

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Held on Monday 3rd March 2014

1. To receive apologies for absence:

North Yorkshire County Councillor Shelagh Marshall. Craven District Councillor Simon Myers, Councillors Janet Sugden and Pearl Holmes. Councillor Janet Turner acted as Clerk and Councillor David Syms chaired the meeting.

2. To acknowledge those present

Councillors Mrs Janet Turner, Mr David Syms, Brian Atkinson, Mrs. Betty Stringer and a number of parishioners.

3. To receive any declaration of interest

Parish Councillor Janet Turner declared an interest in a planning matter at her home.

5.1 Public participation

The Police report was brought forward in the agenda, a change agreed by all the Councillors present.

Sgt. Moorhouse and WPC J. Pickles informed the meeting about:

- (a) Travelling criminals moving through the area;
- (b) North Yorkshire Police initiative Country Watch;
- (c) A Ringmaster system about which the Council asked for further detail;
- (d) Appleby Horse Fair 2014 – apparently the same format is to be used as for the last few years. We are invited to contact the Police at any time regarding problems which arise;
- (e) Le Grand Depart – residents are urged to close and lock windows and doors, especially when they leave their homes – no final plan as yet on the exact road closures

4. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting on Monday 3rd February 2014 were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings – Proposed Cllr. Betty Stringer, Seconded Cllr. Brian Atkinson – agreed unanimously. Councillor David Syms signed the minutes as Acting Chairman.

4.1 Matters arising

A representative of the Village Hall committee addressed the Council on the subject of the defibrillator proposed by the school PTA. The committee has agreed to site one somewhere on the exterior wall of the Village Hall and is also willing to pay the estimated running costs of £48 p.a. However neither the committee nor the PTA is willing to pay the initial cost quoted as £1,000. The Parish Council agreed to consider this as a formal item on the agenda for the April meeting.

5.1 Public participation

A parishioner commented on the lack of road sweeping. It was reported that Councillor Myers had recently asked if this had been done and he had been answered in the negative. The Parish Council will ask him to take up the point again with Craven DC.

It was reported that the gents' toilet is temporarily closed for maintenance.

The vehicular destruction of the grassed area on Damside on High Green was discussed and thanks were given to a resident of that area in anticipation for the remedial work which he was proposing to do. The Council agreed to allow this initiative a chance to develop before putting stones in place. The matter is to go on to the agenda for the May meeting.

A representative of the Playground group gave a progress report:

- (i) In April the group is to carry out a consultation in the village primary school;
- (ii) Volunteers will be planting areas next to Airedale Avenue. However the representative was not sure of the dimensions of the areas or the planting scheme. She was warned about the gas installation and the grass cutting regime;
- (iii) The group has decided to become a small charity with a limit of £5,000 on its funds;
- (iv) On behalf of the group the representative agreed to take part in litter picking;

(v) The possibility of installing flower planters in the future was mentioned.

The lack of electricity in the whole of the toilet block was discussed. An electrician has been booked for later this week to deal with a number of problems. A Parish Councillor has obtained a quote to install a water heater for the sink used by the cleaner. This was deferred until the electrical problems had been diagnosed. Whilst the gent's toilet is closed a broken grate in the floor will be replaced.

5.2 The Clerk's position

It was reported that Helen Carruthers submitted her resignation on 24th February.

As there are several parties in the village who are interested in the position it was decided to advertise it using posters and in the Village News in the Craven Herald before considering the use of a paid advert.

It was also agreed to seek the assistance of the parishioner who had helped the former Clerk to set up the Council's website and Facebook page to install connections for the Neighbourhood Planning Group.

5.3 The proposed installation of a defibrillator at the Village Hall

See item 4.1 above.

5.4 Maintenance of the Summer Seat

The gutter on the Summer Seat has been repaired and the contractor's invoice is awaited.

5.5 Quotes obtained for making a footpath to the new car park at the railway station

Cllrs. Betty Stringer and Janet Sugden have met possible contractors on the site and have obtained three quotes. As this project is included in the 2014/15 budget the Council agreed to contact North Yorkshire Highways department to inform them of our intentions and our involvement with the Leeds to Morecambe Community Rail Partnership who have already looked at the site and approved the Council's plans.

5.6 Playground update

The new swing seats and one chain arrived from Kompan during February. Fitting these is scheduled for the middle of March as is the delivery of the skate park ramps.

5.7 Dog bins

It was agreed unanimously to buy a dog bin for the end of Birdcage Walk near Meadowcroft to replace a broken one. The Council is to contact Craven D.C. to arrange this.

5.8 Confirmation with the PTA of the date of the Duck Race as 13 July

It was agreed unanimously to allow the village school PTA to hold the annual Duck Race on Sunday 13th July on Middle Green. The Acting Clerk was instructed to e-mail this decision to the PTA and to suggest to the PTA that they increase the price of Duck Race tickets by 50p to raise funding for the defibrillator.

5.9 Drainage between Goffa Mill and Middle Green

In response to a complaint from a resident of Goffa Mill about flooding in that area the Acting Clerk was instructed to respond by pointing out the responsibility of the residents of Goffa Mill to keep their own grates clear of debris and pointing out that a solid flower bed had been built and was inhibiting drainage.

The council agreed to ask a contractor to clear refuse and a build up of mud in the area where vehicles are parked near the vehicular access gate to middle Green.

6.1 County Councillor's report

Councillor Shelagh Marshall did not attend the meeting.

6.2 District Councillor's report

District Councillor Simon Myers reported that he had spoken to the Craven D.C. officer concerned regarding an invoice for £30 for (non-existent) elections in May 2013 and the invoice has been cancelled.

He queried the amount of road sweeping carried out in the village and witnessed signatures on affidavits regarding the closure of the footpath between Neville Road and Hellifield Road. These

Affidavits were afterwards sent to North Yorkshire C.C.

7. To consider planning applications

See list attached.

8. Financial matters

8.1 The monthly accounts were presented for payment:

Cllr. Syms proposed that all the account be paid and all Parish Councillors agreed thereto.

3. Correspondence

See list attached.

1. a letter regarding item 3 – it was reported that an electrician is to repair the lights and that the grate has been repaired..

2. item 6 – a letter from North Yorkshire CC regarding parking at Smithy Croft – to be included on the April agenda.

3. item 15 – adopt a bench scheme – the Acting Clerk is to look back to see what previous correspondence there has been.

4. item 17 information regarding a motor rally passing through the village on Saturday 5 th April. Information to be included in the Parish Magazine and on the notice board.

Clerk's Update. Parish Councillors to notify the Clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

Parish Council Meeting – Monday 7th April 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm