

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 2 February 2015

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, Ms Carole Conroy and Clerk – Kath Ashby. District Cllr Simon Myers and several parishioners.

1. To receive apologies for absence: County Cllr Shelagh Marshall.

2. To acknowledge those present.

3. To receive any declaration of interest: Cllr Janet Turner declared an interest in the planning application relating to the Fish and Chip Shop.

4. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting from 5 January were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Pr Cllr. David Syms and seconded by Pr Cllr. Janet Sugden. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

4.1 Matters Arising The response the Clerk received back from the Police relating to the speeding problem along Church Street has been forwarded onto Mr Robert Marshall for his advice and comments.

4.2 A parishioner pointed out that the July Minutes were not visible on the website. Our Clerk has now dealt with this and these minutes are now on the website and advised the parishioner accordingly.

4.3 The same parishioner raised the matter of his concerns regarding the condition of the footpath along the Dam Side. This is an Agenda item 6.5 High Green.

4.4 Cllr Janet Turner and Cllr David Syms attended the Gargrave Gardening meeting held on 30 January where it was suggested that wild flowers could be planted along the Woodland Walk where the soil is poor and the planting would help the ground. The Group also plan to look at the raised beds on the A65 with a view to tidying these up. Cllr Robinson suggested that this work would be better undertaken in the Springtime. The group plan to meet again at the Summer seat on Wednesday 11th February 2015.

5. Matters requested by councillors:

5.1 District Councillor – Simon Myers advised the meeting that car parking charges has been knocked on the head finally, again. Whether one day someone will approach the Parish Council and ask them to take it over, remains to be seen. CDC will also be getting the grant, no doubt about that. CDC are also planning to do a surmounted exercise across Craven and pay consultants to ask lots of people what money should be spent on and what it should not be spent on. This will cost £30,000 and is not appropriate. Cllr Myers asked the meeting for their thoughts on this and all agreed that this was a waste of money.

Cllr Myers also told the meeting that there was to be an independent review of Councillor's allowances and their expenses and recommend some increases. Cllr Myers is opposed to any increases. Cllr Myers asked for the views of the meeting and all in favour of saying no.

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

6.1 Public Participation

A parishioner raised his concerns for an overhanging tree in the River Place area and the safety of this tree as the branches extend over the road and his parked vehicle. He feels the tree is very top heavy and needs trimming. Cllr Janet Turner explained that as the area in question is in a conservation area the Parish Council would have to contact CDC and ask for the tree officer to come out and decide whether they deem the work needs to be done. Unless it is thought to be very dangerous, it was not going to happen next week. Cllr Janet Turner assured the parishioner that the matter would be reported to CDC first thing in the morning. Cllr Simon Myers confirmed it was a matter of urgency.

Another parishioner expressed concerns over branches of a willow tree by the river on High Green, as he does not want the branches to split and fall onto his house. The Clerk confirmed that this matter had already been reported to the Environment Agency and they have acknowledged the request and the matter has been referred to their customer team for attention.

Another parishioner asked the meeting about the Dam Side and was it true they were planning to fill it in and pipe it? The meeting assured the parishioner that this was not true.

6.2 Police Report

A monthly Newsletter is now being received into the office and the idea of this publication is to try and keep people better informed of what is going on and a brief idea of any issues.

6.3 Street Lighting The matter of no power to several poles in the village has been reported to Northern Power grid and they have acknowledged our complaints twice now.

The contractor has tried to book a lift to repair the Parish Council lights but cannot get one until this week. The Clerk has reported the NYCC ones and they have acknowledged our request for repairs. The contractor is trying to source a new swan neck for the light across from the Church but this is taking some time to locate as it thought to be an early 1900's light fitting. Cllr Janet Turner went through the process of reporting a streetlight problem to the meeting. Firstly report the light problem to the Clerk who will record in the book in the office. The Clerk will then contact the Contractor, CDC or NYCC. If the house number or the number of the pole can be given at the time of reporting, we can then give the exact location of the faulty light.

Lights out at Midnight – NYCC has informed the Parish Council by letter of their plans for implementing a street lighting energy reduction programme. This scheme involves turning off some street lights between midnight and 5am when road use has

been shown to be at a minimum. NYCC have asked for our response by Friday 20 March 2015. The Parish Council thought that this was a good idea. It was therefore decided to ask for comments on the website and in the Parish Magazine to get people's opinion. Cllr Pearl Holmes expressed concerns of safety by the river if this was to happen. This will be a March agenda item.

6.4 NPWG Chairman's Report

Edward Bartle told the meeting that it had been a busy month in January. The highlight of the month was CDC meeting with Stephen Brown and Henry Cumbers, along with Cllr Janet Turner, Cllr Peter Ward from the Parish Council, Edward Bartle and Chris Lloyd and Louise Kirkup from the Consultants, Kirkwells.

CDC advised that due to a number of factors, mostly it's complexity; they were getting behind with the local plan and could not see it being completed until late summer at the earliest.

When asked about dropping their preferred sites to allow Gargrave's local groups scheme to take over, Stephen Brown said they could not at present as their legal team were nervous of the potential of the local groups dissolving and their being left without any plan. They did state however that if CDC does get behind, they would need a very good reason not to use GPC's preferred choice of site. GPC confirmed the consultation on revised sites following the new call for sites would be by public open forums, or drop in sessions, and not leafleting each household as before and this was accepted by CDC.

There was a discussion on landscape assessment with reference to NYCC historical environmental records to be found on websites. GPC and Kirkwells to follow up. Also the parish boundary changes of 2014 needed clarification in the documents. CDC made a statement on employment potential mainly because of its good communications. GPC stated that if new business use premises were required their current thinking was to locate it on land belonging to Systagenix. They had already written to the company proposing this and had received an in-principle positive response.

At the last GNPWG meeting the group were due to discuss the Narrative but unfortunately time ran out and this was deferred until a meeting on 4 February. This has now been amended and referred back to Kirkwells. When this is approved it will be placed on the Parish Council website in the not too distant future.

Edward Bartle told the meeting that he met with Mr Richard Morton, at the Dalesman Café recently to discuss progress with the Neighbourhood Plan and this meeting lasted for 1 ½ hours. The proposed plan for site GA025 is 45 houses with a roundabout to take traffic from Systagenix and A65. As far as GNPWG and CDC are concerned it was not the most popular site because it has a very significant and real flooding risk. Mr Morton has now gone away to think about the lay of the houses on the site.

6.5 Craven Branch Meeting feedback Cllr Janet Turner and Cllr Janet Sugden attended the meeting in the Nursery School on Otley Street, Skipton.

Main points were

1. Concerns about business rates
2. Chinese lanterns – complaints and concerns if these come down and set on fire.
3. Fracking – concerns put forward.
4. Our Association looking at bulk buy Auditors with a view to bringing the price down.

5. PAYE was discussed – The Clerk and the Toilet Cleaner do not earn enough for pension provision though council will probably be notified about procedures to follow.

6. Local Council Tax from the government grant. We are awaiting the letter before we apply for the precept. All in favour.

6.6 Playground update

Cllr Janet Turner advised the meeting that their group were having their own meeting this evening and that all Pr Cllrs had agreed on the shorter response back to the last email from the group.

6.7 High Green

Cllr Derrick Evans advised the meeting that he had spoken with a contractor to ask if there was anything on the market that will kill the weed that is not harmful. The contractor was on a routine visit to check the sewage pipe and reported all was okay. Two quotes for the fencing along the Damside have been received. We are awaiting the third quote before a decision can be made.

7. To consider the planning and decisions:

See attached list.

8. Financial matters:

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment.

Income		Expenditure	
Honesty Box	180.38	Village Hall D Debit	102.00
VAT	2184.91	J Provan wage	355.60
Ins Refund		Clerk's wage	436.49
& Hunt	380.00	Merritt & Fryers	12.29
		Smiths of Derby	594.00
		JC Cowgill	150.00
		Craven Herald Advert	237.89
		Shorrocks Trichem	37.79
		S Claxton	877.55
		Village Hall Rm Hire	50.00
		Craven Stationery	

Balances

Barclays Tracker 33,482.17 (Dec)

Community A/c 5,484.39

Skipton Building Soc 25,582.79

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

See attached list.

Item 3 Clerk to respond to Windle, Beech, Winthrop and instruct them to value the land and request some suitable dates. Cllr Janet Turner and Cllr Janet Sugden to meet on site.

Item 4 Letter from resident re: gritting of Neville Road – Cllr Janet Turner to respond.

Item 5 Email response from Systagenix prepared to cut verges. Clerk to respond to Systagenix thanking them for this kind offer.

A parishioner has also offered to provide a wooden container with flowers outside the village by the 30mph sign. The meeting discussed this and it was felt the area on the A65, up towards the Anchor Pub on the triangle of land by the top stepping stones, would be a better place to put this.

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

Cllr Janet Turner suggested the question of using the Windle's bequest to pay for the fencing along the Damside as it was for the benefit of all ages of parishioners and visitors. The meeting were all in favour.

11. Date of next meeting:

This was confirmed as Monday 2 March 2015 at 7.15pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm