

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 8 June 2015

Councillors: Mr Peter Ward, Ms Carole Conroy, Mrs Janet Turner, Mr David Syms, Mrs Janet Sugden, Mr Brian Atkinson, Mr Derrick Evans, Mr Alan Robinson, Clerk – Kath Ashby, several parishioners and two visitors.

- 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 11 May 2015 were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr David Sims and seconded by Cllr. Derrick Evans. All were in favour and accepted unanimously.

4.1 Matters Arising:

Cllr Peter Ward advised the meeting that we have now heard back from Mr Robert Marshall. We have also now heard back from the Ranger, Cllr Peter Ward read out the response from the Ranger advising the Parish Council that due to recent cut backs, they would not be able to repair the pathway along the Damside. Cllr Janet Turner suggested to the meeting that we ask again in September as NYCC sometimes have some tarmac left over at the end of the year. The meeting agreed to request a repair to the pathway towards the end of the financial year.

The Clerk advised the meeting that we have heard nothing further from the Dog Warden and this is to be chased again. Nor have we received any response to our request yet for bins in both the lay-bys on entering the village.

Cllr Derrick Evans advised the meeting that he had with him all the necessary paperwork to move forward with the ongoing problem regarding the footpath on the A65 and would discuss this with County Cllr Shelagh Marshall this evening.

Cllr Peter Ward advised the meeting that he had not heard anything further on the matter of the Petition placed in the Co-op for people's opinion on the new fencing along the Damside.

Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that the development alongside the A65 on Hellifield Road had caused quite a stir in the village and perhaps this can be discussed later in the meeting this evening.

Regarding the amendment to the grass-cutting contract, Cllr Peter Ward confirmed that he was in discussions with the contractor relating to the extra work that is required. The contractor has already given a price for the removal of the dead tree, and some of the branches within a Sycamore Tree on Middle Green as CDC have given the go-ahead for this work to be undertaken.

5. Matters requested by councillors:

5.1 County Cllr - Shelagh Marshall advised the meeting that there will be another budget on 8 July 2015 and it is reported that there are only three more services that can now be cutback and these are Local Government, Police and Fire & Rescue.

There are also plans for new subsidised Bus Services.

Cnty Cllr Marshall confirmed that she has asked that when there is going to be a consultation, that all Parish Council Clerks are emailed so that they can prompt the Parish Councillors to look on the NYCC website for further details.

Cnty Cllr Marshall asked the meeting if anyone had completed the recent survey. Cllr Peter Ward confirmed that he had completed the survey that day and he then passed copies around the rest of the Parish Councillors.

5.2 District Councillor - Simon Myers apologised for missing the last couple of meetings but gave his congratulations to the new Chairman and many thanks to the outgoing Chairman for all her hard work.

Cllr Simon Myers told the meeting that he was pleased to advise he had been re-elected and that he would continue to do the same as before. He is lead member for Enterprise at the Town Hall and new business initiatives. So if anyone can come up with ideas for Gargrave there will be money put into re-vitalising High Streets, we can make a case for it.

His advice regarding the development on the A65, Hellifield Road would be to speak with Cllr Alan Sutcliffe who is the planning man, but the bottom line is that the list of concerns raised are Highways matters and NYCC matters.

Cllr Myers confirmed that he would fully support the Parish Council and help to get something done.

Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that his main concerns were, how 29 new homes could be built when you cannot even walk mother and child down the footpath in safety as it is too narrow.

Cllr Janet Turner advised the meeting that both herself and Cllr David Syms did raise these concerns back at the initial site visit and they were also raised with the then planning group in writing at that time.

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

6.1 Public Participation

One parishioner told the meeting that he has seen an increasing number of vehicles that are parked on pavements on North Street especially across from Crossgates. Mothers and children, some with prams have to walk up the road, as there is no room on the pavement. Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall to contact Stacey Reffin to request this matter is brought to the next Road Safety Meeting.

The same parishioner told the meeting that the Damside was overgrown with weeds everywhere so what used to be a place of beauty is now a mess. Were there any plans to cut the weeds down. Cllr Peter Ward confirmed that the weeds will be cut down by the grass cutting contractor. He will have to cut up to the new fence and in between the posts along the Damside. The weed growth within the goit is thicker than ever with branches of trees falling off and not sinking in. To prevent someone walking into it, last year signs were put up, warning of deep mud but ultimately the decision was taken by the Parish Council to erect the Fence. Cllr Peter Ward did stress that there were no plans to clear out the goit on a regular basis.

Cnty Cllr Shelagh Marshall asked the meeting about grass cutting in the village. Cllr Peter Ward said that Systagenix agreed to cut on each side of the deep grass verges at each side of the A65. Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that as we speak today, the Parish Council do not intend to cut any of the grass for NYCC.

Another parishioner wished to report several lights on and lights out within the village. The Clerk to report these to either NYCC or the local Electrical contractor.

The same parishioner raised his concerns of the dangers crossing the A65 by the Bus stop near Crowgarth. A discussion then took place of several options to allow children and adults safely across the busy road.

The Clerk to send an email to Area 5.

The parishioner also raised his concerns regarding the thick hedge outside No 14 Skipton Road. This hedge is so wide now that it is covering most of the footpath and makes it difficult for people to keep on the pavement.

The Clerk to send a letter requesting the residents to cut back their hedge back to their boundary as soon as possible.

The parishioner told the meeting that recently an elderly resident had fallen on the Low Green in-between two boulders where a deep hole had developed. The parishioner said that he had placed two posts by the hole with a warning sign. Cllr Peter Ward said that this would be investigated to establish the reason for the sinking.

The parishioner also reported some fly tipping in Chew Lane Beck. The Clerk to report the matter to CDC.

The parishioner brought the petition relating to the new fencing along the Damside which he had collected from the Co-op and handed to the Chairman who confirmed that he could not say which way the Parish Council will vote.

6.2 Police Report

Neither email or Officer present at the meeting.

6.3 NPWG Chairman's Report

Cllr Peter Ward advised the meeting that there was no report this time. The meeting had already talked about various planning matters. Edward Bartle will attend next time and give his report at the July meeting.

Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that the event on the 30th May was very successful. This was well attended and thanks to all who attended. It was really first class but we do need everyone to vote.

6.4 Woodland Trust

Cllr Peter Ward read out the letter received from a parishioner who would like to request some more trees from the Woodland Trust and asked for the thoughts of the Parish Council. It was agreed that several of the Parish Councillors would visit the Middle Green and decide whether we need any more trees or not before we respond.

6.5 Travellers Update

Cllr Peter Ward told the meeting that as far as he was aware we have had two visits and we have had two or maybe three groups that have stayed overnight. During this time some of the posts have been pulled up and used for firewood. Cllr Peter Ward said that the only thing he felt should be considered is a long term fencing around the Low Green, similar to the one on the High Green. He asked that the Parish Council should think about this idea, which is open to negotiation, as he appreciates the idea is going to be expensive.

6.6 Village Consultation Event 30 May 2015

This matter has already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

7. To consider the planning applications and decisions:

See attached list.

8. Financial matters:

8.1 To approve the accounts for payment.

Cllr Alan Robinson has requested some further plants for around the War Memorial and it was agreed to purchase some more.

Cllr Janet Turner explained to the meeting the reason why the amount of £2217 would have to be repaid back to the Community Development Foundation as we were out of time because of many reasons. This will mean a £778 shortfall at the moment, excluding VAT.

Cllr Janet Turner also told the meeting that the Yorkshire Internal Audit Services had signed the Annual Return for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2015. The Parish Council accepted that we would use this group again next year.

INCOME

SBS	200.55
Northern Powergrid	45.39
Toilet	367.06
N. P.Grid	20.00

EXPENDITURE

Clerk wages	321.54
Julie Provan	417.40
Direct Debit Village Hall	102.00
Gledstone Gardens	88.00
(Memorial Plants)	

Village Hall NPWG	25.00
Yorks Int Audit Sv	305.00
Tony Blackwell	84.00
SLCC Clerk	103.00
Community Dev Fund	2217.00
Kirkwells Consultants	2400.00

Balances

Barclays Tracker Account	£18,485.67	(£22,000 precept)
Barclays Comm A/c Issued 26.5.15	£2,691.68	
Skipton Building Society	£22,549.82	

To consider:

- 1) P.Office appeared in basket for payment??
- 2) Community Dev. Fund £2217.00 Payback – ran out of time.
- 3) Kirkwells Ex VAT £778.94 shortfall.

Proposed by Cllr David Syms and seconded by Cllr Derrick Evans. All in favour and accepted.

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

See attached list.

Item 6) Parish Councillors to visit the Middle Green and make a decision concerning planting more trees.

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 6 July 2015 at 7.15pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm