

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held Wednesday 3rd April 2024

Present: Steve Coetzer (SC), Martin Banks (MB), Chris Hoskin (CH), Allan Sutcliffe (AS), Gregory Butt (GB) and 8 members of the Public and the Press.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Leslie Tate from Craven Herald and members of the public to the meeting.

2. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr David Shuttleworth, Cllr Janet Sugden, Cllr Karen Hunter and Cllr Derek Steele.

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 1st February 2023, as true and correct record;

The minutes were accepted as a true record and were proposed by Cllr Sutcliffe and seconded by Cllr Chris Hoskin. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

5. Reports from Invited Guests and North Yorkshire Councillor.

Cllr Myers addressed the meeting and welcomed outlined the increase in the Council Tax bills which has been set at 4.9 % including social care, and stated that this is a reflection of inflationary pressures. There had been a predicted budget deficit of circa £28 million, however this has now been reduced to £800, 000 as a result of savings made through local government reorganisation and rationalisation.

The North Yorkshire County Council revenue account has been restructured and it's enabled a considerable amount of money to be available to invest in new housing and upgrade and refurbish existing housing stock. There will be the capability to build over 600 new council properties over the next four years.

Kex Gill currently remains closed to traffic following the most recent land movements, but contractors to carry out remedial works will be appointed shortly and it is anticipated that work will be completed by the end of June 2024. Cllr Myers outlined pressure on the Highways budget caused by the recent winter, including Kex Gill and the destruction of a number of bridges in Richmondshire.

In addition some funding is available as a result of the redistribution of HS2 monies and one of the schemes coming forward is improvement of the A64.

Cllr Myers that a limited passenger service between Manchester and Craven will resume in June, and asks for this to be supported so that it can be extended in the future.

Cllr Myers spoke about current planning issues and stated that he had asked for more information about the Marton Road proposed development but had not yet had a response, and that he believed that the 'Old Saw Mill' site was also being considered.

He also discussed the proposals to build new care facilities on Eshton Road in the village and to resolve the issue of the Neville House site which is currently boarded up.

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

I. Police Report

SC gave an update. Only 1 incident reported in January 2024, and that no more recent data has been made available.

II. Marton Road VAS

The Chairman stated that the VAS had been deployed on Marton Road Gargrave between the 4th March and the 29th March and the data had been analysed.

Analysis of the data shows that:

The total number of vehicles counted was 5084.

The average speed was 23.3 mph.

The highest speed recorded was 45 mph.

The peak times for vehicles movements were between 09:00 and 10:00 and 14:00 and 15:00.

III. Traveller Update- Requires a Resolution

A draft Traveller and Gypsy Strategy has been developed by the sub – group which includes Councillors and members of the public. The Chair gave an overview of the draft strategy and outlined that the next step was move to the next phase which includes sharing the document with other authorities in face to face meetings so that it can be signed off and then formally published.

Resolution: Move the proposed Strategy to Phase Two

Resolved: All in favour.

IV. Stepping Stones

The continuing movement and displacement of the stepping stones at the end of River Place was discussed. There is an ongoing concern about the safety risks posed if the stones remain in situ. Two options have been outlined, firstly to remove the stones and temporarily store them safely on the river bank until further actions have been decided, and secondly to reinstate the fallen stones in the river. It was decided that until further information on cost is available a further decision on how to deal with the issue was not possible. The impact of the removal of the weir downstream is still not fully understood and there is uncertainty about whether the profile of the river bed has yet settled to a final level. In view of this the following resolution was taken:

Resolution: To seek quotations to undertake the following work to enable the development of a future strategy:

a) Removal and temporary storage of the stepping stones on the river bank and making safe the approach to the crossing

b) Reinstatement of the stepping stones

Resolved. – All in favour

V. Litter

SC outlined that a litter pick was usually undertaken once a year. There has been an approach from a group who would like to undertake litter picking within the parish asking whether equipment was available and if insurance was needed.

It was stated that some equipment, high viz jackets and refuse sacks were available.

Cllr Hunter had also asked that the issue of litter on the approaches to the villages, especially the section of road between Church Street and the A59 junction at Broughton be considered.

7. Public Participation:

A member of the public raised the ongoing issues relating to Kelber Farm. It was outlined that there is an ongoing investigations by North Yorkshire County Council regarding ‘change of use’.

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.

It was queried whether the Parish Council should be a consultee on agricultural planning issues.

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 April 2024			
			£
Date	Description	Income	Payments
15/03/2024	Village Hall Rent		216.67
14/03/2024	I&I Internet Services		8.40
18/03/2024	Stamps (Co-op)		48.00
	Craven Stationery printer ink		86.69
	YLCA Subscription		606.00
	Wages		401.73
		TOTAL	1,369.49
NatWest as 31/03/2024			
£20,985.76			

SKIPTON BS

31/03/2024 £20,930.28

Proposed by Cllr Butt and Seconded by Cllr Hoskin. 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 1st May 2024**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20:55.

DRAFT