

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 26th May 2016 at Garsdale Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillors Annette Colton, Graham Lant, David Metcalfe, David Labbate, Neville Woodfine, Thomas Todd, Bill Mawdsley, CCC Nick Cotton and **Clerk** Philip Johns.

1. Apologies

Kevin Lancaster and Mel Mackie.

2. Declarations of Interest

Annette declared an interest in the Badger Dub planning application and David Labbate for the Lengthman's scheme.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the March 10th Council Meeting were signed.

4. County Councillor and District Councillors' report

Nick Cotton reported that most of the problems with CCC Highways was a lack of funds and extra work repairing flood damage. However, 3 sections of the A684 and the road through Sedbergh had been resurfaced. CCC must look at ways to prevent further floods and not to just clear drains even though Sedbergh and Garsdale had not been too badly affected. David M enquired why the retaining walls along the riverside were not being maintained as this represented a danger to the public. He himself had unblocked several drains, David L had removed self-seeded trees along the A684 but had had no satisfactory response from Better Highways and wanted to know what help Nick could give. A lot of money had been spent in Kendal and Sedbergh but little in Garsdale. Also Grisedale was in a very poor state and some delivery companies refused to go there. The Coal Road was also in urgent need of repair. Nick promised to report back. Annette also questioned Nick as to why he voted against reinstatement of 16 to 18 school transport at a recent budget meeting, meaning that 17 and 18 year olds, in the most vulnerable car accident risk group, were still having to drive to colleges, which also clogged up the parking there. Nick replied that central government had withdrawn the funding and perhaps we could look at grants from charities to provide a taxi or people carrier such as in Dent. When asked Annette reported that there were only 3 to 5 children involved and the cost of a single taxi a day was not beyond the scope of CCC's budget. David M added that it wasn't likely to increase in numbers as people didn't want to move to Garsdale because of the state of the road and when his daughter reached that age, he faced a 44 mile round trip to get her to college.

5. Progress reports

1. Clerk reported that new information had been received about the decision to opt out of external auditing. The decision was reconsidered and council agreed to opt back in, clerk would inform the audit commission. The annual accounts and report had been audited and passed by Lindsay Sedgley and will be submitted to BDO. The report and governance statement were approved by council. Clerk asked that the risk assessment to be approved and council agreed unanimously.

2. Annette was still waiting for some costings to start the application for the SDF grant. Neville was to provide these in the next few days.

3. David L had used up the funds in the Lengthman's scheme and Nick would provide clerk with details of how to claim the funds. The scheme will now be terminated so there is no further funds available. On the

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positive side, parking on the A684 had stopped, and David M noted that it was actually illegal to park overnight without lights on an A-road.

4. As item 4.

5. Richard, who had recently completed a move to Garsdale, was helping with B4RN. 17 wayleaves had been secured in Dent and should have cable in by September and maybe sooner. Garsdale need to make a start. David M opinioned that residents in Garsdale may be reluctant to take on B4RN due to the problems with FG.

6. Annette had sent another letter to Sean Hall asking for agreement to allow residents to complete their own risk assessments if appropriate, but had not received a reply as yet.

7. The police had responded to the request for more police presence and were out and about last weekend.

8. Council agreed to appoint Lindsay Sedgley as internal auditor.

6. Public/open session

Tom Metcalfe asked if council would support him if he proceeded to rebuild The Castle without planning permission. He reported that not many of the planning officers had read council's letter of support as "we were all his friends". Tom was advised to engage an architect, put plans in and let it go to the planning committee. If the plans were acceptable to council, council would support him. Council would also send in another letter of support, stating that council would like to see more permanently occupied properties and less holiday lets or second homes.

7. Updates from Community Groups

No further reports.

8. Financial matters

1. Payments of 2 months' clerk salary, clerk expenses of £42.40 and £37.49, Calc £106.

2. The balance stands at £4140.78.

3. Clerk had at last made some progress with VAT and has had a conversation with HMRC and an application for £632.17 had been submitted.

4. Clerk had talked to Calc and although council had missed last year's funding, we could still apply for this year.

5. As item 5.2

6. Annette suggested tabling a proposal for the next meeting after talking to David Pilgrim about volunteer fund raising.

9. Correspondence

1. Badger Dub Cottage had been approved with the proviso of the chimney not being removed.

2. Clerk had received a phone call from Mr Metcalfe at Braithwaite's Coaches requesting assistance from council to persuade Mr and Mrs Woods to trim the hedge at Long Holme. Council agreed to send a letter.

3. Clerk had also had an invitation to receive minutes from the Upper Dales Health Watch as some Garsdale residents were registered at Hawes. Council agreed to clerk inviting to be put on their email list.

10. Councillor matters.

Thomas asked if Nick could ask CC Highways to sort out a blocked cattle grid at Danny Bridge on the Back Lane.

Date of next meeting(s)

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Garsdale Parish Council

Thursday 21st July 2016.

Chairman.....

Date.....

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

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