

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held Wednesday 4 October 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 wished to welcome our new Parish Councillor, Cllr Gregory L Butt to the Parish Council. I am sure he will contribute quite a lot and thank you for joining us.

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 2 August 2023** were accepted as a true record. Proposed by JS and seconded by KH. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

5. Matters requested by councillors:

5.1. District Cllr – Simon Myers:

Cllr Myers told the meeting that on the issue of the failing wall up Church Street, he could confirm that the Building Control Officers have been to see the owner and told them they must repair this wall. The bottom line is if they do not do this within a reasonable time, then the Council will do it and then make the owner pay for the work.

NYCC received the Ofsted report which was outstanding for our children social services. This is brilliant news.

Cllr Myers has joined a campaign to re-open the Hellifield to Clitheroe railway line, which would provide a direct route to Manchester. There are so many reasons why it would be a really good proposal for investment by the Government. The line is already there, used for freight only at the moment. Lots of economic benefits for this.

The new Housing Strategy has just gone out for consultation and Cllr Myers will send through the link.

The Leisure Review is coming on and the draft is being prepared. We are developing a strategy to reduce our budget deficit by making genuine savings. We are also disposing of two floors at Belle Vue Square.

Cllr Myers told the meeting that it is his aim to build new council houses bearing in mind the cost of house prices in our area. There are currently eight and a half thousand people on housing waiting lists in North Yorkshire.

AS asked for an update on the Saw Mill site. Cllr Myers explained that there is still this tension relating to the new flood map as it is now showing Category 2 and not 3B that CDC originally said it was. In 150 years, the flood risk has decreased now the Weir has been removed.

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

6.1. Xmas Tree Lights – Quote and Switch on Date:

We are going to apply for Locality funding towards the cost of some new lights for the Christmas tree once we receive the quotation from our Electrical Contractor.

The Switch on for the Christmas Lights will be Sunday 3 December, at the usual time of 6.30pm then afterwards people can walk up to the Church for refreshments if they wish.

DSt raised that he had been approached by a parishioner asking if it would be possible to have lights down the High Street, in some form, such as small lit trees. In the past small trees used to be erected on the poles already in place.

SC suggested that he ask that the parishioner put this request in writing to the Clerk for consideration.

6.2 Remembrance Sunday:

This will take place on Sunday 12 November 2023. SC told the meeting that normally it would be the Chairman of the Parish Council who would lay the wreath at the War Memorial on that day. I have however discussed this matter with the Clerk and we would like to propose, given the history of our new Parish Councillor, that maybe he would be willing to lay the wreath this year. GLB told the meeting that this would be his pleasure. MB to research ordering a wreath.

6.3 Police Report:

Crime Figures for June 2023

Anti-Social Behaviour	7
Violence & Sexual Offences	3
Public Order	2
All other crime	1

Total of 13

Crime Figures for July 2023

Anti-Social Behaviour	3
Violence & Sexual Offences	3
Criminal Damage & Arson	2
All other crimes	1

Total of 9

6.4 Public Participation:

One parishioner distributed a photograph to all the Parish Council he wished to bring to their attention. This photo was taken at 4.30pm today looking from the Station Car Park across to Kelber Farm. He wished to raise his concerns at the 42-ton large Crusher machine, which can crush 200 tons per hour and produces 10 truckloads per hour from the large amounts of concrete which are being brought to site.

This work creates a great deal of noise and he believes that this needs permission by the local authority to operate.

SC told the meeting that the Parish Council hold a file which is ongoing on this matter. We are in correspondence with both the NYCC Planning Enforcement Officer and the Environment Agency and have provided them with evidence by way of numerous photographs and accompanying detailed emails.

We have recently received an update from the Planning Enforcement Officer stating that he has the reassurance from the land owner that he will put everything back to a normal state.

We as a Parish Council are doing everything we can to apply pressure. He would urge residents to also put their concerns and complaints forward to these authorities.

Cllr Myers asked the parishioner for a copy of the photograph provided this evening and told the meeting that he will look into this matter further.

Another parishioner wished to raise her concerns on the lack of consultation on the proposed Extra Care and the access to the village. It appears very clear that a lot of the extra care units would be sold or rented out.

Cllr Myers did explain the situation and said that any proposal would have to have planning permission. If they cannot approve, it will not go ahead. It is better to have this conversation when it comes to the planning stage. It is only because they have changed the model that there is a chance it will happen. If it does not provide care for the elderly, it will not get planning approval.

6.5 Training:

SC told the meeting that he had alluded to this matter last month when the meeting was cancelled. I would like a short discussion on this matter.

Training is very important and the two basic training courses provides you with a good basic grounding of what your role is and your responsibilities are. Also recommended for new Parish Councillors is to read the Good Councillor Guide. A copy of this book is available in the office and will provide you all with a good understanding. It is for your benefit and for the Council's benefit and it also protects you.

This training can be done at home and there is no exam at the end of the session. You do not have to participate; you can just listen.

Cllr's Sutcliffe and Cllr Steele opted out of doing the suggested "Off to a Flying Start parts 1 & 2" training. The session is specifically aimed at new councillors but is also suited to councillors that have not done training previously and want to refresh their knowledge.

6.6 A65 Traffic:

SC shared the analysis of the data retrieved from the VAS. The data analysed is for the period of 5 weeks and 5 days (37 Days in total) between 21st August to 27th September 2023.

During this period the total vehicle count was **227,424 vehicles** with the daily average being **6,135** vehicles per day. The average speed during this period was **28.77 mph** and the highest speed recorded **was 65mph** at 00:00 on the 22nd August.

During this period there were also **193,319** vehicles that exceeded the 30mph speed limit and this counts for **85%** of vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit. The average speed recorded at **34.7mph** which is the 85th percentile.

The full report can be found on our web site

This information has been shared with North Yorkshire Police for them to decide on the next steps to be taken to reduce speeding through the village

6.7 New Basket Ball – Playground:

As you are aware, we have recently updated and added new equipment in the Playground, with funds from CIL monies. At the time the Basket Ball was taken down and disposed of. We therefore need a new one. We are asking for approval to install a new one, this to be funded by CIL monies.

All in favour and accepted unanimously.

6.8 Stepping Stones:

SC told the meeting that we are not going to get into the river at the moment as the water is too high. We have written to SCAPA asking for a contribution as some parishioners do use them to cross to go to work at the Mill.

It was agreed in the meantime to fence the stepping stones off at each side. The Clerk to contact our contractor to arrange to get this done.

To consider the planning applications and decisions:

See attached List.

8. Financial Matters:

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment.

INCOME

NYCC Precept	23000.00
NYCC CIL Monies – Playground	42056.44
Credit Note Internet Services	8.44

EXPENDITURE

Wages	502.03
Internet Services	14.42
Rent-Office, Storage	216.67
Land Registry Search-Airedale Ave	6.00
Land Registry Search -Airedale Ave	6.00
Merritt & Fryers – Combination Lock	29.69

Marmax Picnic Table & Bench	1018.80
Rospa Inspection – Playground	186.60
C.E.F. Street Light repairs	356.95
Proludic CIL Money	51,667.73
Walker Foster Boundary Wall-Playground	1650.00
JC Cowgill Sept Grass Cutting	1392.92
Craven Stationery	174.84
PKF Littlejohn Audit	378.00

NatWest 01.10.23 £83,273.60

We have received confirmation from PFK the external auditors that the Annual General Report was completed satisfactorily. The Report and Conclusion of Audit forms have been posted on the website and displayed in the notice board as required.

The Monitoring Report was reviewed by the Parish Council and MB explained the details on the handout he provided.

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.

3. It was agreed that SC and CH would attend the Craven Branch Meeting on 5 October 2023.

7. All in favour to support the 'Joining Forces' to tackle speeding in our villages.

8. It was agreed to go with the cheapest quote to install the new picnic table and bench.

13. Our Solicitors are in correspondence with the resident who has advised that they are going to consult with their Solicitors, we are awaiting further clarification from the resident.

14. All in favour to fence off the stepping stones near Low Green. 15. Further letter sent to SCAPA, awaiting their response.

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 1 November 2023**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Planning Applications – Meeting 4 October 2023

Planning Appl. 2023/24861/FUL Installation of new external lighting at Old Swan Hotel, High Street, Gargrave

Planning Appl. 2023/24862/LBC – Listed Buildings Consent for above Appl.

Planning Appl. ZA23/25370/VAR – Variation of condition No 2 (approved plans) and condition no. 11 (SDCS statement) of planning approval referenced 2022/24506/FUL at 42 Eshton Road, Gargrave.

Planning Appl. ZA23/25343/TCA 1 no Willow Tree – Remove at 10 Chapel Court, Gargrave

Planning Appl. ZA23/25349/HH Single storey rear extension. New fence wall to boundary at 24 Eshton Road, Gargrave.

Planning Appl. ZA23/25371/HH Proposed detached garage, proposed single storey extension and raise roof of existing garage to form annex at 13 Marton Road, Gargrave.

Planning Decisions

ZA23/25206/TPO 2 Lime Trees-Trim branches at 2 Gargrave House Gardens – **Grants Permission.**

ZA23/25156/FUL Construction of roof over cattle loafing/handling yards at Heber House, Hellifield Road, Gargrave – **Grants Full Planning Permission.**

ZA23/25266/HH Side return extension at 3 Riversway, Gargrave - **Grants Permission.**

Correspondence List – Meeting 4 October 2023

1. Various emails and responses relating to activities at Kelber Farm, Church St, Gargrave
2. Further email request for yellow lines/keep clear markings on Neville Road, Area5 details supplied.
3. Notification of Craven Branch Meeting 5 October 2023, two representatives needed to attend.
4. Annual Thank You letter sent to SCAPA for continuing to cut the grass verges on A65.
5. Letter sent to owner/occupier at property Marton Close, requesting they trim conifer blocking out light of Street Light along Damside.
6. NY Police notification of forthcoming retirement of Chief Constable Lisa Winward.
7. Long Preston PC asking us to 'Joining Forces' to tackle speeding on A65 through villages.
8. Bench and Picnic Table purchased with Bequest, awaiting quote to install.
9. Various correspondence relating to damage to areas by War Memorial due to work on Water St.
10. Consent given for Northern Powergrid to prune trees along river bank to clear around cables.
11. Further email from resident of Park Croft, relating to speeding on A65.
12. Response from Area5 following their visit to Chew Lane, after concerns were raised on speeding.
13. Various correspondence relating to boundary wall at Playground from PC and Solicitors and resident.
14. Local resident advising of a further stepping stone which has tipped on its side near Low Green.
15. Further letter sent to SCAPA requesting they re-consider some sponsorship towards re-seating of stepping stones.