

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

Held Wednesday 5th June 2024

Present: Martin Banks (MB), Chris Hoskin (CH), Allan Sutcliffe (AS), Gregory L Butt (GB) Chair, David Shuttleworth, Derek Steele, Karen Hunter, 50+ members of the Public, Police Officer.

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair acknowledged the large number of members of the public, and outlined that as a result the order of the agenda would be amended to ensure that all required items were covered and sufficient time was available to discuss the issue of Travellers and Gypsies.

2. **To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Janet Sugden. In addition Cllr Myers apologised that he was unable to attend due to Election commitments.

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 meetings held on the 1st and 28th May 2024, as true and correct records;**

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

5. **Reports from Invited Guests and North Yorkshire Councillor.**

None

6. Travellers and Gypsies

Debate on this issue is reported under '8. Public Participation,' including discussion about preventative measures outlined below.

In response to the attempts to gain vehicular access to all the Greens in the village by Gypsies and Travellers it was proposed to place concrete blocks where possible to prevent access by horse drawn and motor vehicles.

Resolution: to purchase and place concrete blocks as a temporary measure to restrict access to Travellers.

Proposed: Cllr Steel, Seconded Cllr Shuttleworth.

All in favour.

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

I. D Day Anniversary celebration – A replacement Union Flag has been purchased and this and a flag celebrating the 80th anniversary of D Day are both currently being flown on the flagpole at the Cenotaph.

II. **Gargrave Events Committee**

The Events Committee had asked permission to use the Middle Green on the 7th July for the Duck Race. In addition they were asking for a donation towards tickets for the event. Resolution: That the Parish Council allow the use of the Green to support the Duck Race and also make a contribution towards the cost of tickets.

Proposed: Cllr Hoskin, Seconded Cllr Shuttleworth. All in Favour and accepted unanimously.

III. General amenity/litter/planters

A resident has contributed towards plants to be placed on the approach to the village and it was suggested that they might be something the Parish Council wished to consider supporting in the future. To be included as a future agenda item including costings so that the action could be considered during the setting of the budget in December.

Discussions with general litter around the village and particularly in grass verges. Litter pick to be arranged.

8. Public Participation:

Gypsies and Travellers.

The Chair addressed the meeting and gave an overview of the situation with regard to the annual migration to Appleby Horse Fair. He made clear that there had been unprecedented numbers of visitors, and that the Gypsy and Traveller Working Group and the Police had worked hard to minimise the impact on villagers. However, it was obvious that the visitors had caused anxiety and there had been incidents of threatening behaviour, theft and anti-social behaviour which were not acceptable. The developing 'Gypsy and Traveller Strategy' had been implemented, and notices had been served on those arriving. In addition residents had been advised on how to report incidents. The Vice Chair representing the working group outlined the activities which had been undertaken over the Bank Holiday weekend.

In addition to the area around Mill Lane, River Place and South Street, the travellers had also set up encampments on Middle Green, and had attempted to settle on High Green but this had been prevented.

Members of the public were invited to comment, and there was debate around what had happened, the response from the Parish Council and the Police, and concerns were raised about preventing future issues, especially on the return from Appleby Fair.

Sergeant Evans outlined the Police response, and said that they had maintained a presence in the village when possible and that as resources were limited it was not always possible to respond immediately to lower priority incidents.

The Chair outlined preventative action that was being taken to prevent future access to Middle and High Green by the temporary placement of concrete blocks which would restrict vehicular access.

The Chair stated that the working group would continue to work within their powers to address future visits and that the Strategy would be refined and shared with other organisations so that a more co-ordinated response was enabled. In addition the Parish Council will approach North Yorkshire County Council and formally ask them to give more support and ensure a regional response.

9. 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.

10. Internal Audit Report.

Cllr Banks reported that the Internal Audit had been completed for 2024 and it was satisfactory.

10.1.1 Account-Ant have carried out the audit for 2023 -2024 and delivered their report to the Council who duly approved it.

10.1.2 Section 1 Annual Governance Statement.

The 2023 - 2024 Annual Governance Statement was approved for signature by the Chairman and Clerk.

10.1.3 Section 2 Accounting Statement.

The 2023 – 2024 Accounting Statement was approved for signature by the Responsible Financial Officer and the Chairman.

10.2 The 2024 -2025 Budget has required some changes regarding the work to the stepping stones and upgrades to the playground equipment. These changes were approved by the council.

11. 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			
Invoice Review: JUNE 2024			
Date	ITEM DESCRIPTION	INCOME	PAYMENTS
03/05/2024	WAGES		611.26
15/05/2024	I & I INTERNET SERVICES		8.40
15/05/2024	VILLAGE HALL RENT		216.67
19/05/2024	FLYING COLOURS NEW UNION FLAG		63.00
23/05/2024	NPOWER XMAS LIGHTS (1.4.23 TO 31.3.24)		472.57
	GALLAGHER PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE		2,798.53
	NYCC ANNUAL STREET LIGHTS		10,171.63
	J C COWGILL APRIL CUT		1,434.71
	J C COWGILL SLUICE GATE		24.00
	ACCOUNT-ANT INTERNAL AUDIT		480.00
	J C COWGILL MAY CUT		1,434.71
	NAT WEST AS AT 31/05/2024 - £42,246.29		
		0.00	17,715.48

Proposed by Cllr Sutcliffe, seconded by Cllr Hoskin. All in favour and accepted.

12. 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.

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

To confirm the date of the next meeting as **Wednesday 3rd July 2024**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45.