

Garsdale Parish Council

Email: garsdaleparishcouncil@outlook.com
Website: garsdaleparishcouncil.com

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 17th September 2015 at Garsdale Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors Annette Colton, Graham Lant, Thomas Todd, David Metcalfe, David Labatte, DC Mel Mackie and **Clerk** Philip Johns.

1. Apologies

Kevin Lancaster, Nick Cotton, Neville Woodfine and Bill Mawdsley

2. Declarations of Interest

Annette and Thomas declared interests regarding West Coat Weggs planning appeal.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the July 18th Council Meeting and Extraordinary Meeting of 28th July were signed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors' report

Kevin Lancaster had circulated the replies from SLDC regarding his tabled questions concerning the private water risk assessment. Mel Mackie introduced himself and promised to help in any way although today's brief would be for listening. He commented that Dent PC was also concerned about the risk assessments. There had been some carried out 4/5 years ago at a cost of about £75 where Tobin's were typically charging £380 to £500.

5. Progress reports

1. Clerk reported that although he had sent in the annual report on time, with a financial risk assessment and audited accounts, this was not good enough for BDO who were to deliver 'a smack on the wrist' as the risk assessment was for this year and not the last financial year. Also the appointment of Lindsay Sedgewick as internal auditor had not been minuted. It was proposed that Lindsay be appointed for this financial year and was approved unanimously. Clerk had written twice to CCC regarding the poor state of the A684 but was awaiting a reply to the last email. Tm Farron and Nick Cotton had also written to SLDC and CCC regarding the water risk assessments and the A684.

2. Graham had an inspection of the new water facilities at the village hall and was confident that it would be passed. A risk assessment was also conducted via a 'tick box' system downloaded off the internet in a matter of minutes and should cost a fraction of Tobin's charges. A sample of water had been taken for analysis. Annette reported that she was still waiting for the snail-paced diocese to agree for the refund of £750 (note by clerk: a proper invoice was still outstanding).

3. Annette had attended a recent LAP meeting where there had been a lot of talk about the air ambulance and the new recycling schemes (minutes are to be circulated). However, the next LAP meeting will be principally about highways. Mel commented that it was difficult to have funds allocated to rural areas as these were not labour or LibDem. The Lengthman's scheme was still up and running if any local contractors were interested but wasn't for the A684. There was surface water again emanating from Bellow's End and David L would inspect and email CCC. David M agreed to report to Health and Safety regarding a long length of collapsed wall near Dandra Garth. Mel commented that there was often little logic exercised by CCC when instigating repairs and often were done to areas that had not been requested.

4. There had been further developments on tree felling at Dandra Garth. The Forestry Commission had postponed the felling as it was not happy with submissions by Tilhill. The Garsdale Squirrel Group were concerned about clear felling destroying habitat and a principle was in place to leave a partially felled wood for

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Ben's Bridge, Garsdale, Sedbergh, LA10 5PH
Telephone: 015396 22170

Chairman of the parish council: Annette Colton,
Slack House, Garsdale, Sedbergh, LA10 5PE
Phone: 015396 21957 (eve) 21219 (day)

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about 10 years. However it was acknowledged that the forest had to be felled at some time. David M asked whether this topic was of any concern to the council.

5. There still was no resolution to Post16 and students were driving themselves, at some risk. Complaints had been made to the colleges about the increase in car use in those areas. Tim Farron is pursuing this and has requested that SLDC provide sufficient funds to pay for local buses but SLDC were sticking to their guns.

6. Neither John Colton nor David Ryall were present but Annette said that she understood that a new company, organized by ITS, had begun surveying. Grant money is due to be cut off in November. The last company who undertook the duct laying were useless and had left the job. Annette said that most of the delays were due to the difficulties with complying with grants of public money. It was suggested that another public meeting should be held very soon so that Fibre Garden could explain the exact situation to the residents.

7. Annette would email Mel with the Knudmanning Tobin's report. Residents had received threatening, incorrect and obnoxious letters from Tobin's. Neil (local resident) commented that he has had discussions with SLDC about the 'local' knowledge appertained to by Tobin's and said that all locals, in effect, did their own risk assessment. Most drank only bottled water, especially if it was brown due to heavy rainfall. What difference was it if there were 2 supplies or one off one tank as all residents were responsible for their own supply? However Neil had agreed to bite the bullet and has agreed to an inspection but will keep council informed. Council did agree that non-private supplies should be inspected. Paul Winn (local) suggested that all residents should show solidarity and refuse any inspections. However this was felt to be impractical. David M commented that as it was an EU directive, these tests would have to be done but it should be enabled that they were carried out by the residents themselves, such as a system that had been performed at the village hall. It was feared that eventually single supplies would come under the same directive. Graham suggested that the risk assessment forms could be sent in advance so that some of the more obvious non-compliance could be dealt with before the inspection, saving time and money. John Colton had suggested that a local training scheme could be arranged at a cost of £1200 but council thought that it would be premature before all avenues with SLDC had been negotiated. Council's advice to residents remains the same, refuse access to Tobin's quoting 'negotiations with the PC and SLDC were still incomplete'. It was decided that Annette would send a FOI request about Tender requirements, and once received, a reply would be sent to Sean Hall at SLDC.

8. Council queried why there was no police coverage regarding speeding motorbikes. The last time the police held a speed gun session was on a Monday afternoon, needless to say there were no offenders. An unmarked car would be best on a Sunday but council doubted that the police worked on a Sunday. Perhaps dashboard cams would be useful. Graham commented that bikers appeared to becoming more aggressive and were 'racing 3 abreast'. It was the public who were suffering with many locals not venturing out at the weekends. Mel offered to write to the Police Commissioner, Richard Rose. Perhaps the Critchlows and Mandy Coleman could have an input. David M would write to SLDC with a 'cc' to Tim Farron.

9. The mobile library van had broken down and SDLC were unprepared to spend any money on repairs so the service was being discontinued. Council felt that this was regrettable but inevitable.

6. Public/open session

No further reports.

7. Updates from Community Groups

No further reports.

8. Financial matters

1. Payments of 2 months' clerk salary, clerk expenses of £220.78 and a donation of £228 to Garsdale First Responders for a kit bag was approved.

2. The balance stands at £2839.17.

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3. Annette had researched cheaper annual insurance. The village hall had their own insurance and council could take out a much cheaper one, which was approved. Annette to organise.

4. Although it had been agreed to purchase a midgeater, clerk had not done so as some refunds had not materialised. Council now were having second thoughts about a purchase but Graham would ask the village hall committee if it was desirable. Also were there any grants available? Graham to report back.

5. Clerk had submitted a request for a VAT refund of £766.71 for the last 3 years but had received no communications from HMRC, clerk had written to them again. Phoning or emails were impossible.

9. Correspondence

1. Moorcock Railway Bridge: letter sent to planning stating no objections.
2. Hind Keld West approved.
3. No decision on West Coat Weggs yet.

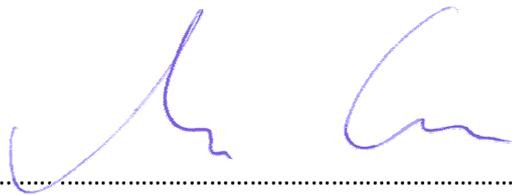
10. Councillor matters.

David L reported blocked culverts and collapsing road edges at Griesdale preventing access for trucks. David and Matt Gibson would write to CCC. Could the clerk re-circulate the hotline number?

Date of next meeting(s)

Tuesday 17th November 2015 (date change due to clerk being away).

There will an agenda item at the next meeting to set dates for the following year.



Chairman.....

Date.....19/11/2015.....

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

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