

**GIGGLESWICK PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

**22.1 Present:**

Giggleswick Parish Council: Councillors Isobel Perrings (Chairman), Colin Coleman, Martin Saunders, Sarah Williamson, Parish Council Clerk Marijke Hill; North Yorkshire County Councillor David Staveley; Craven District Councillor Robert Ogden (late attendance); Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Area Ranger Rob Ashford; and three members of the public.

**Apologies:** North Yorkshire Police

**22.2 Minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021, having been circulated in advance, were **accepted** as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr Isobel Perrings, Chairman of Giggleswick Parish Council.

**22.3 Chairman's Report**

This year has very much been a story of re-starting and getting-going again. I reflected upon my report last year, where I wrote of unprecedented and uncertain times and I feel looking back over the twelve months, we are very much back to some semblance of normality.

A year ago, we started discussions with regard to the proposed new housing development on Little Lord's and possible Section 106 planning gain monies. We have welcomed the opportunity to be involved with how this may be allocated and the projects it could support around our parish. Whilst the planning application has yet to be determined, we still continue to liaise with Craven District Council on how this could support our plans for green space development, children's play and teenage activities, and next phase plans for the Harrison Playing fields.

The Harrison Playing Fields continue to be a 'jewel in our crown'. The areas are well used by a wide range of people from both Giggleswick and beyond and we constantly strive to ensure that this is a safe and beautiful space for people to visit. The addition of the flowering cherry and apple trees as part of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Green Canopy Initiative are a welcome addition and we must thank former Councillor Paul Bradley and his team at PBA for their support with this project. Thanks also to John Robinson for his maintenance and upkeep of the grassed areas, and for keeping a nice balance of natural, wild areas with those regularly used for sporting and walking activities. Very shortly we will submit our application to the Fields in Trust, to ensure this area is protected for people to enjoy in perpetuity.

It has been wonderful to see the village looking so well for the recent Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to the organising group for the events hosted on the Thursday evening 2<sup>nd</sup> June and Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, both were very well attended and brought together residents and their families for two wonderful and memorable days. The planters around the village are a welcome addition and will hopefully be a sustainable, annual addition to our beautiful ancient parish. I would also like to mention the groups and individuals who volunteer time and work to make our parish a more pleasant and

attractive place to be; their work litter picking and gardening is very much appreciated and commended.

We have continued to hear representations regarding the speed of traffic throughout the parish, The County Council is still adamant that they will take no further action regarding traffic calming measures on the B6480 and were unsupportive of our choice of Vehicle Activated Signs, planned for rotation around speed hot spots in the village. Regular petition and awareness has been made through the local schools, refreshing the on-road signage and the display of 20mph banners at key areas. I report yet again that we continue to feel perplexed about how local decisions such as these are decided upon – too often we feel we are not listened to, have no or little input and have no methods to appeal or change things happening on our doorstep; we hope revised working practices with Parish Councils will be a priority for the new North Yorkshire Council, who will form a unitary council from April 2023.

Moving onto financial matters and the summary of receipts and payment for 2021-2022, I can report that the Council's receipts totalled £28,725 of which £22,000 comprise of precept. The payments for the same period totalled £34,752 and therefore, show a deficit of £6,027. The level of Parish Council cash reserves has decreased to £15,409 by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

To conclude, I would like to give my personal thanks to all my fellow Councillors who give invaluable support and time to this parish. I greatly appreciate your efforts and your commitment and thank you for your great team effort and hard work over this past year. I would like to thank our County and District Councillors, David Staveley and Robert Ogden for their attendance and support to the Parish Council throughout the year.

This year was due to be an election year from the Parish Council, however, four members decided this was the time for them to move on and I thank them for the significant contributions they have made over their many years of service. This has presented the Council with an opportunity to welcome new faces around the table, who I welcome and look forward to working alongside, and hopefully some more parishioners who feel able to join us through co-option.

Finally great thanks goes to Marijke, our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. Marijke is extremely professional and efficient, and works hard to ensure we keep everything on the straight and narrow. Marijke is a great support to me as Chairman and on behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank you for your dedication and commitment.

## **22.4 Reports from County and District Councillors, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Police**

### **22.4a Report from North Yorkshire County Councillor David Staveley**

- Our proposal to move from 8 councils to one single unitary council was accepted by govt without modification, and will be more efficient with less duplication, and less expensive. It will be more accountable with only one councillor responsible for all services (in all divisions except one in Selby where there will be two elected members).
- We are committed, along with our District Council partners, to make the transition as smooth as possible, so that on the day of change in May 2023, all services will be safe and legal, and residents should notice no change in delivery.

- The election on May 5th this year will be to the new authority, with 90 Members in 89 wards serving as County Councillors for one final year, then Unitary councillors for 4 years. District Councils will continue for one final year.
- Your elections are being aligned with this timetable, so you will be elected for 5 years; thereafter elections will be held every 4 years. There will be no charge for this year's elections, and it is an aspiration of many in the new council that PC's should not be charged for regular elections as this is often a large % cost to the precept.
- Working together we have come through another year of the pandemic. We could not have done it without our partners, but also our amazing volunteers, both organised ones and individuals.
- Almost half of our annual spending goes into Adult Social Care and looking after vulnerable children. These are often "hidden" services.
- We had serious shortfalls in staff in social care, both us and in private providers because of isolations due to covid, but even before the pandemic we had many vacancies in the sector. We have launched a recruitment campaign called Make Care Matter, promoting how worthwhile these jobs are, how vacancies are readily available, and how there are career opportunities available to young people.
- We continue to maintain the largest road network in England, which is challenging, and continue to grit a higher % of roads than any other authority. We are trialling a new pot-hole filler which could mean speedier and cheaper work in the future.
- We do not support a blanket 20mph speed policy, but will work with local communities and the Police to introduce or support relevant speed limits that drivers will respect and follow.
- We have invested over £100m in the County's digital infrastructure. Our Superfast North Yorkshire project has brought high quality broadband to some 200,000 households and businesses, especially in rural areas which would not otherwise have been reached by commercial suppliers. Classic market failure so often a feature of rural life. The current phase of SFNY expansion will achieve 97% coverage of the County (by population not geography). We have also installed a Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) throughout the County and free public wi-fi in 20 of our towns. We are working closely with mobile network operators to try to ensure that 4G coverage is raised from 60% of the County up to 95% (by geography, not population).
- Our Trading Standards unit continues to protect consumers with high profile court cases against cowboy builders which serves as a deterrent to others.
- We have set an aspiration for the County Council to be net zero by 2030. This is for our own activities but we will support and encourage others in NY to do the same.
- We set up a unique Rural Commission, bringing together a panel of experts, who gave their time freely, to look afresh at our well-known problem areas to come up with new ideas that we can test and introduce where appropriate.
- We have set up and continue to manage commercial companies delivering rural broadband, waste disposal, legal services, audit, house building and services to schools, which even faced with the challenges of the pandemic have delivered value to the Council taxpayer which equates to approximately 2% of Council Tax.
- We have set the final budget of this County Council, at 1.99% council tax, and 2% ASC levy. This is well below the rate of inflation, which is high this year as we all know, but over the last 15 years we have continued to set CT rises below inflation, striking the balance of providing finance for the services we need to deliver, whilst recognising the ability of people to pay.

#### **22.4b Report from Craven District Councillor Robert Ogden**

2021/22 has been an interesting first year serving as your district councillor. I have spent a lot of time familiarising myself with the role of being a ward councillor, making contacts with members, officers, parish councillors and other organisations. I believe this to have been successful, and I have made myself known across the ward and within Craven more broadly. I will continue to fulfil my role to the best of my ability until my term expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Recently, I have been voted in by fellow members of Craven District Council at the Annual Meeting to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Licensing Committee and Lead Member for Resilient Communities. I will serve in these roles alongside my usual ward member responsibilities. I hope that as Lead Member for Resilient Communities, I will be able to assist with making Giggleswick more resilient to the challenges we face over the coming years, and the challenges that will be posed by Local Government Reorganisation across North Yorkshire.

Lord's Close Development has been a long-running issue in Giggleswick, and has formed a big part of my role within this parish. I have sought frequent updates from the planning department on the progress of the application, which have not always been forthcoming. However, in my June 2022 District Councillor's Report, I have outlined a rough timescale given by the planning department for a resolution of the application during the summer. I have also been in communication with residents. I have read the numerous complaints submitted against the application, and accept the many genuine concerns presented. I have also been in communication with residents who are trying to find out more information about the success of this application, as they are interested in purchasing one of the houses. One such resident made it clear they were first-time buyers.

There is a genuine need for housing in North Craven, particularly affordable housing. We have a catastrophic drain of young families and workers that is being fuelled by high housing costs. In my eyes this is unacceptable as I want our community to succeed, our schools to thrive, and our area's unique local heritage to outlast us all.

I will see that the Lord's Close Development is brought before committee, and we can finally get an outcome to this saga.

The Ward Member Grant Scheme is entering its final year at Craven. In the year 2021/22, Giggleswick Mother's Union Playgroup benefited from a £100 contribution to finance the purchase of a new play carpet. Furthermore, the Settle Ingleton Bentham Mobile Rural Watch received a grant of £300 for the purchase of new radio equipment, which will increase the safety and vigilance of our rural community against crime. I hope that this year will also lead to further applications for small grants from the scheme, signed off by myself, that will benefit the people of Giggleswick.

#### **22.4c Report from Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Area Ranger Robert Ashford**

##### Farming in Protected Landscapes

A new grant funding stream has come online in the past year from Defra, as part of their Agricultural Transition Plan, which is directly administered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and can be accessed by residents of Giggleswick Parish (within the National Park).

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) is a dedicated grant programme for farmers and land managers in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The programme will fund projects that:

- support nature recovery
- mitigate the impacts of climate change
- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place

#### Seasonal Rangers

The Park services department (which the Ranger service sits in) recognised the increased pressure on the honeypots destination in the Craven area of the National Park. The department decided additional support was needed for visitor management within this area of the National Park and gave the go ahead for two seasonal Rangers last year. This was a successful programme, which has meant there will be two seasonal Rangers in post once again this year.

The seasonal Rangers were instructed to welcome visitors to the National Park and provide advice on the ground, as well as litter pick in the area. The seasonal Rangers visited YDNPA car parks and busy location such as:- Burnsall, Austwick, Malham, Horton, Grassington, Clapham, and Kettlewell.

#### Education Team

The YDNPA Education Team have expanded in recent years and are offering lots of opportunities for school and youth groups to access educational visits around the National Park for free.

#### Trees and Woodlands

The Trees & Woodlands department have recently been successful in securing wood creation funding to support landowners in the National Park in wood establishment projects.

National Park current tree coverage is at 4% compared to 9% national.

‘In December 2020 the Dales Woodland Forum produced a new ten-year ‘Dales Woodland Strategy’. This new strategy sets an ambition to enhance the landscape by creating 6,000 ha of woodland habitat in the Yorkshire Dales National Park by 2030. That would take the area of the National Park covered by woodland from 4.3% to 7%.’

#### Public Rights of Way Maintenance

The overall condition of crossings on the PROW network within the Ribblesdale areas at 93% in good condition.

Contribution from the public rights of way budget towards stone aggregate for the Public Bridleway, which doubles as an access route for properties, at Stackhouse. In addition, the Ranger service worked in conjunction with residents to improve surface water drainage at Stackhouse.

The pedestrian gate near the weir on the Ribble ground conditions were poor due to the river level rising and washing out of the surface from underneath the gate, this was improved with cobble setts.

Thank you to the Parish Council on reporting the condition of the fence segregating on the footpath from Giggleswick Quarry. I have worked with the landowner to improve the condition of the fence.

Presented a talk about the National Park to Giggleswick WI and installed the information sign at Giggleswick WI Garden outside Settle Pool.

### **22.4d Report from North Yorkshire Police PCSO**

The Chairman, Cllr Isobel Perrings, reported that the North Yorkshire Police PCSO continues to provide a written incidents report to the Parish Council at its meeting, usually all minor.

## **22.5 Reports from local community organisations.**

### **a. Freda's Community Playgroup and Pre-School**

We have raised to date, just over £72,000. We are still in phase 2 for lottery funding although this is looking unlikely to go any further as we are no longer one of the targeted groups. We are still waiting for the lease from NYCC although this should be coming through soon. We are looking at projected build costs to now be £250,000 and hope to open in 2023. We are working with Community First Yorkshire who are supporting our grant writing. Our nursery is currently full and we will be recruiting new staff to cope with the demand in September. We forecast being at capacity by Christmas with the baby room currently having a waiting list. We can not take any more due to the size of the space available however the new build will allow our capacity to increase.

### **b. The Women's Institute**

The President, Carolyn Duff reported that the Giggleswick WI has resumed their meetings after the Covid-19 restrictions and that Membership numbers have maintained. The meetings take place every first Thursday in St Mary and St Michael Catholic Church in Settle. The annual fundraising campaign was cancelled in the last two years, due to Covid, however, it is hoped that a fundraising campaign will be held later this year, possibly in July. The Giggleswick WI have asked the Parish Council if they could adopt one of the recently planted trees on the Harrison Playing Fields to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Green Canopy Initiative for a donation.

### **c. The Giggleswick Garden Group Litter Picking Group**

Giggleswick Litter Picking Group, Section of the Giggleswick Gardening Group (GGG). 'Pride in our Parish'.

Before the Pandemic, the Group met on the first Monday of each month in the porch of St. Alkelda's Church to select routes and collect Hi-Viz tops, sacks, hoops and litter picking tools prior to departing round the Parish at 10.00 a.m..

In order to adapt to the regulations, at the time, couples were issued with set routes and equipment on a semi-permanent basis and were requested to carry out their patrols at a time and date convenient to themselves each month. They were also requested to e-mail a report of their 'finds' or litter related problems. This system has been successful as both serious and humorous comments arrive and are included in a newsletter at the end of each month. Thus keeping the group in contact with each other.

There are eighteen regular active members who usually patrol in pairs covering the ten set routes. On average, between 1 and 1 ½ sacks are filled from each route. Recently members are reporting that there has been less litter and appear a little disappointed! However, reports come back frequently regarding the appreciation expressed from members of the public for what we are doing for the Parish.

On several occasions contact has been made with Craven District Council regarding items found to be too large to be removed by us and the response has been immediate. Contact has been made with Settle College regarding litter trapped between the fence by the riverside path and the games area, and Settle Angling Club to report a detached noticeboard.

### **d. Settle Area Swimming Pool**

Settle Swimming Pool was built in 1974 but in the past 15 years the building has been deteriorating and the facilities became worn and out of date. The new business plan to replace and improve the changing rooms and to add an additional viewing area, exercise room and



meeting room in order the range of activities is expanded and income increased, was introduced.

Funding from Sport England and Craven District Council was received in 2020. By then the paper recycling scheme had ceased and the Friends of Settle Swimming Pool transferred all its capital to the Trustees of the Swimming Pool Committee. The Pool Charity Shop had made a profit of £27,000 in the first five years.

Building work started in October 2021, against a background of Covid-19 restrictions which necessitated lockdowns with the staff on furlough or running at 50% capacity when allowed. After making some adjustments the pool was able to stay open during building work until Storm Arwen in November 2021 blew off half of the Pool Hall roof, which meant that the pool had to close completely. The Pool is covered by insurance and a fundraising campaign started to finance the cost of installation of new solar panels on the replacement roof.

The Pool and its new facilities will reopen in September 2022. The Committee is confident to provide a great facility/service for the local community in the future, enjoyed by all.

**e. BARN Broadband Project**

Martin O'Connell confirmed that the B4RN project is nearing completion for the Stackhouse residents, thanks to the support from Craven District Council as part of their development project at the Hoffman Kiln. Without that support the project would not have gone ahead once the Government withdrew their Voucher funding scheme for rural broadband in 2020. That was as a result of BT committing to bring gigabit broadband to Settle, thereby obviating the need for further government funding. Many thanks, therefore, to Cllrs David Staveley, Janet Newhouse and Paul Bradley for their input.

**f. Giggleswick Parochial Church Council**

Ray Jones reported that discussions with the diocese and the Parochial Church Council are ongoing to sell the Parish Rooms. For now, the situation remains as it is and Settle Brownies and Rainbows continue to hire the room upstairs once per week. Giggleswick Parish Council hire the downstairs meeting room to hold their meetings once per month. However, the elections this year were not held in the downstairs room.

The Priest-in-Charge of St Alkelda, Giggleswick; Holy Ascension, Settle; and Holy Trinity, Rathmell with Wigglesworth, is the Revd Julie Clarkson. Giggleswick and Rathmell with Wigglesworth form part of the same benefice, whereas Settle is a benefice on its own. There is a process underway to form one benefice with the three parishes in order the Priest-in-Charge becomes incumbent to secure residency.

**g. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee community group**

As Chairman of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee community group Ray Jones reported that the event was very successful. The Platinum Jubilee celebrations started on 2<sup>nd</sup> June with a 'cheese and wine reception' at St. Alkelda's Church with music from the Black Horse Jazz Men and the crowning of the village Jubilee Queen for about 250 people. This event was followed by a lantern procession to the Harrison Playing Fields for the lighting of the Jubilee Beacon at 9.45pm and fireworks.

The Big Jubilee Lunch on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June was to be held on Church Street, however, due to rainy weather conditions, the 'Jacob's Join / bring your own food' lunch was held in the Church, where about 150 people attended. This was followed by the Tems Regatta Boat Race, where about 22 self-made craft of various shapes and sizes were launched at the Slate Bridge for a race.

The flower arrangements and other displays at the top of Belle Hill, the cross near the Black Horse pub, and all along Church Street will remain. St. Alkelda's Church finished the weekend with a special Platinum Jubilee Service of Celebration at which the Village Queen read.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.58 pm.