

RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th APRIL 2024

Present

Cllr A Ayres (Chair)
Cllr A Pledge
Cllr C Robinson

4 Members of the Parish

Cllr Ayres welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced RPC's new member Cllr Pledge.

1. To receive and note **apologies for absence**

Cllr Hird sent her apologies.

2. To receive 'Declarations of Interest**' in items on the agenda**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. To approve the **minutes of the meeting held on the: 6th Feb 2024**

Prior to today the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th February 2024 had been reviewed and approved by all the councillors attending.

4. **Matters Arising/Open Forum**

The promised NYC road painting team has yet to arrive.

After much time spent by Cllr Ayres, the police have passed on information regarding an incident, where a resident fell late at night in Mill Close and was not discovered until the early hours of the morning, to NYC street lighting. It is hoped that this will persuade them to illuminate the road throughout the night. The faulty streetlight no 8, opposite Sunset Cottage, remains unrepaired despite the problem being reported. RPC Clerk will lodge a further request for repair.

The chair noted that there had been a leaflet distributed throughout the village, regarding the Gayles Quarry Application, rightly encouraging residents to object to the proposal and drawing attention to the comment deadline of 31st March 2024. This deadline has been changed on numerous occasions and the NYC planning site is full of comments generally objecting to the re-opening. The applicant Stainton Quarry Ltd. appears to be simply seeking to postpone the decision being made in hope of a favourable result.

Since the welcome decision on 7th March to go ahead with the A66 improvement scheme, RPC had been informed that an area has been acquired near Mainsgill to store the equipment and machinery required for the enterprise and that work on the project is set to start in September.

A number of concerns were raised at and before the meeting regarding the Wetheriggs operation i.e. open storage of animal food and its potential to attract rats, hazardous

parking of vehicles on the roadside, the erection of numerous buildings without any permission and the lack of fencing on the boundary of the field with the beck. RPC agreed to contact Environmental Health for advice.

Anxieties over vehicles speeding on the highway and the track were once again expressed. Amongst numerous comments, it was suggested that signage be obtained e.g. 20's plenty and displayed on the highway. Cllr Ayres awaits a meeting with NYC Cllr Angus Thompson on this matter particularly regarding the school.

6. Finance & Payments

Since the last meeting payments have been made for 2023 grass cutting £1620 to NYC, RPC's insurance policy with Zurich Municipal which also covers the Village Hall, defibrillator costs £267 and Open Spaces Society membership £45. As of 1/3/2024 the account is £7324.35 in credit with vat £861.50 to reclaim.

7. Planning Applications & Updates

The planning applications by Holme Beck Barns to create a site for 5 holiday cabins on land near Holme Beck and erect a new agricultural building to store vehicles & equipment were outlined by the applicant.

8. Village Hall

Cllr Robinson informed the meeting that curtains were now in place to help with insulation and acoustics. The two remaining ambitions are the construction of a disability access in situ and the improvement of the area surrounding the hall.

There was an increasing number of bookings for the hall and much praise for the amenity. It has been hired for the whole day on 2 May as a Polling Station for the Mayoral Election.

The next soup, sweet and hot drink lunchtime event will be held at 12.30pm 18th April.

9. Village Green

There was no progress to report regarding the proposals, items 9.1 and 9.2, made at the last meeting.

Grass cutting has been delayed this year mainly by the bad weather but also significant changes in the NYC team and its organization. While the cutting will take place on a two-week cycle, the timing may vary. The first cut of the year started on Thursday 4 April and was completed the next day. The Ravensworth grass cutting contract for the 2024 season has been agreed at £1707 inc vat.

10. Any other Business

Cllr Robinson asked if the PC would pay for plants for the tubs on The Green. This was agreed assuming costs were approximately £50.

An enquiry was made about the progress made with drafting a previously proposed welcome letter for new residents which would include information and guidance about the village.

The Meeting of the PC covering the approval of the Annual Governance and Accounts Return, and the Annual Parish Meeting are due to be held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 7pm.

The Meeting Closed at 19.47

