

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held Monday 13 June 2016

Councillors: Peter Ward, Janet Turner, Janet Sugden, David Syms, Derrick Evans, Brian Atkinson, Alan Robinson and Clerk – Kath Ashby.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence:** Cllr Pearl Holmes.
- 2. To acknowledge those present.**
- 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 Monday 9 May 2016 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by DE and seconded by DS. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

4.1 Matters Arising:

6.5a) PW advised the meeting that the wall at the side of the river has still not been done despite having been promised to be carried out last Monday 6 June but he is assured it will be repaired within the next few days depending on weather.

6.4 On flooding issues, PW explained that NYCC has recently laid a new drain to connect up to the Playing Field's one and this has been connected from the manhole on the main road by the Cherry Tree at the side of the A65.

DS asked if the drain in the Playground has now been cleared. PW explained that this work will now be carried out as planned and cleared from the Playground through to the end of the Cricket Field up to the A65. We will clear it all.

6.5c PW told the meeting that we have received a request from the school for the banners and posters. It was originally thought to tie the banners onto the fencing around the Playground but they might get vandalised. All in favour of letting the parents have both the banners and the posters which will be nice for the children to keep. Unfortunately one of the banners at the end of Eshton Road, has already disappeared.

6.9 Update on the closed footpath, JT told the meeting that we are working through the process required by NYCC to have the footpath put onto their 'Definitive footpath map'. Cllrs JT, DE, DS, Cnty Cllrs Shelagh Marshall, S Stott and Ken Martin attended a meeting on 24 May at the Area5 Offices. DE read out to the meeting the letter he drafted which has been sent out by Ken Martin to Jephson Homes in Elland. DE also read out to the meeting the email received today from the Duty Officer at CDC attaching a map of the area. JT told the meeting that the Ranger had informed the Parish Council that the affidavit that District Cllr Simon Myers supplied will not be accepted by NYCC. Cllr Myers advised the meeting that he was very happy to do some more when required.

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16.7 PW told the meeting that we have heard nothing further from our Street Lighting contractor. We have already given him the go ahead for upgrading some of the street lights but we are still awaiting confirmation of a start date from him.

6.2 Speeding Updates, PW told the meeting he had arranged to meet with a gentleman from NYCC on 14 June to discuss the matter of speed signs but this meeting has now been put back until later this month.

5. Matters requested by councillors:

5.1. County Cllr Shelagh Marshall - Cnty Cllr Marshall was not present.

5.2 District Cllr Simon Myers: - Cllr Myers told the meeting that since he attended our meeting last time, there has been an election but there has not been a massive change for Craven. He is still doing the same job. Cllr Alan Sutcliffe is now Chair of Planning and on the Spatial Planning Committee. Therefore he is quite sure proper attention will be given to Gargrave's Neighbourhood Plan as that is his remit, so that is good news for the village. CDC made a surplus of £600,000 into reserves, £300,000 for this year which will just tide us over. Craven Swimming Pool and Gym made £70,000 which is phenomenal. Consequently we are going to invest money into the Cafe, £60,000 which apparently is dreadful, at the same time try and get some healthier meals on the menu. Regarding charging for the car park, Cllr Myers is not sure that it is going to work. HML had been using the car park which was causing problems with people who were coming to use the pool.

The reason it was decided to remove the disabled parking bays outside the Town Hall was because these were not safe. The fact is the tenant would like use of them. It is not fatal to their lease if it does not go through. If they are removed, they will be relocated elsewhere on the High Street. CDC will receive the £50,000 rent. If the Councillors decide they want to keep the parking bays outside the Town Hall, they will stay.

PW suggested moving the parking bays and creating spaces outside the Cycle Shop further up from the Town Hall, as there would be room for 3 cars. Cllr Myers told the meeting that it has been suggested that the area outside Rackhams could be used as disabled bays on non-market days.

A parishioner mentioned to Cllr Myers that now double yellow lines have been put down on Gargrave Road, cars have all moved further down the road. Cllr Myers told the meeting that it would be prudent to sell HML some more land and CDC own the land below Craven College and Keelham Farm, and they need more parking spaces.

Another parishioner asked Cllr Myers if CDC are doing so well, why has the Council Tax gone up by 3.3% the maximum. Cllr Myers explained that CDC were short this year by £250,000. This year for example, we received £140,000 from car parking, £70,000 from the Swimming Pool that we were not expecting to get and so therefore have a surplus. Cllr Myers stressed that he will fight against Council Tax going up again next year.

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

6.1. Police Report: No report has been received to date.

6.2 Speeding Update - Hellifield Road: PW confirmed he has a meeting planned at the end of the month about installing speed activated signs and will get advice on where they are best to be placed. PW also read out to the meeting the email received from the Police in response to our query on the reason for the accident outside the Bollywood Cottage on 31 December 2015. He explained that there is a distinction between walking across the road at Coniston and Gargrave and because of constant queuing through the village, it will be difficult to speed. It is most likely out of hours speeding and he cannot understand why the speeding reports do not pick this up.

PW also told the meeting that the Parish Council are in the process of ordering a quantity of self-adhesive 30mph signs for people's wheelie bins.

6.3 Update - River Wall & Goit Clearance: PW confirmed to the meeting that as soon as the river wall is repaired, our contractor will get on with the Goit clearance.

6.4 Public Participation:

One parishioner had several points he wished to raise:-

1. He has noticed whilst walking along the Birdcage Walk the old hut along there has asbestos in it and therefore he has reported it.
2. The large farm vehicles that are coming through the village at 2 and 3am in a morning, he feels should not make noise after 11pm, why are they allowed to do this?

PW asked the Clerk to look into this matter.

BA told the meeting that sometimes the noise we hear late at night is actually coming from Systagenix.

3. Street Lighting outside 19 Eshton Road and one on the bridge, are still out. The Clerk confirmed that both these lights have been reported to the Electrical Contractor.

4. The composting grass down on Low Green is still there. PW explained that we are not going to move it but no more will be tipped there, it will in future be spread on the wall side and there is a path through.

5. Chew Lane bank erosion, what is the time scale. The Clerk confirmed this had already been reported but no time scale had been given.

The Clerk will chase this once again.

6. Goit - as already advised, this will be done very soon, by the end of the month.

7. Weed Killing - is this being done instead of strimming? PW confirmed this was not the case but he accepted that maybe there has been a little bit too much done and therefore intends to have a word with the contractor.

Two ladies wished to raise their concerns on the amount of traffic along North Street and speeding problems. They have taken photos of the cars parked on both sides of the road. The Clerk to contact the Police on the speed issues raised and PW asked the ladies to also contact the Police, to highlight the seriousness of the problem.

It was agreed that the Clerk would also write to Stapletons, the contractors raising concerns of the young men who are driving these heavy vehicles too fast in the village, some using their mobile phones whilst driving.

One lady parishioner raised the question of why there was so many A boards advertising dotted around the Village as she felt these were obstructing driver's views and attention. PW told the meeting that we have written twice to NYCC Area5 following which the boards are removed for a time but then they are put out again.

JT told the meeting that is why NYCC are happy with the sign we have to advertise Village Events which we can change as and when there is an event coming up.

PW told the meeting that A-boards are not allowed really.

A blocked gully was also reported outside No 37 Marton Road. The Clerk to report this matter to Area5.

Another parishioner brought up the subject of dog fouling around the village which seems to be getting worse. PW confirmed the Parish Council has just received another batch of penalty signs and some were handed out at the meeting for affixing in the hot spots.

6.5 Gargrave Neighbourhood Plan to approve for CDC submission: PW told the meeting that this can be viewed on the website but there are a couple of amendments still be made in the next few days and our Consultant is just checking these before this is submitted to CDC for their approval. All in favour and approved for submission to CDC.

JT wished to thank everyone that has been involved in the process.

6.6 Permission to remove trees on Middle Green, crown lift on High Green: PW told the meeting that we had requested to crown lift a number of trees on the 3 greens so that we can cut right up to them and this application has been approved. We are also going to remove the two trees under the electricity cables opposite the public toilets. These will be completely taken out and again we have gained permission from CDC.

PW has asked the contractor to remove the Willow Tree hanging into the river when he does the river bank repair. We will now contact Tree Surgeons and obtain two quotes.

6.7 Traveller's Update: PW advised the meeting that we have had a few travellers on the Low Green, eventually we managed to get them to clean and tidy up the area. A group of them did light a fire, with flames up to 10ft high and Police were called on this occasion. The third group who visited on their way up to Appleby Fair are now back and they are keeping the area pretty tidy and we have asked them to keep horses off the football pitch.

6.8 Playground: PW told the meeting that today we have received an updated plan and as far as this is concerned the Parish Council will support this work to a sum of £5000 match funding. We will now prepare a letter of support and advise them of the funding.

In fairness the Parish Council will have to look after the Playground but it is an investment in the children of the village. PW did point out however, that the Parish Council have not agreed to the garden.

BA confirmed that he was still happy to re-paint the Playground gates as soon as he gets the time. PW said he felt that we should repair/replace the fencing on the car park side.

7. To consider the planning applications and decisions:

See attached list.

8. Financial Matters:

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment.

INCOME

28.04.15	CDC Precept	£22,000.00
03.05.16	VAT Refund	1,217.21
06.05.16	Honesty Boxes	160.21
17.05.15	SBS Interest	180.40
27.05.16	Northern Powergrid	45.39

EXPENDITURE

DD Village Hall	102.00
K Ashby Clerk's Wage	363.23
J Provan – Toilets Wage	336.00
Gledstone Gardens Plants	117.00
Society of Local CI Clerks	105.00
JC Cowgill -Grass Cuts	1046.64
JC Cowgill - Flagging- benches	180.00
JACs - Sander etc	198.84
RA Lowther Playground gates	732.00
Village Hall GNP	25.00
Yorkshire Internal Audit Services	305.00
S Claxton - Church Yard Lights	1535.42
Merritt & Fryers – Bench work	38.91

To consider:-

Clerk due back pay from April 2016 – 1 July Payslip.

Community Acc. 24 May 2016 £49,775.60

SBS Acc. As of 17 May 2016 £22,730.22

30 mph signs @ £1.20 each - 300 to order.

DE proposed the accounts and AR seconded, all in favour and accepted.

Regarding the purchase by the Parish Council of the sander for use on the benches, JS asked that it be placed on record that in future if anything like this crops up again, can a request be brought to the Parish Council Meeting for consideration before we just go out and buy the item.

A discussion then took place regarding improving the river, to remove trees in the water and the possibility of creating a diamond shape made up of large stones to help with the flow of water. BA felt that we needed to make the Environment Agency aware and therefore PW agreed to talk to someone at the EA and arrange a meeting.

9. To consider the following new correspondence received and decide action where necessary:

See attached list.

2. Play Away – agreed to donate £50.00
8. To respond to resident re: repairs to boundary wall at 13 Walton Avenue.
11. To send letter of support and response to email – no garden at Playground.
12. Clerk to ring School to advise PC happy for children to have banners and posters.
13. Agreed to order 300 self-adhesive stickers 30mph for wheelie bins.

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 **Monday 11 July 2016.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm