

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 19th November 2015 at Garsdale Village Hall at 7.30pm

1. Present:

Councillors Annette Colton, Graham Lant, Thomas Todd, David Metcalfe, David Labatte, Bill Mawdsley, Neville Woodfine, DC Kevin Lancaster

Apologies from:

Phil Johns (clerk to the PC), CC Nick Cotton, DC Mel Mackie

1. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

2. Minutes

Minutes of the September 17th Council Meeting were signed.

3. County Councillor and District Councillors' report

Kevin Lancaster described in detail the fiasco of the adjusted bin collection which resulted in a further adjustment. Kevin felt that the portfolio holder Sue Sanderson had been given such a hard time for the bins, which were mostly due to her predecessor, that he was not keen to make even more trouble for her just now about the water risk assessments. There had been no progress made in either the post16 transport or the private water risk assessment.

5. Progress reports

1. Clerk absent.

2. The village Hall water has been passed as safe although the SLDC has not passed it for taste and smell. However, this is likely to gradually improve further as sediment clears from the pipes, and the final improvements to the systems are carried out. The taste and smell is much improved over what it was, and can be used for coffee/tea and washing without any problems.

3. Cllrs Dave Metcalfe and Dave Labatte had met with DC Mel Mackie and DC Kevin Lancaster, and inspected a selection of the worst potholes and other problems with the A684 through Garsdale. Both district councillors agreed that the state of the road is completely unacceptable, and will help point this out to Cumbria Highways dept. No news on the lengthsman scheme.

4. School bus: As per Kevin's report, no progress had been made towards a satisfactory solution.

5. John Colton then reported that latest news on Fibre GarDen project, from the AGM held Tuesday 17/11. The deadline for using government grant has now passed, and the commercial build partners ITS have apologised for their failings in writing. The share holders decided to not pursue an offer from ITS. They then decided to attempt to recover funds from ITS and to investigate other options, primarily BT and the B4RN community broadband project which is now a proven model and rapidly heading towards us through Casterton/Middleton.

6. Water Risk Assessments: A FOI request had been sent to SLDC. Following the reply to this, a letter has been sent as agreed at last meeting, suggesting that people who can be considered competent according to SLDC criteria for their contractors' staff, should be able to do their own risk assessments, using the same national template as Tobin's. Copies of the letters are to be sent to Sue Sanderson, as it appears she has not been kept informed by the SLDC officers.

7. David Metcalfe had not yet written regarding bikers. He will now leave this until spring, when the bikers turn up again, no point in the police turning up in winter when there are no bikes to catch..

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6. Public/open session

1. Salt bin on road from Longstone Fell to Danny Bridge were to be replaced.

7. Updates from Community Groups

1. No further reports.

8. Financial matters

1. Payments of 2 months' clerk salary, clerk expenses of £220.78, the donation of £228 to Garsdale First Responders for a kit bag and council insurance for £159.00 had been made.
2. The balance stands at £2889.73 inc. £900 refund of lease fees.
3. Clerk (via report) had still not been able to recoup the VAT owing despite a considerable number of attempts to contact HMRC with no luck.

9. Correspondence

1. Moorcock Railway Bridge: planning had been approved.
2. No further correspondence

10. Councillor matters.

1. The precept was agreed to be held at £2000 and it was suggested that CALC were contacted regarding the VAT.

Date of next meeting(s)

Thursday 21st January 2016.

Chairman.....

Date.....21/1/2016.....