

BURTON-CUM-WALDEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2024

A Parish Council meeting was held in the Village Hall, West Burton on Tuesday, 1 October 2024

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received, and the reason accepted, from Councillor Sally Sahin.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 September 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:

- Correspondence with Yorkshire Water
- Arrangements for Christmas
- Welcome packs
- Council finances

The Clerk also reported that the second payment of the Precept, £3,300.00, had been paid into the Council's bank account on 30 September 2024.

5. Report on Health and Social Care Issues

Councillors considered a draft response from the Parish Council to the report on Health and Social Care in Wensleydale, produced by Councillor Denise Houghton of Redmire Parish Council. The draft response had been circulated before the meeting. Relating to this matter, the Clerk reported on a telephone conversation she had had with the Chairman of the Richmondshire Branch of the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA), Councillor Ian Threlfall. She conveyed to the Council the request by Councillor Threlfall that this matter should be on the agenda for the next meeting of the Richmondshire Branch which is to be held on Thursday, 24 October, in West Burton Village Hall.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should arrange with YLCA for this matter to be put on the agenda for the next YLCA Richmondshire Branch meeting, that the draft response to Councillor Houghton's report is agreed, and that it should be forwarded to YLCA for circulation

6. Emergency procedures

Councillor Dent reported that during the recent power cut, the generator had used approximately 25 litres of fuel, at a rate of about 12 litres every 6 hours. This had comfortably provided light and heating and use of the electric oven in the Village Hall during the outage. Sockets had also been used for electric kettles and re-charging mobile phones. In the light of this information, Councillors considered ways that the generator petrol should be provided and stored. The Chairman also tabled a form that people could use to register with Northern Powergrid as a priority in case of future power cuts.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dent has kindly agreed to take on responsibility for storing the petrol for the generator, monitoring the petrol still in the generator, and acquiring extra petrol cans, and that the link for the form for people to become a priority case should be forwarded to the organisers of the Parish WhatsApp and Facebook groups, and included in the January edition of the newsletter.

7. Streetlights

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the owners of the four properties with older streetlights fixed to their houses, and that they had all consented to having a new LED light. This had been passed on to Mr Ian Dawson of North Yorkshire Council. The owner of The Bield had also agreed that an LED light could be fixed to their property to replace the one removed from their garden. Councillor Dent reported that the streetlight near his property, number 11, had been reported to North Yorkshire County and that he had received confirmation that it would be replaced by an LED light as soon as possible. Councillors considered the possibility of replacing the light that had been removed from Peel House, Front Nook, some years ago, with a solar powered light.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should contact Mr Ian Dawson to ask him for more information on the feasibility of a solar light on the Front Nook

8. Half-yearly financial report

Councillors considered the half-yearly budget summary, a bank reconciliation (both circulated before the meeting), internal control report and a verbal report from the Responsible Financial Officer.

RESOLVED: That these documents and reports are accepted and approved

9. Precept

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from North Yorkshire Council to set the Precept for the 2025/26 financial year. Councillors discussed the possibility of raising the Precept as it had not been raised for ten years.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should investigate whether there was any limit on how much the Precept could be raised, and that this matter should be brought back to the next meeting

10. New motor mower

The Clerk reported that the motor mower was reaching the end of its life and was costing a considerable amount in repairs. The Council considered ways of providing a replacement, including investigating any available grants, and fund-raising.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should look for funding opportunities for a new motor mower, and should consult with Simon Winstanley Ltd on the following and report back to the Council at the next meeting:

- Whether the mower could be kept going for another year and the likely costs this would incur
- If it would be possible to lease a mower for the grass cutting season, and what the cost of this would be

11. Consultation request number 7 on YDNPA Local Plan

Councillors considered the seventh request from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority draft Local Plan, involving the list of preferred sites for future house building. The details of this consultation had been circulated to Councillors before the meeting, and they noted that West Burton is not included on the list of preferred sites.

RESOLVED: That no further action is needed on this request

12. Planning applications

Councillors considered the following planning applications;

- Application R/54/9L for the modification of the Section 106 Agreement on local occupancy to include the whole of North Yorkshire
- **RESOLVED:** That the Council felt that the present definition of 'local' should remain as it is, but noted that Section 106 already allowed, under certain circumstances, the widening of the 'local' area to include the whole of Richmondshire
- Application R/54/7W for a holiday park reception and office and a site-wide lighting plan at Aysgarth Lodge Holidays, Westholme Bank, Aysgarth (retrospective)
- **RESOLVED:** That the Council had already commented on these matters in previous applications and did not wish to add anything further, other than an emphasis on concern about light pollution and the need to maintain the National Park's Dark Skies status. The Clerk was asked to respond on these two applications accordingly.

13. Burton-cum-Walden Fundraising Account

Councillors considered a proposal by the Clerk, as one of the signatories to this account with the Co-Operative Bank, to close the account as it was no longer being used for anything other than the Bonfire Night event. She reported that there was a balance of £74.71 remaining in the account having recently paid £1,000.00 towards the fireworks for Bonfire Night this year on 2 November.

RESOLVED: That the account should stay open for another year while the Council considers the matter further

14. Risk Assessment for Bonfire Night

The Council considered the revised Risk Assessment for the Bonfire Night event.

RESOLVED: That this is accepted and approved and should now be forwarded to Mr Peter Wheeler for his information and implementation

15. Repairs to the Play Area

In view of the concern over the high cost of renewing the safety surface under the swings, and other Council expenditure taking priority, other ways of repairing the surface were considered.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk should investigate the cost of jet washing the surface and filling in the gaps at the edges, caused by shrinkage, such as filling them in with soil and seeding them

16. Land by Flanders Hall

The Chairman reported to the Council that she had been in email correspondence with the owners of Flanders Hall regarding a small area of land near West Burton Bridge, the title to which had been erroneously registered by them some years ago. The Chairman explained that due to various issues, the owner did not feel inclined to give this land back to the Council, as had been previously agreed. She also reported that she had subsequently taken legal advice on this matter, but that this advice had been that without the agreement of the owners, the chances of the land being returned to Parish Council ownership were very slight, and that the cost in legal fees could be considered disproportionate to the size of the land in question.

RESOLVED: That for the moment, there was nothing further that could be done, but that the matter would be borne in mind for the future

17. Invoices

Cheques or online payments were signed or authorised for the following invoices:

- Cheque for petrol for the generator - £69.60 (VAT £11.66)
- Cheque for postage and other expenses - £51.29 (VAT £0.63)
- Online payment to Simon Winstanley for mower repair - £497.87 (VAT £82.98)
- Online payment to J W Alderson – petrol for mower - £62.02 (VAT £10.33)
- Online payment to West Burton Village Hall rental - £16.00

18. Notice of meetings and reports of meeting attended

Councillors noted the dates of future meetings and reports of meetings attended.

19. Items for the next agenda

RESOLVED: That in addition to any matters mentioned above, there were no other items for the next agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05 pm

Date of the next meeting, **Tuesday, 5 November 2024 at 8.00 pm** in the Village Hall.

Chairman: *Jane O Ritchie*

Date: 5 November 2024