

Garsdale Parish Council

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

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 21st January 2016 at Garsdale Village Hall at 7.30pm

1. Present:

Councillors Annette Colton, Thomas Todd, David Labatte, Bill Mawdsley, DC Mel Mackie, Phil Johns (clerk). John Colton (FG) and David Ryall (FG/B4RN)

Apologies from:

CC Nick Cotton, DC Kevin Lancaster, Neville Woodfine, Graham Lant and David Metcalfe

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the November 19th Council Meeting were signed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors' report

Mel Mackie had written and submitted a report about the perilous state of the A684 but had had only a verbal acknowledgement and so far no action had been taken. Mel felt that the flood situation had given CCC an excuse to ignore all entreaties, but will continue to write and apply pressure. There had been no progress made in either the post16 transport or the private water risk assessment.

5. Progress reports

1. Clerk ntr.

2. The village Hall water still had a smell of sulphur at times and there were a few tasks outstanding but the bad weather had precluded further work.

3. No news on the lengthsman scheme but Mel said that the money was still available. Dave Labatte indicated that he would be willing to remove tree growth as long as he could keep the wood to sell on and chip the saplings although he was still not keen on signing up to all the red tape. Two large new potholes had been infilled after the flood damage to the A684 but there were many more that needed doing and no work had been instigated on the verge subsidence. Dave L had reinstated the temporary fences on numerous occasions. Dave L also expressed concern over the cars poorly parked on The Street and felt that an accident was waiting to happen. It was decided to write to the owners to ask them to park further or make provision for off road parking.

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

5. John Colton outlined the legal situation regarding FibreGarden who were effectively still under contract with ITS until all legal matters were settled. FG, as Digital Dales, were pursuing ITS for not fulfilling the contract and are requesting return of funds plus compensation. The shareholders would then be asked if they wished to have their money refunded or to continue to support a new project with B4RN. All indications were that the community led project with B4RN was progressing swiftly and successfully and were connecting new residents daily, passing a total of 1,500. Landowners would get shares for both the wayleaves and for digging in the cable themselves. Shares had to be kept for 3 years, after which a 5% dividend would be paid. Connection to Garsdale would likely be a route from Casterton via Barbon and Dent to Sedbergh and into Garsdale. B4RN provides an option; unlimited use, 1 Gb/s, speed for £30/month. This is 1000 times faster than BT can provide to most of Garsdale, and 40 times faster than BT's definition of superfast broadband at 24 Mb/s. B4RN are doing a presentation to Dent PC early February and are willing to replicate with Garsdale although Dave felt that it would be prudent to contact the landowners first to put forward the case for B4RN.

Clerk to the parish council: Phil Johns
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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6. Water Risk Assessments: Annette was mightily miffed that she had not received a reply to correspondence to Sean Hall of SLDC and would be sending in a complaint.
7. Bikers ntr.

6. Public/open session

1. The salt bin on the road from Longstone Fell to Danny Bridge had not been replaced yet but was 'progressing' and although this was Dent PC territory it was Garsdale residents that were affected. Brenda Koo had written to the clerk about the appalling state of the back road and council agreed to write to SLDC.

7. Updates from Community Groups

1. No further reports.

8. Financial matters

1. Payments of 2 months' clerk salary.
2. The balance stands at £2648.07.
3. Clerk had still not been able to recoup the VAT owing despite being in contact again with the HMRC helpdesk and been given 2 new telephone numbers but both of which were constantly engaged. Clerk felt that if he was unable to speak to someone from HMRC soon then a formal approach to the ombudsman should be made.
4. The precept form was signed.
5. Council agreed unanimously to continue with our own appointed auditor and to opt out of the nationally appointed scheme.
6. Agreement on the transparency fund was postponed until next meeting.

9. Correspondence

1. Slack Cottage, no approval necessary.
2. Low Scale, no objections.
3. It appeared that the appeal by West Coat Weggs had been unsuccessful.

10. Councillor matters.

1. Annette would like to propose that Thomas be nominated for the Queen's Garden Party.

Date of next meeting(s)

Thursday 10th March 2016.

AGM, Parish Meeting and Council meeting on 12th May 2016.

Chairman.....

Date.....10/3/2016.....

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

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