

Giggleswick Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting 9, held on 9th January 2024

The Parish Council allocated a reasonable period of time at the start of the meeting to allow registered electors the opportunity to ask questions and / or make statements that relate to the work of the Council.

Public Participation

Mr Dotchin of Church Street raised concerns about the rat infestation at Church Street. The Chair, Cllr Saunders, informed Mr Dotchin that the Parish Council had reported this matter to the North Yorkshire Council Senior Environmental Health Officer on 28th December.

Mr Blackburne of Tams Side participated at item 9.8c: rat infestation in the area of Church Street.

Mrs Entwistle participated at item 9.6a1: planning application at land at Stackhouse Lane, Stackhouse.

Mesdames Entwistle, O'Connell, and Sample all participated at item 9.6a2: planning application at Old Hall, Stackhouse.

9.1a Present: Cllrs Martin Saunders (Chair), Isobel Perrings, Paul Bradley, Colin Coleman, Janet Ewin-Newhouse, and Sarah Williamson.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Rosie Scott.

In attendance: NYC Councillor David Staveley for part of the meeting, Parish Council Clerk Marijke Hill, and five members of the public.

9.1b The Council **considered** the reason for absence provided by Cllr Scott and **resolved** acceptance of this as relevant.

9.2 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests

a. Cllr Janet Ewin-Newhouse **recorded** a Pecuniary Interest in connection with item 9.6a2: planning applications received at Old Hall, Stackhouse Lane, Stackhouse.

The Chair, Cllr Martin Saunders, **recorded** a Non-Registrable Interest in connection with item 9.8c: rat infestation in the area of Church Street.

b. No requests were received for dispensation in connection with items on this agenda.

9.3 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 8 2023-2024, held on 12th December 2023 should be **approved** and signed by the Chair, Cllr Martin Saunders, as a true and accurate record.

9.4 Matters from previous meetings not otherwise included on the agenda

The Council **noted** no matters from previous meetings reported.

9.5 Reports from County and District Councillor and North Yorkshire Police

a. NYC Cllr David Staveley presented a written report about the upcoming budget, which will see NYC drawing on reserves to provide a balanced budget, whilst at the same time deliver as efficient a service as possible and protect services and initiatives which support communities and residents. The Government is changing the childcare funding from April when working parents of two-year-old children may be able to access 15 hours of funded childcare. This is in addition to the current funding available for families of two-year-olds who are in receipt of some additional form of Government support.

Community and voluntary groups are being urged to apply for a share of the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund after the Grassington Devonshire Institute highlighted how money secured through the scheme is transforming Grassington Town Hall to safeguard it for generations to come.

The Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 (HUG2) is still available to help homes that are not on mains gas and have poor quality insulation and inefficient heating systems.

- b. The Council had **received** the written police report which contained 13 incidents during the period between 10 December 2023 and 4 January 2024, all minor in nature.

9.6 Planning

a. Applications

- 1 YDNPA: C/31/659A Full planning permission for construction of 9no. residential dwellings with associated landscaping and drainage works at Land at Stackhouse Lane. The Council **agreed** to notify the YDNPA that, whilst it has no objection to the proposed development, the suggested access point to the main road is close to a potential hazardous section of Stackhouse Lane being near to a bend and in a location where the road narrows. The Council suggested the access point is placed at the 30 mph sign by Netherfield bungalow. The Council further raised concerns about the surface water run off from the site to a drainage system already under pressure.
- 2 YDNPA: C/31/655G and C/31/655H/LB Householder planning permission and listed building consent for construction of a subterranean detached domestic garage in the garden to the west of the property and to reconstruct existing outbuilding to provide a biomass pellet store and boiler room. Formation of new gated access in the existing boundary wall and creation of parking and turning area in front of the garage, with the garden planting and grassed terraces reformed over the roof of the new subterranean garage at Old Hall, Stackhouse Lane, Stackhouse.

Cllr Janet Ewin-Newhouse left the meeting room.

The Council **agreed** to not formally object to these planning applications but to notify the YDNPA of its serious concerns of the impact this development may have on the cultural, historical and general character of the area. The proposed excavation seems to imply the removal of a significant amount of bedrock, impacting on the topography of the landscape and the underneath existing watercourses and drainage, as well as a serious adverse impact on neighbouring property foundations. The Council raised additional concerns about the proposal to widen the access gateway to the property and to extend the parking facilities. The Council asked for a professional assessment of the site by the Planning Authority as well as whether the proposed alterations would conserve or enhance this heritage asset or, conversely, would represent a harmful and incongruous alteration to this listed building.

Furthermore, the Council **agreed** to notify the Planning Authority that a section of the walled garden boundary wall appears to have already been removed in preparation for deliveries to the proposed pellet store and asked the Planning Enforcement Officer to carry out an investigation.

Cllr Janet Ewin-Newhouse returned to the meeting room.

b. Decisions

- 1 NYC: ZA23/25482/HH Two storey side extension, 2 Police House, Station Road. **Granted**

c. Other or additional planning matters

- 1 The Council **noted** the NYC Local Plan Launch briefing presentation.

9.7 Reports and updates regarding parish maintenance matters

a. Harrison Playing Fields:

Regarding the provision of a quotation for the repair of medium risk items of play equipment, as of the RoSPA Inspection Report, including the removal of the three waste bins from the children's play area and the painting of the metal gate near the Vicarage in bright primary colours the Council was **informed** that Mr Chris Gowgill's report is in progress.

b. street lighting

The Council had **contacted** the NYC Street Light Officer, requesting that NYC convert the remaining street lights LPs 13, 14, 15, 35, and 54 to LED; that an assessment of LP52 is conducted

in terms of what action is required to convert this street light to LED, including the associated costs; and that an order to ENW is placed for a replacement column and connection of LP25 and **noted** it is awaiting a reply.

c. article to the press regarding the Ribble River Trust proposals for Tams Beck

The Council **considered** writing an article for the Craven Herald regarding the Ribble River Trust proposals for Tams Beck and **agreed** for the Chair, Cllr Martin Saunders, to prepare a draft article, highlighting the positive news for the village and in agreement with members of the RRT, for the Council to consider at the next Parish Council meeting.

d. additional gritting bins

The Council was **informed** that Settle College has placed their spare salt bin at the top of the slope near the ginnel that leads to Bankwell Road and that Settle Coal has been asked to deliver some grit to the newly installed grit bin. The Council is awaiting their invoice.

There was no report from Cllr Williamson regarding a location for an additional grit bin on Church Street.

e. damage of the edge of the Riverside Path

The Council was **informed** of some stonework damage to the edge of the Riverside Path about 10 metres from the wooden bench opposite Arla, where a few stones have been dislodged and the mortar is exposed. The Council **agreed** to ask the NYC Public Rights of Way Officer for a repair, as without remedial action the path itself may become undermined.

f. issues relating to NYC Highways

Cllrs Paul Bradley and Janet Ewin-Newhouse **reported** that a lot of the drains on Stackhouse Lane appear to be blocked, posing a risk for all road users in cold weather when the surface water on the road will freeze as there is no pavement. The Council **agreed** to ask NYC Highways to inspect the drains on Stackhouse Lane and take any appropriate action.

NYC Cllr David Staveley left the meeting.

g. grass mowing and verges trimming contract renewal

The Council **resolved** that this item is considered in private session, excluding the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, as discussion in public would be prejudicial to the public interest.

The Council **agreed** to review the past grass mowing season with its current contractor, Mr John Robinson, and renew the grass mowing and verges trimming contract to him.

9.8 Reports and updates on parish matters other than maintenance

a. speeding issues

- 1 The Council had **provided** additional information to one firm in connection with conducting a road safety audit on the B6480 from Buck Haw Brow to the Harts Head Hotel and it **noted** their reply that this project would require a specialist speed limit assessment, which is not a service this firm can offer. The Council **agreed** it would not pursue this specific matter any further.
- 2 The Council had contacted NYC Cllr David Staveley and NYC Highways asking for a speed limit review on the B6480 as well as a review of NYC Highways' decision to not implement any of the Parish Council's suggestions for speed calming measures, such as the 30 mph sign to be repositioned a bit further up the hill in order the two footpath crossings are included within the 30 mph limit; a 40 mph buffer zone; installation of speed reduction warning signs at various intervals; a roundel be painted on the road to make it clear to drivers that they are within a 30 mph speed limit zone; and

replacement of all reflectors. The Council **noted** the NYC Highways Customer Communications Officer's reply that NYC is not intended to progress the speed limit or investigate for traffic calming measures due to prioritising allocation of resources to sites where there is actual need to reduce collisions and personal injury, which is not the situation at this location as there is no recorded collision history. The NYC Highways Officer further explained that a location must meet the criteria for a reduction from the national speed limit in-line with Department for Transport recommendations when setting speed limits that they are appropriate for the environment, and be effective so to gain support from the Police should enforcement be required.

The Council was **informed** of the national guidance as laid out by the Department for Transport and the Association of Chief Police Officers speed enforcement policy guidelines and **agreed** to further make the case for NYC Highways to revisit the decision to not review or investigate this stretch of road for traffic calming.

The Council **agreed** to write to the Highways Authority to consider an approach that would seek to educate drivers as they approach the village, and implement measures to make the road safer, such as a VAS system, a 40 mph limit from the entry to Huntworth Farm, and a 30 mph limit zone that ensures that all footpaths fall within that zone, using the key factors within the ACPO guidelines as a framework.

b. YLCA whole council training

The Council was **informed** that five dates and time slots are still available for a three hour 'Whole Council' training session by the YLCA in May and June. The Council **agreed** that one training date is no longer feasible for all Members and that individual Members should select specific training courses from the YLCA menu of courses as they feel appropriate.

c. rat infestation in the area of Church Street

The Council **ratified** reporting a rats infestation in the area of Church Street to the NYC Senior Environmental Health Officer, seemingly originating from a premises behind Church Street, following representations, both written and verbal, of about eight residents, reporting that rats are greatly affecting one set of residents' sleep by chewing on the floorboards and scurrying around in the evenings and nights. One of the representations describes rats being seen on the south side of Church Street and Mr Blackburne of Tams Site reported to have seen a number of rats in the area. The Council was **informed** that a NYC Environmental Health Officer had visited the site on 4th January.

d. former resident's proposal for a memorial bench on the Riverside Path

The Council had **received** a request from a former Giggleswick resident to purchase and install a memorial bench on the Riverside Path next to or near the existing bench on the grassy area opposite Riversdale. The Council **agreed** to support the idea, but that the family should seek permission from the two joint land owners. The Council further **agreed** to suggest to the family an alternative location for the memorial bench on NYC land, such as the grassed area between Kendelmans and the memorial bridge.

e. alternative future meeting room for Parish Council meetings

The Council was **informed** that Settle Swimming Pool could offer their meeting room for an hourly charge of £20, although a discount could be negotiated to £50 per session, including, possibly, the storage of the Council's filing cabinet.

Cllr Williamson **reported** that the Primary School is considering the Parish Council's request for a venue to hold statutory, public, meetings.

The Council **agreed** that a decision be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Council was **informed** that the portrait of Mr Harrison, which was on one of the walls in the upstairs room, has been given to Leeds University by the Parochial Church Council.

f. swimming pool grant update

As Chairman of Settle Area Swimming Pool (SASP) Cllr Colin Coleman reiterated that the monthly gas bill to heat the water in the pool has increased from about £1,000 to about £7,000 and that phase 1 of the Government's Swimming Pool Support Fund (SPSF) revenue has been allocated to more than 100 local authorities across England, however, none of it to any leisure centres in North Yorkshire. Cllr Coleman also reported that the applications for phase 2 of the SPSF are being considered and reviewed by representatives of Sport England and DCMS by the end of January 2024 and informed the Council of the Open Evening at the swimming pool on 24th January, at which the serious financial crisis will be discussed. The Council **agreed** to write a letter of support to the Trustees of SASP.

g. to approve specific meeting dates

1 Annual Meeting of the Trustees of the Giggleswick Charities

The Council **agreed** to hold the Annual Meeting of the Trustees of the Giggleswick Charities on 13th February at 7.00 pm in the Parish Rooms.

2 Annual Parish Meeting

The Council was **informed** that, under the Local Government Act 1972, this meeting must be held between 1 March and 1 June and **agreed** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th March at 6.30 pm in the Parish Room. This meeting will be followed by the Parish Council meeting at 7.30 pm.

3 Annual Meeting of the Council

The Council was **informed** that, under the Local Government Act 1972, this meeting must be held any day in May and **agreed** to hold the Annual Meeting of the Council on 14th May at 7.30 pm, followed immediately by the ordinary Parish Council meeting.

9.9 Financial Matters

a. The Council **approved** the Financial Statements to 31 December 2023 and **noted** the total balance of both accounts as £18,863.41.

b. Cllr Bradley **verified** the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2023 and **reported** that no issues have been found.

c. The Council **approved** payment of the following accounts:-

- Walker Loughlin Projects of £226.98 for installation of notice board;
- clerk of £608.40 as salary for January 2024;
- clerk of £148.84 as expenses for 3rd quarter of current finance year, October to December 2023.

The Council **noted** payment of £5.80 to HSBC for monthly banking services charges.

The Council **noted** receipt of £50 from residents as a donation for the village winter plants.

The Council **noted** the unpaid cheque of £42.04 from ENW as annual wayleave payment and was **informed** that their cheque has been cancelled and a replacement cheque reissued.

9.10 Reports on or notice of meetings of other bodies

* PFCC: precept consultation until 21 January;

* YLCA: White Rose Bulletins 15/12, 5/1; Law and Governance bulletin December; NALC Executive's Bulletins;

* D-Day 80 letter and information

* NYC: The Home Upgrade Grant phase 2 (HUG2), available for North Yorkshire residents to help them make their homes more energy efficient.

9.11 Any Matters not included on this Agenda which the Chairman considers must nevertheless be addressed as a matter of urgency

The Council had **received** representations about a large pothole on the B6480 close to the junction with Stackhouse Lane and **agreed** to report this issue to NYC Highways as a matter of urgency.

9.12 Reports / comments on other matters for information only, or for inclusion on a future agenda

- a. The Council **noted** the Settle Road Race to be held on Sunday 25th February, organised by 'It's Grim Up North Running'.
- b. The Council **agreed** to consider action regarding a small pothole on Stackhouse Lane at Drumochter at the next Parish Council meeting.
- c. The Council **agreed** to consider making payments under the Local Government Act 1972, S137, including giving a donation to a charity for collection of the Parish Council Christmas tree by the Young Farmers, at the next Parish Council meeting.

9.13 Date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting

The Council **confirmed** the date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting as 13th February 2024 in the Parish Rooms at 7.30 pm.

There being no further business to discuss the Chair closed the meeting at 22.30.

M. Hill

Clerk to the Council