

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 16th March 2017 at Garsdale Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors Annette Colton, Neville Woodfine, William Mawdsley.

DCs Kevin Lancaster, Mel Mackie and **Clerk** Philip Johns, WDMC's Carole Marsden and SPCs Amanda Coleman and Jenna.

1. Apologies

Graham Lant, Thomas Todd, David Labatte and David Metcalfe.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations but Kevin has asked CCC for continual dispensations for all those involved in B4RN which will be virtually everyone but no response as yet.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the 19th January Council Meeting were signed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors' report

Kevin reported that rate increases were passed at 2% for social care but will not be enough. Council precepts had come under scrutiny but Garsdale had a reputation for prudence and if council wanted to ask for funds for a local project then it would probably be received favourably.

5. Progress reports

1. Clerk: see later reports.
2. Annette suggested that two additional quotes for windows should be sought even though not required by the terms of the grant, so that council would be seen as level handed. The application had been assigned to an officer today but needs planning approval before the committee could commit to making purchases.
3. Highways appeared to have cancelled the work due on the A684. Clerk had written to Rob Huck at Highways but as usual, had not received a reply. Kevin said that the work on the Cautley road had overrun by 10 days, partially due to bad weather and a flood alert but thought that work will be done and although out of the parish of Garsdale, the section by the Mosses will be started by the end of March. Asked why Highways had spent money on filling potholes if they were serious about resurfacing, he replied by suggesting the work might be redressing rather than resurfacing.
4. Post 16 Transport: no further progress until after May elections.
5. Due to winter conditions and lambing progress had slowed down progress, but B4RN was still making progress. There is a possibility that a loop will be made by a cable laid along the Coal Road. Kevin commented that huge progress had been made when you consider where we were 18 months ago. Annette suggested that we invite B4RN to launch a funding meeting at the parish meeting.
6. Mandy reported that a police profile for dealing with speeding/reckless motorbikes had been made for the period of April to September. Annette asked if there could be a method of checking insurance documents prior to April as some only have 6 month cover but use the bikes earlier, illegally, as has happened previously causing expensive non-insured repair costs to local residents. Amanda replied that all those stopped for violations were fully checked. Duties were decided on a rota but unfortunately will not yield results if the weather is poor, also officers may get called away to deal with emergencies. A night program for 'farm watch' will be instigated at the beginning of

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April to detect rural theft. Neville enquired whether dashboard cams in private cars can be used as evidence. Only if fully calibrated. Unmarked cars get the best results but there was a very limited availability and weren't equipped for automatic MOT and insurance checks. Could the police monitor noise levels which are often the most common complaints? Ask the Environmental Agency. Most speeders are caught within the first few minutes of setting up check points but as word gets out, detection drops quickly. Methods to reduce speeding and reckless driving will take time to come into effect and will not be instant. Community monitoring does work but the council will have to purchase their own equipment. Contrary to popular folklore, results are noted and letters are sent out followed by a visit for multiple offenders. Some 'in-fighting' between locals have occurred in Sedbergh but is not normal. Kevin commented that speed indicator signs can be effective and Garsdale did have one by The Hive for about a week. The speed indicators are set to a maximum of 45mph to deter challengers but still record higher speeds. Do motorbikes have to be caught by speed cameras by the rear? No, a second person takes a photo of the rear plate after being caught head on. Does a person holding a camera need to be visible or can they hide? Not necessarily. Annette asked if there had been any recorded incidents of crimes or vandalism in general in Garsdale? This could be useful to know in order to assess the risk of water tanks being vandalised. No recorded criminal activity and vandalism since Amanda could remember. Garsdale has not had any problems with 'travellers' to the Appleby Fair either.

7. NTR.
8. Clerk had produced an application to the transparency fund for £735. Annette mentioned that council had agreed to this at last meeting so the application could go ahead.

6. Public/open session

None.

7. Updates from Community Groups

Carole Marsden from the Western Dales Mission Community outlined the changes that had been made over the last 6 years. The Methodist, Union and Anglican churches had pooled together their resources to share facilities and amenities which was a first for Cumbria and was proving popular with the local communities as more people were attending services and functions. Some streamlining of functions was still needed. Younger worshippers were being encouraged to join in and without them, churches would start to cease to exist within a generation and some churches needed to modernise. 17 churches were involved. This initiative was being monitored by all of Cumbria and further afield with interest.

8. Financial matters

1. Cheques for payments of 2 months' clerk salary and expenses of £27.29 were signed. Gill Dickinson presented clerk with expenses of £4.80 for photocopying, £22.20 for site plans and £?? For the planning application.
2. The balance stands at £2573.68 with a precept payment of £2000 due shortly.
3. As 5.2
4. As 5.5

9. Correspondence

1. Western Dales Mission Community : As item 7.
2. Battle's Over: Too early, plans to be drawn up later.
3. Cumbria Dyslexia Project: Not that relevant to Garsdale.
4. Ash Tag Project : To bring up at the parish meeting (Ash Tag Project).

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5. A planning application for the village hall improvements had been received that day with April 6th as a deadline. No comments will be made by the PC to YDNP.

10. Councillor matters.

Annette mentioned that the postbox at East Rackenthwaite has disappeared, supposedly for repair. It was discussed that unless people are enquiring about it, the post office may not put it back up. The Parish Council may need to send a letter to thank the post office for repairing it and let them know we look forward to getting it back.

Date of next meeting(s)

Thursday 18th May 2017 for the parish meeting, AGM and regular council meeting, starting at the earlier time of 7.00pm.



Chairman.....

18 May 2017

Date.....

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