£6.2mil** from Central Government which will be mostly for social care.

Cllr Myers also told the meeting that despite the budgetary challenges they must continue to deliver for the most vulnerable residents. He also mentioned that there are many elderly residents in North Yorkshire with complex needs who cost the Authority **£150K** per annum each. He also mentioned that there is one child in North Yorkshire that costs the Authority in the region of **£1mil** with very complex needs. Despite the challenges he thinks we will get there.

Cllr Myers also told the meeting that the Executive Committee has signed off the Council Tax premium for second homes and owners will see a 100% increase from April 2025. Cllr Myers also said he would share the figures for Gargrave on second homes.

Cllr Myers also mentioned the local funding and that Gargrave should explore traffic calming measures with Highways. Possible locations Eshton Road, Marton Road and others.

Cllr Meyers also informed the meeting that he thought the Old Sawmill planning application is due to go the Planning Committee very soon.

He also told the meeting that at some point the Marton Road application will be going to a Planning Committee meeting.

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

I. Police Report

SC gave an update on the December, there were 6 recorded crimes reported; Violence & Sextual Offences no.4

Vehicle crime no.1

Other crime no. 1

The statistics will be forwarded to MB to put on the website.

II. A65 Vas Data Report

SC provided details retrieved from the VAS sign which has been located on the East side of the village approaching from Skipton for a period of 31 days.

In total during this period there were **147,656** vehicles recorded with average speed recorded at **25.65mph**. The highest speed was recorded at **55mph** on the 6th January, at 01:15 hours. **125,508** vehicles, which is 85%, exceeded the 30mph limit with their average speed being **29.7mph**

The average daily total is **4,916** vehicles per day during this period. The 5 daily average is 4,877 and the weekend daily average is **4,792**.

The statistics will be forwarded to MB to put on the website.

III. Affinity Public Lottery Feedback.

CLB attended the webinar, and the general feedback was that the Parish Council is unlikely to benefit from this.

IV. Erosion of the riverbank opposite Mill Lane

SC informed the meeting of the email exchanges between the Environment Agency regarding the erosion of the riverbank. CH asked that when the Environment Agency do a site visit, they inform the Parish Council so a Cllr's can attend the visit.

V. Removal of The Clerk from Bank Account – Requires a Resolution Resolved. - all in favour.

VI. Removal of stone wall at the playground – Requires a Resolution

Resolved – all in favour subject to confirmation from the Solicitor that there will be no gate within the entire length of the railing. SC to write to our Solicitors Walker Foster on this.

VII. Grass Cutting Contract – Require a Resolution

SC advised the Parish Council that last year we extended the agreement with J C Cowgill. However, we should have more of a formal contractual agreement with him. The grass cutting specification has been reviewed and no proposals raised to make any changes to it so the current specification will continue to be used.

JCC has submitted a email proposal that keeps the cost for 2024 the same as 2023 at £1,160 per month for a six months per year agreement. In 2025 he will apply a 3% increase and then the following year a 5% increase. Cllr Banks and Cllr Sugden told the meeting that in the last 4 years there has been no increase in monthly charges.

MB also told the meeting that Mr Cowgill has been doing the grass cutting for the village for the last 13 or 14 years now.

DST mentioned that we should get more quotes and DS suggested that we keep him on for this year". CH asked if he is wanting a three-year contract.

MB mentioned that if the total amount of the proposed three yearly contract was over £30,000, then we are obliged to get more quotes as detailed in our Standing Orders. It was agreed that MB would clarify the legal position on whether we would need to go out to get more quotes.

The council agreed that if the new proposed agreement is greater than £30,000 we would go out to tender and if not, it was proposed that the council should draw up a contract on the terms quoted above. **Resolution** – It was agreed that all are in favour of this proposal.

VIII. Agree the short list of applications for the Clerk Vacancy – Requires a Resolution.

Resolved - A discussion took place on the 5 candidates that had applied for the role by submitting their CV's and a covering letter. A short list of 3 was agreed and the candidates would be invited to attend an interview.

SC suggested that interviews are done by a subcommittee of no more than 3 Cllr's and asked for volunteers. It was agreed that the subcommittee would be The Chair, Cllr Hunter, and Cllr Hoskin.

SC to inform the unsuccessful candidates.

7. Public Participation:

A member of the public started by thanking Cllr Myers for sharing the information on Cllr Keane Duncan who is the Cllr hoping to become the Mayor for North Yorkshire. Cllr Duncan was on a tour of the Gargrave area canvassing for support in the forthcoming election. The member of the public looked up Cllr Duncan and said that he was excited when he read that he was the Executive member for Highways, Road Safety and an active cyclist.

He met with Cllr Duncan on his tour at Bank Newton and explained his concerns that the council are about to face a proposed application, if approved, where in the region of 100 pedestrians could be walking down Marton Road with 80 extra cars. He looked at Cllr Keane's route to the next tour venue at the Co-op in Gargrave which meant he actually had to go down Marton Road. The member of the public then discussed the Marton Road issue with him.

The member of the public also asked if Cllr Myers and the Parish Council would write to highways expressing their concern and frustration at the current situation with the lack of progress with highways.

SC suggested that there is potentially a more effective way of doing this as Area 5 highways are holding Parish Council & Town Council workshops in February and this could be raised then. The member of the public asked if they could attend, and SC said no it is only open to Cllr's which Cllr Myers could also attend.

The member of public also mentioned that he was disappointed with the recent submission Lead Local Flood Authority response to the Marton Road application which he believes is the stuff of fantasy. He mentioned that some of the information is factually incorrect.

The member of the public asked if the Parish Council would also write to the Local Flood Authority. SC did outline that as a Parish Council we must remain impartial and the fact that the site on Marton Road is allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan. The

Parish Council have already submitted their comments and therefore would not write to them. SC also mentioned that flooding is referenced in the Neighbourhood and Local plan.

8. To consider the planning applications and decisions:

To consider and comment on planning applications within the Gargrave Parish as published on the North Yorkshire Council planning portal. Any applications received by the Clerk after publishing the agenda will be tabled at the meeting.

See attached list.

9. Financial Matters:

To receive and approve the schedule of cheque payments and receipts as tabled or presented at the meeting that require signing in accordance with the Financial Regulations

Gargrave Parish Council February 2024			
Date	Description	Income	Payments
12/01/2024	Vat Refund November & December	£943.04	
02/01/2024	PAYE		£887.79
03/01/2024	MS Office 365 Basic OneDrive Annual Subscription		£19.99
05/01/2024	I.C.O Data Protection annual payment		£35.00
12/01/2024	Internet Services Website IONOS		£8.40
15/01/2024	Village - Hall Office and Storeroom Rent		£216.67
	Government Loan		£2,211.14
	Walker Foster - 16 Airedale Av - Wall		£840.00
	Becks Garden Machinery (WG Strimmer)		£445.00
	J Sugden for K Ashby Retirement gift		£50.00
	J C Cowgill - Dog Waste Bin Relocation		£518.40
			£5,232.39
NatWest as 31/01/2024 £26,926.84			

Proposed by Cllr Shuttleworth and Seconded by Cllr Steele, all in favour and accepted.

10. To consider the following new correspondence

To receive and consider any items of correspondence or communication brought forward by the Clerk. Some items on the agenda may be prejudicial in the public interest and the council is requested to consider the exclusion of the Press and Public in accordance with the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960.

See attached list.

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

To confirm the date of the next meeting as **Wednesday 6th March 2024**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:05.