

# **GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## **Present:**

Gregory L Butt (GLB) Chair  
Claire Cadman (CC)  
Karen Hunter (KH)  
Chris Hoskin (CH)  
Derek Steele (DSt)  
David Shuttleworth (DS)  
Alan Sutcliffe (AS)  
Martin Banks (MB) Acting Proper Officer

## **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also welcomed the new councillor Claire Cadman who was recently co-opted to the council.

## **2. To receive apologies for absence: None received.**

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 as a true and correct record.**

The minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> August were accepted as a true record. Proposed by DSt and seconded by CH. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

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

Cllr Simon Myers reported that there had been no progress in trying to arrange a meeting between Mr Leon Hazeldene and other officers in the NYCC to discuss the outstanding issues regarding Kelber Farm. This was due to Mr Hazeldene being absent from work for two weeks due to illness. It was decided to give Cllr Myers time to re-organise the meeting and if no progress is shown after this time the council will write to NYCC and Cllr Myers to express our frustrations and press for a resolution to resolve the delay.

The cost of providing a suitable barrier around the South Street Triangle was discussed and Cllr Myers agreed to ring fence whatever money is left in his locality budget, which is around £4,500 - £5,000, for repairs to the defences at the Triangle and the surrounding greens.

Cllr Simon Myers (NYCC) confirmed that there had been no progress in NYCC allocating any budget for repairs to Coniston Bridge. DSt asked if NYCC would consider putting traffic lights on the bridge but no improvements or repairs to the bridge are in NYCC future plans at the moment.

Cllr Myers also confirmed, contrary to recent social media comments, that the site of the former nursing home for Neville House would be converted into dwellings.

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

**6.1 Environment Working Group**

This group had not met since the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> August. The working group felt they had come to an impasse over concerns regarding the amount of biomass material held at Kelber Farm. This is documented under item 5 above.

**6.2 Councillor Vacancy**

Claire Cadman was co-opted to fill a council vacancy due to a resignation. She is completing all the necessary registration forms required for NYCC.

**6.3 Traveller Working Group Update**

The TWG met on the 11<sup>th</sup> September, introduced by GLB who stated that TWR Plan was his priority for 2024 – 2025. There were discussions on improving our knowledge of the laws and bylaws, operational issues around for example, possible provision of CCTV, a detailed communications plan involving residents and interested parties via email or social media platforms.

There were also discussions around physical security measures around trying to deny Traveller Gypsy Roma group (TGR) additional space and trying to restrict them to Mill Lane. Lego blocks have already been purchased and we have a quotation for Birds Mouth Fencing for the Triangle, High and Middle greens and a more durable post for the entrance to Middle Green. Further tenders will be sought for these items.

Contact has already been made with NYCC regarding the work done for restricting access to Aireville Park and the Traveller contact for NYCC is Heather Phillips.

**6.4 Parish Clerk Vacancy**

The council have decided to advertise for a combined Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer position to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of the last clerk. MB will act as the Acting Proper Officer to cover this position in the meantime. In filling this position the council will follow YLCA Advice Note 32 which GLB made reference to in the meeting.

It was agreed that the replacement Clerk/RFO will be appointed by a panel of 3 councillors, GLB, MB and CC. Proposed by AS and seconded by DS.

#### **6.5 Resolution for Code of Conduct adoption**

This resolution was to cover the adoption of the latest Code of Conduct which had never been officially adopted. The resolution was proposed by DS and seconded by KH.

#### **6.6 Speeding Petition Proposal**

The council have been approached by Cowling Parish Council to take part in a campaign to address the issue of NYCC denying villages the right to use fixed and average speed cameras across the county. North Yorks and one other county in England are the only ones who cannot deploy this type of speeding camera.

A number of other villages have been approached and Bentham and Long Preston have already agreed to join the campaign.

The proposal was accepted by DS and seconded by KH, all in favour.

### **7. Public Participation**

A resident had watched the YouTube video of the Marton Road application meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> August and commented that one of the planning committee had read from an already prepared report. There was a discussion regarding whether this was a case of predetermination and AS gave his opinion that it wasn't.

A resident has also raised a Freedom of Information request regarding the absence of an independent road safety audit for Marton Road. The requirement for an independent audit was a major reason why the application was deferred by the planning committee. This audit was carried out by a Local Highways Assessment (LHA) representative not an independent body as requested by the planning committee.

The resident has asked in his FOI whether or not an independent survey has been carried out and if so by whom and the outcome of that survey. He also has asked what information and documents did the LHA use in order to reach their conclusions?

### **8. To consider the planning applications and decisions:**

ZA24/26225/TCA – No objections raised

ZA24/26268/HH – No objections raised

Za24/26242/TCA – No objections raised

### **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			
Invoice Review: 11 September 2024			
DATE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	INCOME	PAYMENTS
	J C COWGILL (Installation of playground benches)		60.00
	J C COWGILL		1,434.71
	CEF (Streetlights)		271.60
NAT WEST as at: 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 - £16,007.32		-----	-----
			<b>1,766.31</b>

Acceptance proposed by DS and seconded by KH. All in favour

#### 10. To consider the following new correspondence

Correspondence			
<p>A resident sent the council this email about Marton Road tractors.</p> <p>hi martin - this weekends farm traffic is an ongoing problem. it was a parish counsellor contractors that caused this issue. that is what i am asking to be addressed. that mr shuttleworth not mr dogson is spoken to. cut off for farm traffic i thought was 10 pm so why were contractors being used after this time e.g. 1.30 am sunday morning- the grass verges are torn up yet again and total disregard to residents on marton road and church street. masons pub was hit by a silo trailer. this is not a planning issue.</p> <p>Clr Shuttleworth attended the meeting along with Mr Stapleton, the manager of the firm of contractors who deal with the cutting and the fertilising of the fields. Mr Stapleton stated he has a system that shows him the whereabouts and times that each of his tractors is in work, There is no contract that has a cut-off time and on the night in question activities were suspended at midnight and resumed on the following morning for a further 3 hours. There are a number of acres which are single crop as opposed to other acres which are cut three times a year. Two members of the public had noted that there had been a noticeable reduction in the amount of tractor journeys this year.</p> <p>There had been some damage to the grass verges and Mr Stapleton produced photos to show the damage. It was also stated that damage had been done to the Masons Arms and they had reported it to the pub. There is co-operation between Mr Shuttleworth and Mr Dodgson and they try not do their work at the same time since the narrow road makes it very difficult to pass each others tractors and other traffic at the same time..</p>			

Mr Shuttsworth proposed that he would publish his phone number and ask Mr Dodgson to do the same so that any complaints and queries can be directed to these two firms when an incident needs reporting.

A resident sent the council the following email regarding the river gabions near Pinfold :-

About two years ago I mentioned that these were collapsing stating that they probable would not last two years. Well now they are dangerous and in imminent danger of collapsing. In sunny days we have numerous kids playing in the river, a warning to you -this is now dangerous

It is obvious that the above, the stepping stones and embankment erosion have been a consequence of the weir being removed. As such numerous correspondence to the rivers authority would be sensible, stating were the blame lay, and at least giving you some defence if costs come the councils way

Clerk reply - Many thanks for the email regarding the gabions. The council has already been in touch with the EA several times and they have produced a Gargrave Flood Assessment plan which includes a large number of recommendations for changes to the river banks etc as it flows through Gargrave. The report is to be discussed in the October meeting.

The resident replied - Thanks for this concise response, good to see things are happening. Certainly the risk of any flooding around us this year has been non existent.

The chair of the Gargrave 22 group who regularly raise funds for items round the village has asked if they can clean the 6 lights on the river bridge. They will employ a handy man to do this and she is aware that the handyman has to have public liability to be able to do the cleaning.

**11. Notify the Acting Proper Officer of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.**

To confirm the date of the next meeting as **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024**  
There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:00hrs.

**Martin Banks**  
**Acting Proper Office**

