

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 6 October 2014

Councillors Mrs Janet Turner, Mr David Syms, Mrs Janet Sugden, Mrs Pearl Holmes, Mr Brian Atkinson, Mr Derrick Evans, Mr Peter Ward, Mr Alan Robinson and Clerk – Kath Ashby, County Councillor Shelagh Marshall and several parishioners.

1. To receive apologies for absence: Craven District Cllr Simon Myers

2. To acknowledge those present and also welcome Carol Conroy who has expressed interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and has therefore been invited along to the meeting tonight.

3. To receive any declaration of interest: Nothing declared.

4. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting from 1 September were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Pr Cllr.David Syms and seconded by Pr Cllr. Derrick Evans. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

4.1 Matters Arising

- a) Cllr Pearl Holmes told the meeting of her concerns about the footpath coming down from the Railway Station on the right hand side as the wall is bulging quite badly and is quite unsafe. The verge before the footpath is very overgrown too and needs strimming back. Cllr Janet Turner advised the meeting that the grass cutting contractor is to be asked to strim back the grass as low as he can get it in that area. The electrical contractor is in the process of obtaining prices for solar lights which would remain on all the time and would light up this area whilst walking back from the Railway Station.

5. Matters requested by councillors

5.1 County Cllr Shelagh Marshall advised the meeting that there is going to be another Library Review but she is assured that Embsay and Gargrave will not be affected. She asked about the business rates on the Library as Gargrave are paying much more than Embsay. She asked if we could find out what was currently being charged and advise her when we do.

It was agreed to put a letter together to the Library to ask the question.

Nothing much to report on the bus situation, it seems to be ticking along okay. People seem to be delighted to be able to travel through to Kirby Lonsdale on the service.

Cllr David Syms asked if the rumour were true that the Kirby Lonsdale bus company will cease at the end of their contract. Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall did state that areas such as ours could have problems as operators only want to tender for a service with fare paying passengers. The Pennine was the most expensive service in Craven as the buses were full of older people. NYCC only have a certain duty.

The NYCC grass-cutting service cuts and NY Highways have produced a map of the areas affected and Cllr Shelagh Marshall will chase up a copy for us.

The email received from Area 5 advising they would not be able to replace the broken tactiles in the village was discussed and Cllr Marshall said that there just is not any money for these type of repairs.

The meeting also discussed moving the 30mph signs further to reduce the speed of vehicles through the village. Cllr Peter Ward agreed to put a document together in the light of the fact the A65 is no longer a trunk road.

The matter of car parking charges was raised and Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall told the meeting that she had heard recently that this was now to go ahead.

5.2 District Cllr Simon Myers was not able to be present this evening but Cllr Turner spoke with him earlier in the day and advised the meeting that it sounds like Mr Knowles-Fitton, Chairman of the Craven District Council will finish at the end of the month and therefore, until a new Chairman is elected, the deputy will be chairing the meetings in the meantime.

Cllr Simon Myers also informed Cllr Janet Turner that Mr Smurthwaite wants the Parish Council to know that the Neighbourhood Plan carries more weight than the ideas that CDC have put forward as their preferred sites.

Cllr David Syms advised the meeting at this point that the meeting arranged for Wed 8 October with the Consultants and some of the Neighbourhood Planning group had been cancelled.

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

6.1 Public Participation

A parishioner who lives close by the damaged wall on the A65 asked for an update on when this would be rebuilt. Clerk to chase the Insurance Company of the driver for an update. Types of plants were discussed as the residents would prefer low growing ones. Cllr David Syms said that once the wall is repaired we can decide what type of plants to put in.

6.2 Police Report

Neither email nor Officer present at the meeting.

6.3 YLCA Recording of Meetings – Policy adoption

Cllr Janet Turner asked if everyone had received an emailed copy of this document and explained that we have to decide as a Parish Council and set up as a basic standing order which means that people cannot just come along and take photographs. If all agree to these rules it gives us some say. Policy adopted. Cllr Pearl Holmes proposed and Cllr Derrick Evans seconded. This policy adoption will last until next year's annual meeting and to onto the list of standing orders then.

6.4 Goit Banking Cllr Janet Turner explained to the parishioners where the goit is and that the banking had eroded quite badly. Stone work and flags have been cleared off and highlighted the problem. The 'Caution deep mud signs have been put up in that area. Cllr Janet Sugden commented that it is already looking much better.

6.5 Village grass-cutting Cllr Janet Turner advised the meeting that we have now reached the time of year when we ‘Thank the villagers who maintain and clean areas that they know that they do not own’. This is documented each year to remind residents that we know the areas owned by the village and not individuals. This will be our last month with our grass-cutting contractor and we have extended his contract for another couple of years. We are going to send the grass-cutting spec to him however, to remind him to do the agreed strimming.

6.6 Playground, hedges and fencing Cllr Janet Sugden met with the grass cutting contractor at the Playground recently to obtain a price for the hedging and he also quoted for taking off some of the lower branches of the trees around the car park boundary in that area. The estimate has now been received and seems very reasonable. All voted for the work to go ahead.

A lengthy discussion then took place on which type of hedging would be most suitable. Cllr Peter Ward suggested a beech hedge, which would be slow growing but we could then remove the existing hedging bit by bit. A metal fence was also discussed and a hedging of a mix of shrubs.

Cllr Peter Ward suggested a fencing of sheep mesh, held with posts. Cllr Janet Turner said that we must be careful which type of hedging is used for safety reasons. Clerk to contact ROSPA for their advice before any decision is made. The meeting agreed that Cllr D Evans will in future look after the grass-cutting contractor which will be less confusing for the contractor going forward.

Cllr Alan Robinson agreed to do the check of the playground in November. It was agreed that Cllr J Turner will meet with Cllr Robinson on Tuesday 4 November to show what checks are required

6.7 20th September Consultation presentation - this took place in the main hall of the Village Hall along with the coffee morning and it was estimated around 120 people attended. They were very grateful to come along and be able to talk about planning matters. Siobhan Jose produced a report which has been circulated around the village. The worry is that CDC have put land forward which they prefer and the village have not got the neighbourhood plan to give yet. One local farmer put land forward and has heard nothing since.

6.8 Neighbourhood Planning Group update following interviews Kirkwells have been appointed. They gave a presentation here in the village hall. Cllr D Syms met with Chris Lloyd and the consultants for a walk about the sites today, 6 October. It was explained to the consultants that we were not happy with GA028 and GA029 and still unsure about GA025. GA031 was a preference a site on Marton Road. The triangle of land before the Anchor on the right hand side has been passed and given outline planning permission for building but we have not heard anything since. This land should come within the 75 houses proposed, if building work does not begin before the village’s neighbourhood plan is in place.

Cllr J Turner asked if the Parish Council were happy to accept that Kirkwells would be our consultants for the neighbourhood plan. The price has not yet been finalised but the sum of money was in the spec. A possible shortfall in the funding was discussed if we are not successful with our funding bid and it had been suggested that the money from the Windle’s bequest could be used to top up the shortfall. The applications have been filled in for the £3k from the Awards for All – Big Lottery Fund, as the remaining funds are already in place.

Cllr Janet Sugden asked that it be minuted that she did not agree with the amount being loaned from the Parish Council.

6.9 Response to CDC Draft Plan we do not need to respond until the 3 November 2014.

The idea was discussed and put forward at last Wednesday's meeting because the NPG have done such a lot of research into the whole matter.

It was suggested the Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Planning Group have a meeting together in the light of what Cllr Simon Myers had said. We are a planning authority in our own right.

Clerk to email Parish Councillors and Neighbourhood Planning Group to try and set up a date for a meeting together.

7. To consider the planning applications and decisions:

See attached list.

8. Financial matters:

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment.

All in favour and accepted.

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

See attached list.

Item 1 - Monday 13 October meeting with Playground Group agreed.

Item 2 - The clerk to email again for an update.

Item 5 - Yes all agreed that we would like someone from CDC to come along to our meeting to explain their budget. Clerk to respond.

Item 6 - Copies placed in the Parish Magazine and the notice board.

Item 8 - Cllr Peter Ward to email Chris Lloyd and work out some dates.

Item 9 - Clerk to email out to all Parish Councillors.

10. To notify the clerk of matters for inclusion on the Agenda of the next meeting.

11. Date of next meeting:

This was confirmed as Monday 3rd November 2014 at 7.15pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10 a.m.

