

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 19th February 2015

Present:

Councillors Annette Colton, Thomas Todd, David Labbate, Graham Lant, Bill Mawdsley **Clerk** Philip Johns, **DC** Kevin Lancaster, Pauline Fozard, David Metcalfe and Matt Gibson.

1. Apologies

Evelyn Westwood

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared

3. Minutes

Minutes of the December 4th Council Meeting and the amended minutes of the August 14th Meeting were signed.

4. Co-opting of Councillors for vacant places

This item was held over until the end of the meeting after the prospectives had departed. After much discussion Councillors voted to co-opt Neville Woodfine and David Metcalfe. Annette to inform all 3 prospectives.

5. County Councillor and District Councillors' report

Kevin had nothing to report but stated his intention to bring up issues at his next meeting, regarding the "balmy" situation of post 16 transport. The situation should have been quietly dropped but fears it's heading towards a judicial review.

6. Progress reports

1. Clerk (reports attached) suggested that he compile a database of parishioners' email addresses and phone text numbers for ease and speed of communication. Council decided to hold the April Council meeting, AGM and Annual Parish meeting jointly on 21st May and a letter requesting emails and details of these meetings could be sent out, costing around £60.

2. Graham had at last received the new lease which had been signed and returned. Unfortunately there is an invoice for £2000 plus VAT from the solicitors, the higher than expected amount was due to repeated referrals back to the solicitors, but the Diocese has confirmed that any overdue rent will not need to be paid, which will go some way to offset the solicitor bill. The latest estimate for repairs to the water supplies to the village hall would be around £2000 as well but Council would not now be able to afford this due to the bill for the lease. However most of the cost would be for the manual work ie. bringing new piping into the loft and digging a trench. David Metcalfe volunteered to donate a Sat am to do these works himself, hopefully with help from others. Graham and David to organise.

3. It was agreed that a list of works along the A684 should be produced and sent to Highways but Kevin advised that more response would be forthcoming if individual cases were sent in. Dave L had phoned re stile at Birk Rigg but had no response so far and will email to chase up. Matt had sent in a complaint re the wall near Slack Cottage. David L has had a RTA near Long Holme due to surface water washing the salt off the road causing ice to form, an insurance claim will be started with involvement with SLDC. Longstone Fell carpark has had a minor makeover but was unsatisfactory. This is owned by YDNPA who won't resurface. Clerk will write a letter to Sedbergh Council re the fell and the potholes towards Sedbergh. The £680 was still available and clerk

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will ask local contractor, Oliver Higginbottom, if he would undertake some work. Clerk had received a request for help from Mrs Berry at West Scar House re a blocked culvert and will write to Highways.

4. Clerk had researched standing orders and suggested that they would not be necessary for a small council. It was agreed to put this on hold.

5. Annette has sent a letter re support for local housing conversions. A guide re parish assistance for affordable housing was passed to Annette. YDNPA was softening it's attitude to new builds according to Kevin.

6. No more news re woods at Dandra Garth.

7. Post 16: a report had been sent in by Claire Roper and would be circulated by Annette after scanning.

8. No further news of Vodafone 3G.

9. FG broadband. No reps were present but Annette reported that digging was to start soon from Sedbergh and Garsdale Station and FG were looking for local contractors with mini diggers. Network Rails involvement was being questioned by the Rail Regulation office, which meant FG had secured an alternative backhaul solution and had to adjust it's digging plans. The Network Rail option may become available again but not until after the election.

7. Public/open session

Council had been notified that private water supplies were to be risk assessed at a cost of up to £500 per property. This was deemed unnecessary, intrusive and far too expensive. If the assessment condemned a supply, would the property have to be vacated? Why was the charge put upon residents as there was no possibility of using a utility company? Why assess a system that had worked for centuries without anyone dying? The village hall would not be able to afford £500. It was agreed that a local could be recruited to attend the appropriate course at a cost of £65 and conduct assessments at a more reasonable cost. Clerk would write to SLDC.

Pauline reported on the latest from the medical centre. Flu clinics had been well attended, a blood pressure monitor has been purchased and is available to use in the waiting area, a conference call system had been cancelled, there was a survey being conducted, competition with retail pharmacies was becoming more acute and advertising in Lookaround will begin, the community messaging service is ongoing, Sedbergh 1st Responders were still having difficulties setting up, Rosemary Marsden had attended a conference for People in Control with the aim of improving practices, 3 hospitals were in special measures, Emergency Admission Avoidance scheme was causing a lot of work the GP's, impacting on their time.

8. Financial matters

1. A payment of £206.73 had been made to David L for work around the hall and a cheque was issued for £2400 for the solicitors' fee for the lease.

2. The balance stands at £3970.92 (before the solicitor fee and clerk expenses)

3. Clerk expenses of £122.42 were agreed and a cheque issued

4. The precept had been submitted for £2000 but council would have to increase this in subsequent years to recoup the amount of money spent on solicitors fees

9. Correspondence

1. A survey from SLDC re clean streets was completed

2. A letter from YDNPA was received suggesting a new forum for liaison with parish councils which council agreed to support

3. A letter from Living Lune Partnership requested support in it's aim to remove Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed. This was agreed and clerk to write asking how council could help

4. Annette agreed to attend the next LAP meeting

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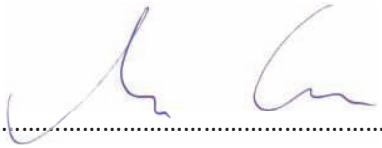
10. Councillor matters

NTR

Date of next meeting(s)

It was decided to move the next meeting to 21 May in order to include both the annual Parish Meeting which would not be well attended during lambing time in April, and the Parish Council AGM which should be held before the end of May.

Subsequently moved to Tuesday 19 May to allow all councillors to attend

Chairman.....

Date.....*19/5/2015*