

ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL

held on Thursday 16th June 2022 starting at 7pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Councillor	Simon Peers (Chair)		
Councillors	Julie Barber	Kathryn Smith	Mark Walker
	Helen Dawson		

In attendance: Ward Cllr. Hook, three residents and the Clerk.

The Chair started the meeting with an apology that a copy of the agenda had not be placed in the notice board (noting that the statutory requirement was to advertise the time and place of the meeting and not the business to be transacted and that in this respect statutory requirements had been fulfilled).

1 ELECTION OF THE VICECHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL. It was **resolved** that Cllr. Dawson be the vice chair of the Parish Council (PC), all in favour.

2 APOLOGIES. None

3 VACANCIES. It was noted that the deadline for ten electors to request that the vacancy due to the resignation of Andy Steele be filled by election was 7th June 2022 and that as less than ten electors had so requested, that this vacancy could now be filled by co-option. There would be a standing agenda item to consider the two vacancies. The last newsletter had included an appeal for potential new councillors to register their interest.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were in attendance to hear the discussion regarding item 10.3 but had no comment to make at his stage.

6. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PC HELD ON 19th MAY 2022.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the annual meeting of the PC held on 19th May 2022 having been circulated, be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign, all those who were present in favour.

7. PLANNING

a. Planning Applications Received

- i. None had been received in time to be included as a formal agenda item but there had been an application on 10th June for Field House, 2 Main Street (22/00113/FUL) being a revised design (ground floor plans). The deadline for comment was 24th June so the Clerk would respond using delegated authority taking into account any comments from Councillors. Ward Cllr. Hook advised that City of York Council (CYC) Planning Department would be happy to extend the deadline if requested to do so, indeed many other parishes did that.

b. Planning Decision Notices Received

- i. None.

8 TO RECEIVE THE NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE CRIME REPORT

There were three reported crimes in May, anti-social behaviour on 4th May on Askham Lane (youths causing a nuisance), 17th May, criminal damage at the college, an Audi A3 parked in the car park had been keyed leaving deep scratches, a smiley face and an X and on 18th May, copper cable had been stolen from the BT depot (possible closed circuit television camera footage). The crime report didn't mention a road traffic incident involving two vans, a stabbing attempt and ramming. Cllr. Peers would seek to take over the role of liaison with the college and Askham Richard following the resignation of Andy Steele.

9 REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR HOOK

Ward Cllr. Hook reported that there was a Ward Committee meeting on Monday 25th July. There would be speakers from Highways and from the Police and the meeting would consider ward grants. This would be preceded by a surgery at 6pm. She also spoke about a presentation regarding plans to develop walks along the river which CYC want to develop.

10 OTHER MATTERS.

10.1 Redevelopment of the Recreational Area

The Clerk had contacted the three suppliers of playground equipment suggested by Cllr. Smith. Two had replied, one wanted a telephone number to talk about their offers, the other wanted an on-site meeting to do the same. It was agreed that Cllrs. Dawson and Smith would meet with this contractor and the Clerk would supply this contractor with contact information for Cllr. Dawson.

Cllr. Walker reported that he hoped to get the removal of the mound completed by the next meeting.

10.2 Annual Playground Inspection.

The Clerk had chased the contractor who cuts the grass and carries out equipment inspections as he had still not supplied a price for carrying out work identified in the annual playground inspection. He had also emailed the same contractor to ask him to remove the clippings next time he cut the grass. The contractor had not replied, and it was agreed that the Clerk next contacts him by telephone. It was noted that a resident had taken it upon himself to cut the grass, the contractor had since cut the grass himself but not removed the clippings (the picnic was planned for Saturday 18th June). It was also noted that the PC still owned a lawn mower which was maintained by the church.

10.3 Reconsideration of the decision of the PC at its April meeting to remove all trees in the recreational area.

It was **resolved** that, in accordance with Standing Order 10.1, a motion proposed by Cllrs. Barber and Dawson to request that the resolution agreed at the April meeting to cut down all trees with a stem diameter of at least 75mm, measured at 1.5m above the ground be reconsidered, all in favour. Following the May meeting, the Clerk had contacted the tree inspector recommended by Ward Cllr. Hook and given him instructions to carry out inspections of trees on all PC land and on land belonging to the Charity. The original quotation had been £120 just for the Recreational Area, the tree inspector had quoted £5 per tree for other areas but where trees were in close proximity to one another, he had quoted £10 to survey the trees as a group. The Clerk had instructed him to go ahead up to a maximum of £200 (as agreed). Reassurances were given that the tree inspector had appropriate insurance cover. It was agreed that no action should be taken until this report was received and that once received, any immediate urgent actions be addressed. It was agreed that a maintenance strategy was needed (including management of saplings) and it was agreed to ask the Natural Environment Committee (NEC) to come up with a plan. There had been attempt at liaison with the college but the timing of the academic year was proving challenging as student timetables didn't align with optimum times for tree works. There was interest in previously circulated correspondence item 371 (from The Conservation Volunteers - a national charitable organisation that connects people to green spaces). It was **resolved** to go ahead with the tree inspection, to confirm the date and review, the PC would then carry out any urgent work identified and the NEC would be given delegated powers to deal with less urgent work.

10.4 Installation of a chicane access to the Recreation Area and changes to the entrance and installation of a gate and the bollards.

A quotation had been received for installation of a chicane access to the Recreation Area and changes to the entrance and for installation of a gate and the bollards. The quotation included a design and there was support for the proposed design. Standing order 3.21.2 required three quotations all values over £500 and therefore two other potential contractors were identified. Ward Cllr. Hook/Cllr. Barber would get appropriate contact

details to the Clerk. Regarding the budget, the award by CYC for double taxation relating to cuts and inspections of equipment freed up Recreational Area budget to cover the cost of this work.

10.5 Programme of works

The Clerk had circulated a suggested programme of works showing work already being done by paid contactors (inspections and grass cutting) and suggested annual checks by Councillors of benches (those in the Recreational Area being inspected as part of the overall inspection of the equipment). There were two benches by the pond. It was suggested that bench inspections be done every October. There was a concern that the defibrillator was not being checked. It was suggested that the programme of works be amended to show planned inspections and actual inspections, Cllr. Peers would address this. It was **resolved** to adopt the programme of works, all in favour.

10.6 Options for traffic calming measures or speed reductions

The incident referred to above in the crime report (item 8) led to a request for an agenda item about traffic calming measures. It was noted that the college had installed two speed bumps (not on the public highway). There was discussion about speed bumps but recognition that location would be problematic as most residents would welcome these as long as the bumps were not outside their properties. Chicanes were considered but would be unpopular with members of the farming community with their wide equipment. Speed indicator signs were seen as a good option but outside the budget of the PC being in the region of £20,000 plus ongoing maintenance costs. Surveys carried out by CYC had failed to meet the threshold needed for action to be taken.

11 FINANCE

11.1 Report of invoices to be paid

It was **resolved** that the following invoices to be paid, all in favour.

- Clerk's Salary 01/05/2022 to 31/05/2022 plus deductions payable to HMRC

11.2 Getting a new signatory added to the mandate.

The resignation of Andy Steele meant that there were now only two Councillors authorised to make payments. It was **resolved** that Cllr. Barber be a signatory on the bank account, all in favour.

12 CORRESPONDENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

A list of correspondence received since the last meeting (items 376-386) had been circulated and the contents noted.

- 378, 380, 381 and 383 were from residents or members of the NEC expressing concern about the decision of the PC at its April meeting to cut down trees in the Recreational Area. There had been discussion about this earlier in the meeting – see item 10.3 above. The PC suggested a response stating that the PC (which represents the people) listened to feedback and took into account residents concerns in reconsidering its original decision.
- 382 was from a resident to Ward Cllr. Hook and copied to the Clerk and former Chair regarding a survey of villagers regarding public right of way 9, the Public Local Inquiry would be held on 28th June 2022 starting at 10am at the Priory Street Centre.
- 379 was from a twelve-year-old resident expressing ideas for the development of the Recreational Area. The Clerk would send him a reply.

13 ACTION TRACKER

An Action Tracker had been circulated with the agenda papers listing all previously agreed actions and reports on progress, everything was up to date. There was no progress in setting up an Events Committee.

14 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

21st July 2022 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Other PC meetings in 2022 would be on 18th August, 15th September, 20th October and 17th November, all at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:21pm.

Signed

Chairman
21 July 2022