

**LONG PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL
THURSDAY 11th November 2021
MINUTES**

7.1 Public participation session of up to 15 minutes to enable parishioners to comment on matters concerning the Parish. This will be conducted in accordance with paragraphs 3(e) and 3(f) of the Council's Standing Orders.

Mrs Kay thanked the Parish Council for obtaining Legal Advice on Back Green and enquired if the Council would consider enforcement measures. This item was further discussed at 7.9d.

Mrs Kay also participated at item 7.8b: playing fields matters.

Mrs Attewell asked if the Parish Council would consider disclosing the staff grievance issues as discussed in private session at the Staffing Committee meeting on 2nd November. This item was discussed at 7.12.

7.2 Attendance.

- a. The Council **noted** the resignation of Councillors Brierley and Outlaw.

The Council **welcomed** James Bellis to his first meeting as a Parish Councillor. Cllr Bellis submitted the completed Declaration of Interests form and signed the Acceptance of Office form.

- b. The Council had not received an apology for non-attendance.

Present: Cllrs Staveley (Chairman), Bellis, Lis, and Moorby.

In attendance: Marijke Hill (Parish Clerk & RFO), five members of the public and PCSO Grace at item 7.6d.

7.3 Code of Conduct and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a. Councillor Moorby **reported** that the Monitoring Officer at CDC had advised that Cllr Moorby does not have to declare an interest at item 7.9d Back Green Legal Advice, as the subject under discussion at this meeting is specific to Back Green and not to any other village greens, one of them concerning Cllr Moorby's property.

Councillors did not record any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and any other relevant interests under the Parish Council's Code of Conduct in connection with items on this Agenda.

- b. No requests were made for dispensation in connection with items on this Agenda.

7.4 Minutes

- a. The Council **approved** the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting 6 held on 7th October 2021 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary meetings 6a held on 14th October 2021; and 6b on 27th October.
- b. The Council **noted** the Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting on 2nd November.

7.5 To receive updates on Matters from previous meetings not otherwise included on the Agenda

No matters from previous meetings not otherwise included on the Agenda were reported.

7.6 To receive reports from Craven District and North Yorkshire County Councils, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Police

- a. County Councillor Staveley **reported** that the Chancellors budget and spending review statement contained some important announcements for local government. The main headline was an increase in funding of 3%, in real terms for each of the next 3 years, relieving the pressures that NYCC is under at the moment in terms of adult social care, rising costs for children social care placements, as well as overall inflationary and demand pressures across the council. In addition, there was funding for other specific areas that effect local government, including schools, early years, youth facilities, initiatives around supporting families, and increasing adult skills funding, and funding for local transport schemes.

Regarding Covid 19 North Yorkshire at this moment in time has some of the highest covid rates in the country, and remains significantly above the national average. The main driver for this position has been school aged children with knock on impacts into the age groups that are clearly the parents and families of those children. Significant pressure remains on the health and social care system.

Regarding Local Government Organisation the leaders/representatives of all eight councils in North Yorkshire will act as an interim Executive Board (EB) which will oversee the first stage of the significant change programme. New councillors, who will serve for a five-year term, will be elected in May 2022 and will form an 'executive' to take on the responsibility for building the new council and putting appropriate policies and practices in place for the longer-term future.

The first year will be to provide governance for the final year of the county council and to oversee the implementation of the new council. This same group of councillors will then carry on their role on the new council for a further four years. District and borough councils will remain until 1st April 2023, and current district and borough councillors will continue in their roles until that date.

- b. District Councillor Moorby **reported** that there are a number of outstanding consultations regarding the planning application at the Flashes with the Environment Agency and the Highway Authority and a full report might be ready before Christmas. The site has been dormant for the last two years and the developer will return to the site to finish the works once the outcome of the current application is known. The Hellifield Working Group will discuss the recommended way forward before presenting this to the Planning and Policy Committees as appropriate.
- c. Lead Member for Greener Craven District Councillor Lis **reported** that CDC is currently looking into the possibility to extend the employment of two Environmental Health Officers in an effort to help tackle the issues with dog fouling in the towns and villages in Craven.
- d. PCSO Jayne Grace **presented** the police report, which contained 19 incidents during the period between 7 October and 8 November 2021, notably some road traffic collisions when a HGV hit a wall on the A65, and a single car ended up in a ditch on the A682 as well as a report of speeding on the A682. PCSO Grace also reported an increase in incidents about scamming for money and asked residents to report anything suspicious to the police.

7.7 To consider new Planning Applications, Decisions, and Other Planning Matters

a Applications

The Council had not received any planning applications.

b. Decisions

- 1 CDC: 2019/21304/FUL and amendment – conversion of Field Barn to a 1 bedroom dwelling with associated access & car parking. Conversion of roadside barn to a 4 bedroom dwelling with associated access & car parking. Partial demolition of a storage barn and conversion of the retained part into a 3 bedroom dwelling with associated access & car parking. Construction of a garage block, and conversion of field barn to a 1 bedroom dwelling, Bend Gate House. **Not yet decided**
- 2 CDC: 2020/21553/OUT – Outline application with some matters reserved for the development of up to 99 lodges, reception cabin with parking, and landscaping including ground modelling and water features (resubmission of previous application 42/2016/17496 refused 28 March 2019), Amendment received December 2020, Land To The East Of Waterside Lane, Hellifield. **Not yet decided**
- 3 YDNPA: C/52/626D – Householder planning permission for erection of single storey link between existing two storey dwelling and existing single storey additional accommodation, alterations to rear raised patio, window and door openings, additional roof lights, timber gates to side of

premises and reinstatement of metal railings and entrance gate to existing front wall, 1, Ivy Cottages, 31 Main Street. **Not yet decided**

4 YDNPA: C/52/74F Householder planning permission for replacement of existing timber windows and doors (part retrospective) at Long Meadow, West End. **Not yet decided**

5 YDNPA: Tree Preservation Order NO 1 (Long Preston) 1989 G5 for the removal of one Sycamore at The Walled Barn, Church Lane. **Given consent** on the condition that a replacement field maple is planted within the first planting season after felling.

c. Other Planning Matters

1 CDC: Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Local List of Planning Application Requirements The Council **noted** communication from Craven District Council, currently undertaking a review of the additional information they require to be submitted with planning applications over and above the minimum prescribed national requirements. The Council **agreed** that the resident councillors should provide any comments they may have.

7.8 To consider action regarding parish maintenance matters

a. street lighting matters

The Council was **informed** that the shield for the street light at Ivy End has been ordered and delivered and it **decided** to instruct Harrison & Cross to place it in such a way it shields the residents' property back prospect.

b. Playing Fields matters

- The Council was **informed** that the RoSPA Inspection Report 2021 highlighted no high risk for any of the items of play equipment. The Council **decided** to address other issues mentioned in the Report in the spring of 2022.

- There was no update regarding the pavilion roof replacement.

- The Council was **informed** that the PFA is momentarily not quorate and, therefore, dormant. The remaining two trustees will keep the Council informed when they can reconvene, at which time the PFA will transfer to the Parish Council the £1,000 from County Councillor Staveley's Locality Budget Fund towards the cost of the new pavilion roof.

- Regarding the transfer of the PFA electricity invoices the Council **agreed** that Mrs Kay should forward the account details to the clerk for payment by the Parish Council.

c. grass cutting services

The Council was **informed** that the grass cutting contractor will not extend the contract for the next year. The Council **decided** to advertise the contract in the Parish Magazine and to contact neighbouring villages if their grass contractor is interested in tendering.

d. lengthsman services

The Council **decided** to instruct the lengthsman to trim the tree on Main Street on 15th December in time that the VAS can be moved to that location on the same date.

e. NYCC Highways matters

There were no Highways matters reported.

f. restoration of telephone kiosk

The Council had **received** communication from the Heritage Group, suggesting further funding for the restoration of the telephone kiosk. The Council **reiterated** its position that it would not spend a considerable sum on the restoration of the telephone kiosk and that a project should be funded by a third party. It **agreed** to contact the Heritage Group and suggest that the telephone kiosk might best remain at its current location and just be painted and the plexus glass re-

installed. It could then be used to host a second defibrillator to potentially assist residents on that side of the village.

7.9 To consider action regarding parish matters other than maintenance

a. speeding

There was no update from Gargrave PC Cllr Coetzer regarding working together with neighbouring villages to discuss issues of speeding with North Yorkshire Police.

The Council **decided** to contact NYCC Highways and ask for a 30mph roundel on Main Street. The Council had **received** communication from CANS (Councils Against Noise and Speed) to invite a representative to join them. The Council **agreed** to contact them and ask for more detailed information on the work the group has done so far.

b. organisation of the Christmas Lights switch-on 2021

Cllr Moorby **reported** that Askew Forestry will supply the Christmas tree and that Dinsdale Moorland Specialist will sponsor the tree as in previous years. The Council was **informed** that the Village Hall has been booked and payed for and the Council **agreed** that any community group can organise an event on the switch-on day and use the Hall. The Council **decided** to ask Harrison & Cross to check the RCDs on The Green before the switch-on day.

c. possible locations for allotments

The Council was **informed** that the parishioner with a garden space suitable for a one person allotment has withdrawn their offer.

Cllr Moorby **reported** that the landowner who had contacted the Parish Council in the past regarding availability of land has sold the field some time ago and that, therefore, the land is no longer available.

d. Back Green Legal Advice

The Council **noted** the letter that was sent to the affected property owners on Back Green, explaining the law on Village Greens in general and clarifying existing easements on their properties in particular, following the Legal Advice the Council had received.

The Council **reiterated** that it had no option but to seek legal advice on easements on Back Green after a potential financial claim in excess of £153,000 from one of the property owners on Back Green against the Parish Council was received in September 2020.

The Council also **reiterated** the findings of the Legal Advice that parking on any part of Back Green, including a right of way, is not permitted; that the two flower beds on Back Green are to be removed entirely; that some easements by prescription and the easement by deed will be respected by the Council; and that it is not permitted to improve and widen a track.

The Council **agreed** that it now has a legal obligation to discharge the findings of the Legal Advice and **resolved** to adopt an enforcement policy and a procedure to implement this policy. Following confirmation of a breach of this policy, a letter will be sent, requiring action within 14 days and failure to do so requires the Council to instruct its solicitors to take the case forward.

The Council **decided** to authorise the Chairman, in conjunction with the Clerk, to enact the enforcement policy as soon as a breach is reported, thus preventing unnecessary delay.

The Council **agreed** that a future Parish Council should carry out an audit on all Village Greens to determine potential issues.

7.10 Finance

- a. The Council **resolved** to approve the Financial Statements and Report to 28th October and **noted** the total balance as £21,828.32 of which £10,784.17 in revenue and £11,044.15 in capital funds.
- b. The Council **ratified** the decision to pay £785 now to Roofing Megastore for the pavilion roof and the remaining £784.10 when a delivery date has been confirmed.
- c. The Council **approved** the payment of the following accounts:-
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|---|-----------|
| Vodafone direct debit wifi Hall | £ 24.57 |
| E.ON (electricity October) | £ 106.83 |
| Playsafety ltd (RoSPA Inspection Report 2021) | £ 103.20 |
| YLCA (councillor training course) | £ 60.00 |
| Swarco Traffic (VAS) | £3,414.00 |
| Royal British Legion (wreath Remembrance Sunday) | £ 18.50 |
| LP Village Hall (room hire 9/9; 7/10; 14/10; 27/10; 11/11; 2/12; 27/11) | £ 126.00 |
| Grass cutter contractor (grass cutting October) | £ 388.00 |
| Sharon Press (Parish Magazine November) | £ 205.50 |
| Wellers Law Group LLP (additional legal advice) | £1,147.20 |
| Clerk (salary & expenses October) | £ 664.95 |
- The Council **noted** receipt of £0.09 as interest from HSBC for October.
- d. The Council **considered** the draft budget for the financial year 2022-2023 and **decided** to discuss this item further at the next Parish Council meeting.

7.11 Reports on or Notice of meetings of Other Bodies

* CDC: impact of tourism on the Craven District questionnaire

The Council had **received** communication from the Chairman of CDC Select Committee and it **reiterated** the comments it had submitted to them in terms of parking issues in the village and the issue of second homes being rented out to tourists.

* NYCC & CDC: invitation to attend an online briefing on the progress being made on the transition to a new unitary council on 1 or 3 December.

* YLCA: White Rose Update 29/10; 5/11; Webinar Training Bulletin 22/10 and Training Programme November and December 2021 to February 2022

* e-forests: free trees for planting projects

7.12 To determine any Matter not included on this Agenda which the Chairman considers must nevertheless be addressed as a matter of urgency.

- a. The Chairman, Cllr Stavely, **reported** that a serious breach of personal data legislation had occurred at the end of October from within the Membership of the Parish Council at the time. The Chairman had **reported** the incident immediately to the Information Commissioner's Office who concluded that the breach appeared to be an isolated incident due to the unauthorised disclosure by one individual and determined that no further action by the ICO is necessary on this occasion. The Chairman **urged** members of the public to destroy any correspondence which is clearly confidential as further circulation in the community may compromise the Parish Council financially as well as cause personal reputational damage. The Chairman **informed** the Council that there might be further ramifications and the incident has been reported to the CDC Monitoring Officer as a breach of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct.

7.13 To receive reports/comments on other matters for information only, or for inclusion on a future agenda.

The Council was **informed** that the bin lid on The Green, opposite the Village Hall, is damaged. The Council **agreed** that Cllr Moorby should make enquiries to see if the bin lid could be replaced.

7.14 Date and time of the next Parish Council meeting

The Council **confirmed** that the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd December 2021 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.55 pm.

Marijke Hill
Clerk to the Council