

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 10th March 2016 at Garsdale Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors Annette Colton, Graham Lant, David Metcalfe, David Labatte, Neville Woodfine, **DC** Kevin Lancaster and **Clerk** Philip Johns.

1. Apologies

Nick Cotton, Thomas Todd and Mel Mackie.

2. Declarations of Interest

Annette declared an interest in the Badger Dub planning application.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the Jan 21st Council Meeting and Extraordinary Meeting of 1st March were signed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors' report

Kevin Lancaster reported that all the Lib Dem councillors had voted against the shadow budget to reinstate the 16 to 18 transport funding. Pressure should now be brought to bear onto Nick Cotton and Annette proposed to write to him.

5. Progress reports

1. Clerk noted that the next meeting on May 12th should be the AGM plus the Parish Meeting followed by a general meeting. Council agreed to clerk posting invites to residents for a Parish Meeting.

2. Annette was investigating a grant from the Sustainable Development Fund to spruce up the village hall. £5000 was achievable but more than that would be more complicated. The emphasis had to be on producing a more 'green' environment such as double glazing, more efficient heating, water treatment filters, insulation, purchase of the midgeater etc. but council had to provide a 25% matching fund but this could be volunteer hours, £50 per hour for unskilled labour and £150 for skilled. Kevin said that he could provide £1000 from his funds as none had been spent in Garsdale for a few years. Graham agreed to provide a list of works.

3. Clerk reported that there had been some improvement in the positioning of cars parked on the street but it was unlikely that the verge could be turned into hard standing as the land did not belong to the resident. CCC had announced some road improvement measures to be carried out on the A684 at Badger Dub and Dandra Garth and to the Back Road, at the end of March. Kevin had seen evidence of awareness of CCC to wall repairs but no detailed works as yet. Dave Metcalfe has found out that Sedbergh and Garsdale parishes had the least spent on them by CCC in all Cumbria. Nick Cotton has asked for details of any gully works that were needed. David Metcalfe will prepare a list. Dave Labatte will now start on clearing trees as part of the Lengthman's Scheme. Kevin noted that there were surplus funds available and possibly more could be allocated to Garsdale.

4. As item 4.

5. Graham, Neville and Dave Metcalfe were briefed as to the pros and cons of B4RN and BT providing broadband to Garsdale following the meeting on 1st March. Kevin reported that BT were trying to poach Dent but needed to acquire funds from Connecting Cumbria or the council. B4RN were digging in Casterton and should be through by the end of April, followed by Barbon, then Dent. However, Garsdale could start digging at any time and several areas could be dug simultaneously to be connected up at the end. BDUK could provide funds if it could be shown that speeds were consistently below 2mb. Funds would be allocated to a nominated project from the council. It was suggested that David Pilgrim from Dent could host an action group meeting to

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enlist volunteers. Annette would liaise with David. She also reported that B4RN had enough funds to allow us to have ducting before funding had been finalised.

6. Annette had finally received a reply from Sean Hall who admitted that no checks on qualifications were carried out on personnel and agreed that residents could send in their own information to be checked by SLDC and would not have to use Tobins. The template used was more suited to small water treatment plants rather than small supplies and therefore was 'over the top'. Council agreed to send a proposal to SLDC to allow residents to self risk-assess if they felt capable or to ask a representative of SLDC to carry out the assessment if not but with no involvement with Tobins.

7. Dave Metcalfe will draft a proposal to be sent to the police commissioner at Penrith for speed calming measures especially as the Easter weekend was approaching.

6. Public/open session

Bob Middleton had repeatedly complained to Dave Metcalfe about the state of the A684. Phil, as a resident, asked if the BT phone box could be painted after Dave L had cleared the trees. It was understood that there wasn't a phone in the box and was therefore abandoned by BT. Phil would check and if so, organize the painting.

7. Updates from Community Groups

No further reports.

8. Financial matters

1. Payments of 2 months' clerk salary, clerk expenses of £23.97.

2. The balance stands at £2406.41.

3. Clerk expressed his frustration at HMRC. His letter to the Adjudicator has been returned as 'moved away' although the address was still current on the website. Over 50 phone calls had been made but had not been able to speak to anyone in the 'parish' department despite now having 4 different phone numbers, one of which was chargeable. The principle of registering for VAT was dismissed. Clerk had obtained a new address in Nottingham via Google and had sent in a new letter.

4. It was agreed that the clerk could apply to the Transparency Code for funds as most of the requirements were already in place.

5. As item 5.2

6. To be discussed at the Action Group meeting.

9. Correspondence

1. Slack House, which was actually for Slack Cottage rather than Slack House, had been approved.

2. Annette left the room. Dave Metcalfe felt that the 'unused chimney' on Badger Dub Cottage should remain for aesthetic reasons, all agreed, clerk would write to planning.

10. Councillor matters.

No more reports.

Date of next meeting(s)

Thursday 12th May including Parish and AGM.

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Chairman.....

Date.....26/5/2016.....

Please note that these are draft minutes, subject to change and will not be signed until the next meeting.

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