

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 2nd October 2024

Present:

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

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. In reference to an item of correspondence from a resident, who attended the last meeting, the Chair addressed the terminology he used when discussing the recruitment of the new parish clerk/RFO. He stated he would like to make it clear that he regrets using the word "shenanigans" to express his thoughts at the last parish meeting. On reflection he saw how it conveyed a seriousness of deception that he didn't mean or wish to impart. He subsequently apologised.

2. To receive apologies for absence:

David Shuttleworth sent his apologies. Alan Sutcliffe did not attend but sent his apologies later.

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 11th September 2024 as a true and correct record:

The minutes of the 11th Sep were accepted as a true record. Proposed by DSt and seconded by KH. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

5. Reports from Invited Guests and North Yorkshire Councillor:

Cllr Simon Myers (SM), unable to attend and had sent his apologies. He had, however, sent the Chair an update. The Chair relayed the following points to the meeting:

- SM had not been able to progress a meeting at NYC regarding Kelber Hill Farm as the relevant officer was still on sick leave.

Further to the resolution at the previous meeting it was agreed that a letter would be sent to NYC expressing frustration at the lack of progress and asking for a meeting with the relevant officer at NYC.

- SM had recently bid for and been awarded funding for the demolition of Neville House. It was hoped that much-needed new Council Homes and some Assisted

Living would be built on the site, but that would be influenced by the views of the PC and the community.

- On funding for TGR defences for the South St Triangle, Cllr Myers reported he had £3,500, which he would ring-fence. He also reported that additional funding could be allocated in the next financial year.

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

6.1 Tree and river survey

It was agreed that the inhouse Tree and River survey would be reviewed with the EA and other interested parties such as the Aire River Trust to establish a way forward.

6.2 Councillor Vacancy

The council have received notification from NYC that we are now free to co-opt, accordingly this vacancy will now be widely advertised.

6.3 Traveller Working Group Update

The Chair reported:

- Tenders for the defence of South St Triangle, Goffa Mill and High Green would be issued over the next period. The Working Group will also meet during the next period.
- There is potential to procure boulders from a local quarry and the possibility of grants from another local firm, which would be followed up.
- Sgt Paul Evans has arranged for the Chair to meet with an organisation called Restorative Solutions on Fri 11 Oct to discuss if, and how they may help in addressing crime/anti-social issues surrounding the impact of TGR. This invite would be extended to all members of the TGR WG

6.4 Parish Clerk/RFO Vacancy

Job Description and Person Specifications along with the Application Form have now been produced for the combined role and an advert for the position will be issued shortly.

6.5 Stepping Stones update

Following a discussion regarding the need for an engineering report to progress the replacement of the stones it was agreed that CH will draft an email to be sent from the PC to a civil engineering firm who have indicated that they may be willing to provide assistance.

6.6 Gargrave Wildlife Working Group

The GWWG presented a very comprehensive report on the work they are currently doing and invited any queries on their operations and plans. Following questions, it was established that:

- as the GWWG have no plans to extend their operation into the playground, the GWWG operations and risk assessment document should be amended.
- the GWWG should apply for a budget (from the PC) for the next financial year.
- the GWWG could display a poster in the council notice board providing information on the work being done in the area next to the river bridge.
- There had been a large increase in Himalayan Balsam in and around the river and that the GWWR would provide the PC with a plan as to how this could be controlled.

6.7 Gargrave Events Committee – Bonfire Plan

The planned bonfire has been cancelled by the Gargrave Events Committee (GEC) as the proposed site did not meet insurance requirements.

CC also reported that the GEC would supply additional lights for the Christmas Tree and provide decorations and lanterns throughout the High Street.

6.8 Church Magazine Article

The council's monthly contribution to the Church Magazine is now published on the council's website on the new Notices page. The council is also considering further enhancements to its communications strategy which will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

6.9 Eshton Road

DSt reported that there are two areas of damage to the stone wall that runs along Eshton Road close to the junction with Chew Lane. It was agreed the Proper Officer would establish who was responsible for the maintenance.

It was also pointed out that that there is also the long-standing issue with the wall on Church Street near the railway bridge. Cllr Myers would be approached to ascertain the current position and that this item would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Public Participation

A resident asked if the council would speak at the forthcoming planning meeting about an additional feed storage building planned at Souber Farm. It was agreed that this would be a reasonable request since Gargrave would be impacted by further increases in the traffic volumes throughout the village, particularly Marton Road. It was agreed that the Proper Officer would write to NYC asking for permission whilst also registering opposition through the NYCPlanning Portal.

8. To consider the planning applications and decisions

ZA24/26330/TCA	- no objections
ZA24/26331/TPO	- this planning application would be objected to as it involved the removal of a healthy tree.
ZA24/26333/TCA	- no objections
ZA24/26337/TCA	- no objections
ZA24/26189/HH	- approved 17 Sep 24

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.

Acceptance proposed by DSt and seconded by CH. All in favour.

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL			
Invoice Review: 2nd October 2024			
DATE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	INCOME	PAYMENTS
12/09/2024	1&1 INTERNET LTD		8.40
13/09/2024	NYC CIL CLAIM (for playground upgrades)	21,635.62	
16/09/2024	VILLAGE HALL		216.67
30/09/2024	NYC PRECEPT	25,000.00	
07/06/2024	WOLFENDEN CONCRETE		936.00
	ROSPA PLAYGROUND INSPECTION		208.80
	GOOD DIRECTIONS (TWO MEMORIAL BENCHES)		1,572.00
	PKF EXTERNAL AUDIT FEE		504.00
	JC COWGILL (SEPTEMBER CUT)		1,434.71
	CRAVEN STATIONERY		90.35
	CEF		54.32
	PROLUDIC INSTALLATION WORKS		3,724.32
	PROLUDIC EQUIPMENT		8,812.73
	PROLUDIC BASKETBALL GOAL		7,889.65
	PROLUDIC WETPOUR INSTALLATION		1,031.15
NAT WEST as at: 30 September 2024 - £60,651.56		-----	-----
		46,635.62	26,483.10

10. To consider the following new correspondence

There has been a report from a resident about larges piles of branches in the railway car park from someone who has chopped up a large fallen branch, taken the wood from the trunk and left the leaves. He also reported that he cleared two bags of rubbish from the park from someone being parked overnight and reported what looked like an abandoned vehicle.

Clerk - The local landowner reported he saw the tree branch being sawn up but didn't recognise the person although he wasn't wearing NYC uniform. He also said that people

staying overnight there had happened before. The branches and leaves will be tidied up this week.

Email from resident of South Street re Trees and Parking

A resident on South Street has asked for two branches to be removed from a tree opposite from his house which are now hanging half way over the road. Reasons stated are that in any breeze or wind, debris lands on his car and any car parked next to his. Bird droppings are also an issue. The resident feels that the droppings are also affecting his holiday let business and that he has to advise his customers to park elsewhere.

He and his neighbours also feel that all the trees on the triangle should be crown lifted and taken right back.

We replied to the resident saying we wouldn't submit an application because of the reasons quoted and questioned whether the tree officer would allow the application to be accepted. Whilst agreeing that there were a couple of dead branches which could do with trimming, the trees look healthy enough.

The Proper Officer also sought guidance from NYC, in an email, as follows:

What would be your opinion about an application like this which effectively asks for every tree to be trimmed? Every tree has a finite life of course, would you for example visit the site and have a look and say which trees could be crowned because of issues with them and not the others because they are healthy? Would the issue with the birds make a difference to your decision?

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 6th November 2024**
There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:06hrs.

Martin Banks
Acting Proper Officer

