

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2015

1. **Apologies** were received from Nick Cotton, Amanda Coleman and Pauline Fozard.
2. **Chairman** Annette presented her report (see attached). There had been some technical difficulties updating the website but encouraged parishioners to sign up to the database.

Concerns were expressed regarding the water risk assessments. One parishioner had undergone the process and said 2 “engineers” had turned up but 1 had spent the time drinking tea and chatting. The other appeared clueless as what to do and when they had received the report, the water supply was classed as “extremely hazardous”. Council asked for a copy of the report.

Questions were asked about the reason why council had paid the bill for the solicitor’s fee for the village lease and whether the “easements” had been included in the lease. Annette replied that the bill was paid to secure the hall for council and parish use and so as not to increase the bill or rent even further by demanding more concessions from the diocese. She believed that the easements were with the lease but their contact at the diocese was presently in hospital, further clarifications could be made on his return.

The village hall now had a new water supply and only at a cost of around £100 due to the work carried out by volunteers, rather than the £3,500 previously quoted. Some other small outlay may be needed, such as a UV light filter.

16plus school transport was discussed. Garsdale would have 3 to 6 16 to 18 year olds in the next few years and SLDC would only be saving a small amount by taking away the transport as pupils were already paying about £2.00 a day.

Chris Elphick said there could be money available as a grant for such things as the water supply as he had successfully secured monies as clerk for his council and would liaise with our clerk.

Clerk Phil presented the accounts which had recovered due to the volunteer work carried out on the village hall and the balance at the end of March was £1399.50.

3. **Observations** by County and District councillors were not available as no councillors were present.

4. **Representations** were made by FibreGarden who reported that duct laying was finally underway and 4.5km had been laid in a month. 600 properties would be connected and as the feed was from now coming from Sedbergh School, more areas would be covered such as Cowgill and Deepdale. However, a snag was causing some delays. BT were being very recalcitrant about signing the contracts allowing the work to be carried out, making monies from the Defra grant unavailable. FG thought that it was a very bizarre situation that such permission had to be sought from a competitor and urged everyone to lobby MPs etc. FG were asked why contractors had left the site. The contractors had not been able to be paid on time as the money cannot be released by Defra until completion of each phase and as BT had

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not signed the contracts, this would not be possible until they had. However, FG hoped that the contractors would be back in 3 to 4 weeks and would be there until completion. There was a total of £482,000 available. FG was asked if they could expand in time past The Moorcock, Mallerstang and Firbank and replied that this would be possible.

Ist Responders had been active and had 2 callouts so far.

Council was asked about highways in Garsdale which are in poor condition and although council had made a lot of effort to get SLDC to undertake road and wall repairs, their response had been nil and parishioners were urged to report any potholes etc. directly to SLDC as well as council to increase the pressure.

The land owner of East Coat Weggs berated council about not supporting his application for a barn erection and told the meeting that the YDNP's planning department had been swayed by the vitriolic letters that had been written by council and neighbours. Council replied that the land owner had not been able to justify the use of such a large barn either for agricultural purpose or relevant storage which YDNP had concurred with.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman.....

Date.....16/7/2015.....

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