

Garsdale Parish Council

Email: garsdaleparishcouncil@outlook.com

Website: garsdaleparishcouncil.com

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 4th December 2014

Present:

Councillors Annette Colton, Thomas Todd, David Labbate, Graham Lant, **Clerk** Philip Johns, **DC** Evelyn Westwood, David Bracken, Julia Watts (BT), Carole Nelson W/W), John Colton (FG), David Metcalfe and Matt Gibson.

1. Apologies

Kevin Lancaster. Nick Cotton and Bill Mawdsley

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared

3. Minutes

Minutes of the October 16th Council Meeting and the November 19th Extraordinary Meeting were signed. The minutes from August 14th Meeting were held over as Council could not agree with the item 7 and Annette offered to redraft section 7 which would be circulated for Councillors' perusal.

4. Fibre Optic Broadband

Julia Watts from BT told Council that there was no animosity with Fibre Garden but FG would have to continue with no further work from BT. If FG were unable to finish then BT would 'love' to carry out the works, but would require additional funding. If opting for a Fell End style solution, work could progress quickly as all wayleaves were in place.

BT will connect all properties in Garsdale with at least 2 Mb/s. This may however be by satellite. Julia recognised that fibre would be preferable, but this would require additional funding. Time to apply for funds were short as Phase 2 was about to start.

If Dent is descoped, the FTTC cabinet in the village centre will not be activated, and the money saved on this would be spent elsewhere.

5. Progress reports

1. Clerk as per previously circulated reports.
2. Village Hall. Graham had been in contact with Carlisle Diocese and was waiting for the provisional lease to be sent to him. This can then be signed by the clerk and returned. However, as there had been so many amendments requested, there may be a bill from the solicitors for possibly £2,000. Regarding the water, 'Darren The Waterman' was coming next week for assessment but expects a quote of hundreds rather than thousands.
3. Highways. Clerk had received a list from DL as requested and passed to Better Highways and Peter Hosking at Highways but no response had been received. David Metcalfe had a list of 18 issues, some serious. Clerk asked if he could write a detailed list with photos and grid references and then Phil would write to Highways and repeat until a response was produced. A complaint from Paul Wilkinson had been received about a stile at Birk Rigg being too narrow. David Labbate will write to YDNPA. DM also asked if Council would write to CCC/YDNPA regarding the poor state of the wall near the station. Thomas thought that this was private property but would find out who owned the land.
4. Standing orders. Clerk will report at the next meeting.

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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5. Annette would write to Planning regarding their insistence that developing properties should be just holiday lets as fulltime residents would be preferable.
6. As per reports. Annette had sent the agreed response to Tilhill.
7. Evelyn reported that several meetings had taken place in an effort to resolve post 16 transport and hoped a solution should be in place by September 2015 but would only be from Sedbergh. Council thought that Claire Roper was doing an excellent job and were content to leave it in her hands.
8. Annette. Vodafone's rural 3G Open SureSignal programme needed broadband with at least 4 megs so may be possible once FG was live.
9. Matt Gibson, David Metcalfe and Neville have indicated that they would like to be co-opted as councillors but as there were only 2 positions available, an election will take place at the next meeting. All 3 prospects would send in a short 'CV' detailing their qualities and aspirations for Council before the next meeting.

6. Public Participation

John Colton reported that FG was progressing and had a meeting with John Marsh from Connecting Cumbria on Monday to see if they could start to build the network. A letter from Council was required to allow the cabinet to be located in the village hall. FG to provide suggested wording.

Annette suggested that a newsletter was produced to go out when Bill & Annette delivers the scout post before Christmas. Email addresses could be invited to produce a data base for parishioners who would like to be kept up to date with Council matters. The website already had a subscription page with an unsubscribe button. Local groups will be asked to contribute.

A Parish Meeting will be organised, possibly next May.

Carole Nelson thanked Council for their invitation and outlined the aspirations of Walkers are Welcome. It was hoped that Sedbergh would become an official Walkers town. They were keen to involve and not upset local landowners and had the backing of YDNPA. More funding could become available for improvements to footpaths etc. Information on local facilities had been collaborated. New paths were sort after and a recent success was the Pennine Bridleway, originating near The Moor Cock now on OS maps. New committee members were welcome. A letter of support was requested which clerk was to provide. Social events will be organised.

David Metcalfe suggested that Council should meet monthly.

7. CC and DC Reports

As 6.

8. Applications for Developments

Low Scale had put in a full application for holiday accommodation and Council voted that a letter of approval should be sent to planning.

A letter of support had been sent to Tom Metcalfe regarding The Castle.

9. Finance

A cheque for £36 was signed for BDO

The account was the same at £4272.65

Council decided that the maximum they could add to the precept was £200 to pay for the clerk's salary and expenses, providing a salary of £850 per annum. Phil commented that he was presently undertaking 8 hours a week on Council matters and that £850 p.a. would only pay for less than 2 hours per week. The precept was agreed on £2000.

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10. Correspondence

No correspondence had been received apart from the usual forwarded emails.

11. Councillor Matters.

No other issues were raised

12. Community Groups.

First Responders had been set up. Council has agreed to support the group with a payment but were unsure of the amount. To be paid once the NWAS has supplied equipment.

Garsdale now had its' own squirrel group but there were reports of grey sightings.

Date of next Meeting

Thursday 19th February

9/2/2015

