

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5 October 2015

Councillors: Peter Ward, Carole Conroy, 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 declaration of interest: Nothing declared.

4. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting from Monday 7 September 2015 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Carole Conroy, seconded by Cllr D Syms. All in favour and accepted unanimously.

4.1 Matters Arising:

a) Cllr Derrick Evans told the meeting that he had spoken with Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall this evening regarding the footpath leading onto the A65 and she has agreed to chase this matter again.

b) Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting the speeding data has been requested again and we will continue to follow this up. This is in fact an agenda item when this matter will be discussed further.

c) Page 2, point 2, Cllr Peter Ward updated the meeting on the spraying of the goit weeds. Apparently we can spray over water. Unfortunately we can only use a contractor through the Environment Agency and they are quite a few miles away. We can use someone local and obtain the special licence that is required. We have however missed our window of opportunity for this year because you have to spray by the end of September. It may be wise to assist someone to undertake the necessary training.

Cllr Peter Ward also told the meeting that he is looking into having the vegetation along the river banking cut back and is now awaiting some costings from a local contractor.

Cllr Brian Atkinson raised the matter of the first stone on the stepping stones which he feels needs a little more concrete putting in to lift it up a bit more.

4.1 Second paragraph, Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that we were going to have a speed limit test at both ends of the village. We now have the paperwork to make this happen.

5. Matters requested by councillors:

5.1 County Councillor – Shelagh Marshall:

Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall told the meeting that the gritting team have now decided on their programme for this winter. There is nothing included in this for Schools.

Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall asked that the Clerk forward her a list of Parish Councillors contact telephone numbers, should it be necessary for her to get in touch. Clerk to prepare the list and email.

At the recent Area Committee it was decided that they will return to giving each Councillor £5000. We did have this before, prior to the severe cut backs. This means you can apply for a grant and it will be the Councillor's prerogative to approve it or not. Applications go back to Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall and rubber stamped by the Executive.

Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall told the meeting that suddenly she is getting a lot of complaints from residents in Coniston Cold because of the noise of the traffic which is keeping people up at night. The meeting then discussed that the answer is of course a bypass and nothing has ever changed. Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall has asked if we could have a ban on HGV vehicles during the night but was told there is no justification for this.

Cllr Janet Turner raised the problem of kerbstones on Marton Road, and Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall told the meeting she would see what she could do about this.

The whole of Craven is up for a Bus Service Review this year. We have no control about the time changes.

There was to be a Parish Forum at Settle on Tuesday evening and Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall advised the meeting that she would attend this.

5.2 District Councillor – Simon Myers:

Exciting news coming in this week advising that we have got through the first round of the Heritage Grant application for the Museum.

At the next full council meeting one of the agenda items is Councillors' Allowances.

The proposal is that these are increased. District Cllr Simon Myers told the meeting that he will be voting against this increase. The fact of the matter is that we are going to have to make cuts, it is not the time to have an increase in allowances.

Cllr Janet Sugden raised the matter of Devolution and that she understood a decision would be made on the 20 November 2015. Cllr Myers confirmed this and told the meeting that they are looking at Greater Yorkshire, excluding South Yorkshire.

Cllr Janet Turner raised the subject of the Local Plan and the possible embargo on planning applications.

Cllr Myers responded that it will not take 12 months for CDC Plan to be finalised. Central Government want these in. We have our housing supply but we have not got our plan.

Edward Bartle told the meeting that the Neighbourhood Plan will go out for public consultation in November and it is an excellent plan.

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

6.1 Dog Bins/Litter Bins – Paul Florentine

Unfortunately Paul Florentine did not attend the meeting as arranged.

A map was passed around the meeting indicating where the bins are located. Cllr Alan Robinson told the meeting he felt there was quite a problem with the Fish and Chip rubbish. He also told the meeting that we have a phantom Christmas tree cutter and the branches that are being removed are thrown into the River.

Cllr Janet Turner told the meeting that she had spoken with a man emptying the bins from CDC who had a list of bins provided. There were two on the list showing for West Street and they no longer exist. Therefore we have some capacity to ask for two more bins – one extra one across from the Fish and Chip shop and another, a little lower down from the Gents Toilets.

Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that another Dog Bin where the A65 crosses the canal, near the Anchor, this side of the canal would be welcome, along with another in the layby where the A65 crosses the canal at the other end of the village.

Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall told the meeting that NYCC are not providing any further bins and the Parish Council will have to finance any further bins themselves. She does have a meeting with NYCC on Thursday and she will raise the matter of litter bins on the A65. The National Park have removed all their bins in a bid to encourage people to take their rubbish home.

6.2 Public Participation:

One parishioner wished to raise a couple of items with Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall before she left the meeting.

Point 1 - He has previously raised the matter of a traffic island across from Crow Garth. Cllr Peter Ward explained that he could not think this could possibly be safe as there are so many drives leading off Skipton Road.

A discussion took place and Cllr Peter Ward agreed to suggest a Pelican Crossing or a Zebra Crossing but not an island.

Point 2 – Fly tipping in Chew Lane Beck. Whose responsibility is this, he would suggest that it is the responsibility of NYCC.

Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that it was Area 5 who have recently repaired the banking in 3 places in Chew Lane Beck because it supports the road. NYCC own the surface of the road. Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall will bring this up at the meeting.

The parishioner said another point was that Chew Lane is on the map as a cycle route??

Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that in future, next time we have a problem we will go to the landowner. Highways could write to the Land owner on our behalf.

Point 3 – the parishioner raised the matter of grass cutting on Swire Croft and Smithy Croft and told the meeting he had spoken with the grass cutting team to ask why they only cut a strip of grass on the triangle of grass. Apparently this is the instruction on their plans and they are not allowed to cut any more.

Cllr Peter Ward read out to the meeting the response from Natural England and told the meeting he had decided to write to NYCC.

Cllr Peter Ward then introduced Sandy Todd who had attended the meeting this evening to talk about Community Energy in Gargrave and Malham.

As Chairman of the group he promotes renewal energy and energy saving for the whole district. The ultimate aim is social enterprise renewable energy. The group have applied to CDC Community Grant Fund and the National Park's Sustainable Development Fund for grant funding which if successful, will be applied to carry out an initial survey. This will help to assess how much energy people are using which will give a guide and the opportunity to save energy.

The information obtained from the survey will be strictly confidential and will enable the group to match possible projects to current and future demand as well as selecting those technologies most favoured by residents. If the Parish Council is in agreement with this approach it would greatly help the application for funding if a letter could be written confirming the Parish Council's support.

District Cllr Simon Myers told the meeting that it would help greatly if they could obtain the letters of support and it was a valuable fact finding exercise and valuable information for the community.

Cllr Peter Ward asked for this request to be put to a vote, all were in favour and therefore Cllr Peter Ward confirmed to Sandy Todd that a letter will be sent.

6.3 Police Report:

The Clerk contacted the Police following last month's meeting requesting we receive the monthly Newsletter once again. This has now been received for this month and the Clerk will forward this out to all the Parish Councillors.

6.4 Speeding Update - Marton Road/Church Street:

This matter has already been dealt with earlier in the meeting.

6.5 Remembrance Sunday:

Cllr Janet Turner told the meeting that in the past Mrs Bannister has organised the Poppy Wreath for the village. As Mrs Bannister is unwell, Cllr Janet Turner asked Cllr Alan Robinson if he would be willing to organise this as she understood he was involved with the Royal British Legion. Cllr Alan Robinson confirmed he would make enquiries.

6.6 GNPWG Chairman's Report:

Group have met no fewer than three times over the last month. We had a meeting with North Yorkshire Highways on Thursday 17th September in the morning, followed by a meeting with Stephen Brown Principal Planner for CDC in the afternoon. The Group then had its monthly meeting in the village hall on Monday 23rd September.

The meeting with Highways was productive and our remit was to follow up on our original meeting with them on 27th May and also discuss Highways review of the SHLAA sites in Gargrave which had been. Once again, I am very pleased to be able to report continued progress on the Neighbourhood Plan. The put forward for potential future development.

Fortunately, there were few Highway issues with proposed sites. Site GA2/9 off Eshton Road was rejected by Highways because of visibility splay issues at its entrance to Eshton Road.

The access to site G2/5 (Whitelocks farm) was considered satisfactory by NYCC Highways but local knowledge by our committee members believed otherwise because of the restrictive nature of the bottom of Church Lane.

Highways agreed to review the situation.

We discussed the strategy for potentially expanding the Systagenix site by adding further commercial premises. Highways agreed that subject to further review, the current access onto the A65 was suitable and had capacity for further traffic.

We then had significant discussion regarding the highway and footpath issues relating to site G2/6 (site opposite The Anchor) The Parish Council Chairman raised the issue of speed limits and footpath access and that in the Parish Council's opinion, these issues had not been properly addressed during formal consultations and many concerns were still being raised.

It was finally agreed that the following measures would be instigated:

1. NYCC would forward forms for an application for the Safety Partnership to undertake speed checks on the relevant sections of the A65.
2. Parish Council could have a VAS (vehicle activated sign) installed. These tend to be used on a rotation basis with other locations but are expensive to install. NYCC to advise Gargrave PC of the cost.
3. NYCC would be willing to visit the local school to assist in road safety education if GPC requested it.
4. Rumble strips on the A65 to be considered as a means of slowing traffic.

Following the meeting with Highways, we met with Stephen Brown at CDC offices. The purpose of the meeting was to update CDC on progress and also to obtain outstanding information from CDC which was required for the final Neighbourhood Plan. Stephen told us that he had looked at the latest version of the plan but had not had an opportunity to study it in detail. However, he did remark that he and several of his colleagues were impressed with the plan. He felt the document was lengthy and may put readers off. We agreed to aid the reader by providing a carefully edited summary within the first few pages, together with a SHLAA map.

We requested an update from CDC on the availability of the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) report because this was urgently needed by our consultants to finalise the Plan. We were informed that the report had been delayed but would be available from the first week in October.

We then went through each of the sites in the NP chosen for future development by the consensus of villagers and Stephen agreed with them all. He also confirmed that these chosen sites would supersede the CDC recommended sites in the original Local Plan which was very encouraging.

We discussed the Systagenix site and agreed that this was a suitable site for further business development in Gargrave. (Systagenix were agreeable in principle) Stephen Brown was reminded that this was Gargrave Parish Council strategy for future commercial development in the village, together with reinforcement of existing businesses on sites GA001 and GA012.

Because of delays with necessary information to finalise the Plan it was decided and agreed with CDC to delay publication of the Plan until the first week in November.

We requested an embargo on all new planning applications in the village until The Plan was signed off but CDC felt that this would not be possible.

So, generally a useful and productive meeting with CDC which will result in requested information becoming available and continued understanding and agreement in our common aims.

The monthly Neighbourhood Plan Working Group meeting took place on Wednesday 23rd September in the Village Hall. Although I was unable to attend the meeting I do have a brief summary kindly provided by Michael Bland.

The two meetings mentioned above were discussed in detail in order to inform all members of the group with recent developments.

All agreed that The NP should go out to formal consultation as soon as possible and the first week in November following the Parish Council meeting was agreed.

It was agreed to provide a brief summary and site location map at the beginning of the document to assist readers.

The meeting thought that two plots of land between Chew Lane and the canal should be designated "important green spaces" because of popularity with walkers, cyclists, memorial seats etc and this will be put to our consultants for their opinion.

So progress continues and hopefully the Plan will be available towards the end of this month for Parish Councillors to peruse prior to approval at the next Parish Council meeting in November. Soon after approval the Plan will be published for formal public consultation.

That's all for this month. I will report again in November.

6.7 Grass Cutting - Greens & Hedges - Damaged Gate:

Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that this had been mentioned earlier in the meeting but there was the matter of the damaged gate on Middle Green which needed repairing. Clerk to get quotes for this work.

6.8 Jubilee Bench repair and Xmas Lights:

Cllr Alan Robinson confirmed that he will put a costing together for this repair.

Following a discussion on the extent of the repair necessary, Cllr Peter Ward suggested to the meeting we ask for a quote from the contractors who recently erected the fence along Damside. All in favour.

Cllr Janet Turner asked the Chairman for an update on the NPower bill. Cllr Peter Ward confirmed that he had recently spoken with someone and was told to ignore all nasty letters received. A reply is ready and it should have been sent to us. Hopefully this reply will be received very soon.

Cllr Janet Turner asked the Clerk to contact our Electrical Contractor to ask him to start work on the preparation for the Xmas Lights early November.

7. To consider the planning applications and decisions:

See attached list

8. Financial matters

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment

INCOME

CDC	£22,000.00
Toilets	124.00

EXPENDITURE

J Provan	417.00	
K Ashby PC	266.33	356.91
GNPWG	140.18	
Post Office	51.00	
Village Hall GNPWG	25.00	
Village Hall Outside Lights	200.00	
Scott Jantorial Supplies	181.80	
JC Cowgill	108.00	
JC Cowgill	722.20	
Craven Energies	501.55	
Kirwells Planning	2400.00	
D Syms GNPWG (Craven St)	25.00	
JC Cowgill	722.20	
Library final payment	1050.00	
PKF Littlejohns	360.00	

Barclays Comm a/c 25.9.15 35,287.79

Skipton Building Society 25,582.79

To consider - Library - £8100 over 3 years.

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

See attached list.

- Item 1** This matter has been raised with Cnty Cllr David Ireton, awaiting response.
- Item 2** Cllr Peter Ward read out the letter to the meeting.
- Item 4** Clerk to forward this information onto the Village Hall and CEGAM.
- Item 5** Clerk to respond advising that new trees to be planted on Woodland Walk only.
- Item 6** Clerk to respond advising Gargrave erect a fence, and the land is owned by Parish Council.
- Item 9** Response received from Twin Locks - obtain quote for fabric and gravel
- Item 10** This information passed to the Heritage Group
- Item 13** Clerk to respond to Hattie Bee, advising not suitable for Gargrave.

Cllr Janet Sugden added that following attendance at a recent meeting she was advised that in future, if a matter of concern is raised with Area 5, the progress can be tracked online, providing the necessary password.

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 2 November 2015.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.16pm