

GARSDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th May 2011 at 7.30 pm at Garsdale Village Hall.

Present: Michael Roper (Chairman)
Caroline Cattermole
Pauline Fozzard
David Labatte
Tony Roberts,
Pat Thynne,
Thomas Todd.

In attendance: Karen Dakin (for part meeting)

Apologies for absence: Kate Metcalfe

A minutes silence was observed for Elizabeth whose funeral was yesterday

Pat agreed to take the minutes in Kate's absence

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR and VICE CHAIR

Michael stated that he is keen to relinquish the role of Chair but is willing to continue until a replacement can be found. It was agreed that members needed to actively look for a replacement. Other options were to merge the PC with Sedbergh or Dent (a previous consultation with residents suggested that they were keen to retain the Garsdale identity) or to rotate the chair's role around the members.

Agreed: Michael Roper be elected Chair and Thomas Todd as Vice-Chair.

Kate wants to train to become a full Parish Clerk (which would make the role of Chair less onerous) but currently the training provided is at a time impossible for her to attend.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Copies of the Chair's report were circulated and will be put onto the website. Michael highlighted key issues.

ACTION: Michael

3. REPORT FROM COMMUNITY OFFICER

Karen reported that there had been 9 reported accidents on the A684 between Sedbergh & Garsdale from 2008 to date, 2 involving HGVs.

Speeding: covert devices had been in use on the A684 30mph limit around The

Street over the last 2 months but the average speed had been below the relevant limit. She has spoken to Roger Mallet, the Traffic Management Officer about a Community Speed Limit Scheme: it requires a minimum of 6 volunteers willing to do 1 hour per week, working in pairs. Cost would be approx £300 for signs ('Community Speed Watch') and reflective jackets. If we can attract the volunteers, Roger would come and talk to us.
Operation Bike Safe has something happening most weekends currently.

Michael thanked Karen for attending the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24th March 2011 were signed and approved as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

PAYE scheme: Tony advised that because the PC pays so little, we are below the threshold and need only address the issue at the end of the financial year. Michael will e-mail auditors BDO to check they are happy with this approach.

ACTION: Michael

Agreed: that minutes of PC meetings be circulated as soon as drafted rather than wait for the agenda to the next meeting.

ACTION: Kate/Michael

6. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of the public present

7. FINANCES

A copy of the Annual accounts was circulated and will be put on the web site.

ACTION: Michael

Michael highlighted key issues from the Accounts:

We are carrying over more this year as we did not give the Village Hall anything last year (normally give £200).

Forecast: Precept will increase to £857 and we have a grant of £200 from Sedbergh Community Office to re-connect the septic tank to the Village Hall. We need to consider what projects we want for next year:

Water Supply to the Village Hall have very little pressure due to the current system for extracting hydrogen sulphide from the borehole water. Replacing this with an ozone system would improve pressure. We would need to attract funding from somewhere and match this. Estimated cost £1,000.

Agreed

❖ Priority for projects for the coming year:

1. Septic tank

2. Soffits on Village Hall
 3. Ozone system on bore hole
- ❖ To accept estimate from David Metcalfe to connect the septic tank. Michael will e-mail the solicitor for the landlord (Bradford Diocese) to inform him.
ACTION: Michael
 - ❖ To increase payment to Kate Metcalfe to £800 per annum
 - ❖ To accept increased quotation for insurance and not to seek cheaper quotes from elsewhere.
 - ❖ Accounts were accepted

9. **BROADBAND – Fibre GarDen**

Tony reported that there was lots activity.

The Steering Group has now become Fibre GarDen Ltd. and is currently seeking advice on amending the Memorandum & Articles to ensure fitness for purpose. The next step will be to register as a Community Interest Company which will ensure that the assets and any profit will be locked for the benefit of the community. Tony is the Secretary and is doing the financial planning for Fibre GarDen and thinks that in 2-3 years there will be a surplus which will benefit each of the communities. It is possible that Fibre GarDen may apply for charitable status eventually which would give them access to funding but mean that VAT could not be reclaimed.

Overall funding for the programme is still not settled. The pilot project (which includes us) will be funded by DEFRA but the overall funding will come from Broadband Delivery UK, part of DCMS and they are still considering how this should be allocated. Cumbria County Council is proposing an approach that would divert funding to providing fibre optic cable to every phone junction box in the County which would not help remote households and communities. More positively, there is also a possibility of raising revenue from mobile phone operators by allowing them to route their service via the fibre optic cable.

The first formal Board Meeting is due shortly. Each PC has 2 places on the Board. Tony has one and Garsdale needs to identify who else should be asked to represent us. Preferably this should be someone with understanding (and credibility) with the farming community in the Dale to both demonstrate community involvement and assist with negotiations.

Agreed: to nominate David Labatte

Agreed: PC would write a letter to Fibre GarDen confirming its support for the project.
ACTION: Michael

10. NEWSLETTER

Tony expressed disappointment at the items coming forward for inclusion.

Agreed:

- ❖ Pat will act as editor for the first edition
- ❖ Long documents will go on the web site and will be summarised for the newsletter **ACTION: Michael**
- ❖ Copy date will be Friday 20th May **ACTION: Pat**

11. HIGHWAYS

Letter to Cumbria County Council re timber lorries was excellent. The next step would be a meeting between Cumbria Highways and the Timber Hauliers Forum. We do not know the date of this meeting. It was CCC decision on routes and they had promised to prioritise agreed routes.

Agreed: Michael will copy letter to YDNP

ACTION: Michael

12. VILLAGE HALL

Maintenance issues discussed above

They have their AGM next week. It has been running without a chair for the last year and this needs to be addressed.

Agreed: Put a notice in the Newsletter seeking more members for the Committee

ACTION: Pat

13. PENNINE JOURNEY

Wainright Society has written asking to way mark the route along the top of Bough Fell to mark Wainright's walk from Settle to Cautley.

Agreed: Michael would write and agree.

ACTION: Michael

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Health Centre

Pauline reported on recent meeting she attended. Building work is 2 days behind schedule and is due to complete on 20th January 2012.

Funding: YDNP planning consent required increase in size of the GP practice which means there is a shortfall of £60-90,000 in revenue funding. Current income projections are:

£90K from PCT

£15K from room rental (guaranteed by PCT)

£25K from Sedbergh School

£20-30K from PCT

The GP practice is considering setting up a Friends of the Health Centre to

fundraise.

Bottom line is that the shortfall would come out of the GP's salaries.

Back Lane

Work should have finished by the 9th May but is nowhere near complete.

Agreed: Michael will chase them

ACTION: Michael

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 7th July 2011.