

**BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2024**

A Parish Council meeting was held in the Village Hall, West Burton on Tuesday, 3 September 2024

Present: Miss Jane Ritchie, Mr Andrew Landau, Mrs Sally Sahin, Mr David Dent and Mrs Victoria Whitehead, Councillors, Mrs Susan Ryding, Clerk and Mr Richard Nolan, Assistant Clerk

Also present: County Councillor Yvonne Peacock and Mr Neil Smeeton

1. Apologies

There were no apologies, all the members being present.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Andrew Landau declared a pecuniary interest in Items 10 and 11.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 July 2024, having been circulated to all Members, were confirmed as a true copy, and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported on the following matters:

- Wall at Low Wood, West Burton
- Parish Caretaker's hourly rate
- Parish archive
- Council finances

5. Report on Health and Social Care Issues

Councillors considered further a response to the report produced by Councillor Denise Houghton of Redmire Parish Council on Health and Social Care Issues and Concerns in Wensleydale. In particular, Councillors discussed whether the report was likely to be distributed any further than it has been already. Also, the Chairman reported that a meeting of the Upper Dales Health Watch was imminent at which the report was probably going to be discussed.

RESOLVED: That the Council should await the outcome of UDHW meeting and that this matter should be brought back to the next Council meeting

6. Water pollution

Mr Neil Smeeton reported on the activities of the newly formed Stop Ure Pollution Group, including the recent water sampling that had taken place at various points around the Parish where the different Becks flowed into the River Ure. He confirmed that the results showed a continuing problem with discharges from the West Burton sewage treatment plant and agricultural discharges. Councillors considered this report and the response that had now been received from Yorkshire Water. Mr Smeeton was thanked for his report and for the work he was undertaking with the Stop Ure Pollution Group.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should write again to Yorkshire Water to ask specifically whether it would be possible to upgrade the West Burton sewage treatment plant

7. Review of emergency procedures

Mr Neil Smeeton and Councillor David Dent, in their capacity as members of the Emergency Group reported on how effective the emergency procedures had been during the recent almost 12-hour power cut. They reported that the generator at the Village Hall had worked very well, providing sufficient power to enable about 20 people to receive assistance with hot drinks, mobile phone re-charging and lighting. The generator had run for about 6 hours before it had needed refuelling.

Another aspect that had worked well was the village WhatsApp group which was able to disseminate information on the duration of the outage and the availability of assistance in the Village Hall. Mr Smeeton was thanked for all his efforts during the emergency, as was Councillor David Dent and Mr Mark Stanley who, in addition to helping Mr Smeeton, had dealt very promptly with fallen branches that had blocked the Front Nook.

RESOLVED: That ways to provide additional fuel for the generator should be considered

8. Streetlights

The Assistant Clerk reported on the meeting outside The Bield with Mr Ian Dawson of North Yorkshire Council that had been held on 17 July. Councillors David Dent and Andrew Landau, Mr Aaron Davis the Clerk, and the Assistant Clerk had also attended. Various options for renewing the light outside The Bield had been considered. After examining the site and the availability of electric power, Mr Dawson's recommended option was for an LED powered light fixed to the property, rather than a light on a pole. Mr Dawson also reported that all the lights in the village were now powered by LED bulbs, except for four lights that were fixed to properties. The location of these lights was passed to the Clerk and she was asked if she would get in touch with the owners of the properties to confirm that they would be willing for LED lights to be installed. She confirmed that one owner had already given consent. The Assistant Clerk also reported to the Council on the legal situation regarding the requirement for a property owner's consent for a fixed light.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk would consult with the owner of The Bield to ask if the proposed option of a fixed light was acceptable, and that the Clerk would also continue trying to contact the owners of the three remaining properties with fixed lights

9. Rental charges

Councillors considered the rental charges for the three areas of Common Land owned by the Council, Hudson Quarry, Morpeth Scarr and Stoney Wood. The Clerk confirmed that the review of the rental charges for Stoney Wood was not due until 2029.

RESOLVED: That the rent for Hudson Quarry and Morpeth Scarr should remain at £5.00 per annum

10. Arrangements for Bonfire Night

The Clerk confirmed that Mr Peter Wheeler had kindly agreed to organise the Bonfire Night again. She also tabled the bank statement which showed that there was £1,074.71 left in the account for this year's fireworks. Mr Wheeler has been informed and will organise the purchase of the firework accordingly. The date for the event was agreed as Saturday, 2 November. Councillor Andrew Landau, of the Fox and Hounds Inn, confirmed that he would once again be holding the fundraising Boozy Bingo event on Friday, 1 November, and that the usual barbeque would be available on the night of the Bonfire.

RESOLVED: That an up-to-date Risk Assessment should be brought forward at the next meeting and that the turf should be lifted for the site of the bonfire on the weekend before 2 November

11. Arrangements for Christmas

The Chairman reported that it had been agreed at the last Fundraising Group meeting that a Community Bring-and-Share Tea would be held on Sunday, 8 December, followed by the switch-on of the lights. Councillors considered other arrangements, and it was agreed that the traditional mulled wine and mince pies at the Fox and Hounds Inn could follow the switch-on of the lights. Councillor David Dent kindly agreed to put up the tree and decorate it in time for the event on 8 December.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should order the tree, and ask the owner of the Black Bull if they would be willing again to allow their electricity to be used to light the tree

12. Accessible Transport Group

Councillors considered a letter from the Accessible Transport Group which campaigns for wheelchair accessible taxis and buses. The Group asked if the Council's contact details could be provided to them so that they could let the Council know of their progress.

RESOLVED: That the Council is happy to provide these details once the new Council email has been set up.

13. Parish Newsletter

Various items for the Newsletter were discussed.

RESOLVED: That these items should be included in the Newsletter which should be ready for publication in the week beginning 9 September.

14. Invoices

The following cheque in payment for an invoice was signed

- Parish Caretaker - £551.70 (VAT £13.20)

15. Notice of meetings and reports of meeting attended

Councillors noted the dates of future meetings and reports of meetings attended. It was noted, and confirmed by County Councillor Yvonne Peacock, that, following the on-line briefing by the Boundary Commission, existing Parish boundaries will not be affected.

16. Items for the next agenda

RESOLVED: That in addition to any matters mentioned above, the following items should be brought forward:

- Land by Flanders Hall

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Date of the next meeting, **Tuesday, 1 October 2024 at 8.00 pm** in the Village Hall.

Chairman: *Jane O Ritchie*

Date: 1 October 2024