

**MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 7:30pm in Barwick Village Hall.

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	Phil Maude (Chair)			
Councillors	David Budd	Claire Hassell	Graham Slater	
	Alexandra Cantelo	Kinga Ragg	Stella Walsh	
	Karen Dales	Paul Remmer	Jacqueline Ward	

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Ward Cllr. Robinson and three residents.

The Chair welcomed everyone and on behalf of the Parish Council (PC) expressed a get-well message for Cllr. Brunt.

**1 APOLOGIES.** Cllrs. Atkinson and Brunt.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.** Cllr. Dales declared a pecuniary interest in respect of item 7.12.

**3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were three residents present who raised the following concerns:

- An enquiry regarding availability of gazebos for the event on Scholes Lodge field marking the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. One of the residents present would seek to borrow the key to the PC garage to see if there was one stored there.
- A resident asked for an update regarding the 20mph zone proposals. Ward Cllr. Robinson advised that there was due to be a meeting the following week with an officer and that public consultation would precede the introduction of these zones. Ward Cllrs. did not support introduction of blanket 20mph zones, and were seeking finalised proposals for the approaches to such zones. The resident noted that his satellite navigation device suggested that the 20mph zones were operational.
- There was related discussion regarding a road traffic accident earlier that day on Long Lane on the double bend near the entrance to the driving range involving a van which had ended up in a ditch. A combination of surface water and icy conditions had probably led to the accident. Ward Cllr. Robinson had asked the Highways and the Gullies teams to address this with improved signage and lining.
- A resident referred to a copy of the “Vision for The Future” consultation leaflet which proposed improvements to Rakehill Road making the new facility more accessible to Barwick residents. The Chair advised the resident that this had been considered at a previous meeting as part of a list of capital projects and the PC had taken the view that this was not one of the projects they wished to support (the leaflet predated this decision). However, the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group were looking at a policy to support this. The resident accepted a suggestion to email Ward Cllr. Robinson to seek support for this project and it was noted that Barwick Cricket Club had good contacts for resurfacing materials.
- The resident asked for an update regarding the multi-use games area (MUGA). The lining would be done in April and access to the MUGA would be by key fob. It was hoped that the facility would be open for use in May.

**4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the PC meeting (9/2021) held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (658-661) having been circulated, be approved, all in favour.

**5 CORRESPONDENCE**

A list of correspondence (items 3170-3172) had been circulated. 3170 was a Scholes resident regarding broadband seeking PC support of residents seeking grants from the Fibre Community Partnership scheme and 3171 was regarding the Christmas Lights still not being switched off. The latter had also taken this up with his local Member of Parliament, it was noted that the lights were still not switched off. 3172 was a

resident interested in setting aside a part of Jack Heaps field as a wild-flower meadow, this would be an agenda item next time.

## 6. ACTION TRACKER

The Clerk presented to the Action Tracker focusing in particular on actions arising from the January meeting.

- a. The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had contacted Leeds Lights regarding one set of lights not working. He had declined a partial refund of £85. Leeds Lights had now offered a refund of £160 being the full cost of this set of lights and the revised invoice was listed for approval (agenda item 9).
- b. Cllr. Brunt had taken the lead in setting up a working party to produce an Equal Opportunities Policy to recommend to the PC at a future meeting, Cllrs. Cllrs. Remmer and Ward had volunteered to join the working party.
- c. The Clerk had not added the adoption of a cookies policy to the agenda - this therefore would now be on the agenda for the March meeting.
- d. There had been no progress on proposals to amend the grants policy to include deadline dates. Cllr. Hassell would produce a report for consideration at the next meeting.
- e. The Clerk had had a conversation with one of the proprietors of the Post Office regarding withdrawal of his planning application and the implications of this for his grant application. He was planning to submit a new application with revised plans. There would be an agenda at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee to further consider the offer of a grant.

## 7 OTHER ITEMS

### 7.1 F&GP Committee – Budget and precept.

The draft minutes of the January meeting of the Committee had been circulated and the contents noted, in particular their recommendations regarding budget and precept. Concerns were expressed that the increase would come at a time when some residents were experiencing financial difficulties and the effect on the levels of reserves being consumed by the proposed budget. It was **resolved** to adopt the budget recommended by the Committee and to accept their recommendation that the precept be increased by 5.1%. The precept request would therefore be £39,444.

### 7.2 Pavilion subcommittee

It was noted that the Pavilion subcommittee had met on 25<sup>th</sup> January. They had agreed to engage cleaners at a rate of £15 an hour. They were going in on a Tuesday morning for an hour and a half (the extra thirty minutes being for setting out and clearing away afterwards and not charged for). There was a query about requirement for an IR35 form and it had been established that this was not necessary as the cleaners were not employed by the Parish Council.

### 7.3 Sign the Change.org petition

It was **resolved** that the PC Sign the Change.org petition for councils in England to have the choice to meet remotely, all in favour.

### 7.4 Platinum Jubilee working party

It was **resolved** to appoint Councillors to a working party to work with other groups to organise celebrations for the Jubilee, all in favour. Cllrs. Cantelo, Hassell, Ragg and Ward expressed an interest in joining this working party. The working party would set up another meeting with those village organisations making plans to mark this occasion and the newsletter would be used to advertise such plans including a centre page spread in the May edition. Cllr. Ward reported that on 20<sup>th</sup> January, she and Cllr. Hassell had attended a Leeds City Council (LCC) meeting for the three wards (Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby) looking at plans to celebrate the Jubilee and ways to publicise what each ward was doing. There was a “Let’s Create” fund (deadline end of February) for Jubilee events, street parties would need a permit, there was a website to register the lighting of beacons and there was a tree planting initiative (the Queen’s Green Canopy). The cost of the shuttle bus would be budgeted separately – Ward. Cllr. Robinson was unable to provide any update on this as Ward Cllr. Firth was taking the lead in this matter.

### **7.5 MUGA Pitch opening arrangements and publicity.**

It was **resolved** to delegate publicity and planning of an official opening of the MUGA to the Pavilion subcommittee in consultation with Cllr. Remmer on the understanding that all plans be reported to the PC at a future meeting.

### **7.6 MUGA Pitch Benches**

Although there were already two benches at the Pavilion, they were both in a poor state of repair (one had a broken hardwood slat, the other a wire which was bent and twisted). Cllr. Remmer had taken measurements and reported that five benches would fit the space available and still leave room for an access ramp. The quotation from the contractor did not include fitting, Cllr. Slater was happy to bolt them down. It was **resolved** that the contractor doing the work on site be asked to supply five benches to be paid for out of unused Veolia grant money. There was a suggestion that the benches could have space underneath for sports kit but there were no firm proposals for the design of bench to be ordered.

### **7.7 Access road to the allotments and cricket pitch**

Cllr. Budd had circulated a report of a meeting with Barwick Cricket Club held on 17<sup>th</sup> January. The consensus was that the entire length of the access road be resurfaced. Cricket Club knew contractors who could do the work at a favourable rate and would apply to the PC for a grant to cover 50% of the cost. The work would include a land drain to protect the school from surface run off.

### **7.8. COP26 Legacy funding grants**

A communication had been received regarding availability of COP26 Legacy funding grants. As the deadline for applications was 11<sup>th</sup> February, Cllr. Slater had completed an application form to provide two thirds of the cost of solar panels on the Pavilion roof with battery storage (as energy efficiency was one of the criteria applications would be assessed against), it was estimated that the PC contribution would be in the region of £2,000 to £2,500. Three quotations had been obtained. It was **resolved** that Cllr. Slater submit the application all in favour.

### **7.9 Hire charges for the exclusive use of the new tennis court (Scholes).**

Once the MUGA pitch was completed, the personal trainer currently hiring the pavilion had offered to show, free of charge, residents how to use the outdoor gym equipment. She was looking to hire exclusive use of the tennis court for an outdoor boot camp and had spoken to Cllr. Slater earlier that day and confirmed that she would charge her clients accordingly. After considering various options it was **resolved** that the charge for exclusive use of the tennis courts would be £15 per hour.

### **7.10 Meeting with Heritage England regarding usages of Hall Tower field**

Cllrs. Hassell and Maude had had an on-site meeting with a representative of Heritage England in Hall Tower field and her report of that meeting was awaited. It was noted that grant funding might be available and this would be considered in due course.

### **7.11 Leeds Festival Working Group**

The draft minutes of the meeting 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 had been circulated and the contents noted. There had been another meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Cllr. Hassell reported that much of the discussion had been about roads, road closures and passes. The vice chair of the Community Fund was concerned that the opening of the East Leeds Orbital Road might result in increased Festival traffic through the villages. There was a concern about the black gate, another meeting was scheduled and Cllr. Dales expressed an interest in attending.

### **7.12 Scholes Lodge Farm subcommittee**

The subcommittee had met on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Four contractors had been asked to provide quotations for the grass cutting, two had quoted and two had declined. Before any discussion could take place on this item, Councillor Remmer advised that it was unclear if one of the quotations was for a single cut or for a package of grass cutting and therefore it was **resolved** that a final decision be deferred pending clarification from the contractor.

### 7.13 Surgeries

It was not possible to resume surgeries at this stage due to closure of the church.

### 7.14 Website report.

The Clerk gave a report on the number of hits, there being 1,494 views in the last thirty days

### 7.15 Response to the statement by the Chair read out at the end of the January meeting.

The remit of the Chair in reading such a statement was questioned. However, the Councillor concerned had been advised by the LCC monitoring officer not to comment at this stage as it might prejudice half a dozen complaints which were under investigation.

## 8 PLANNING MATTERS

Cllr. Cantelo Gave a report on the decisions of the Planning Working Party made at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

- 22/00300/TR - remedial work to an oak tree at 41 Belle Vue Road. Cllr. Cantelo had declared a pecuniary interest (being a neighbour). There were **no objections** subject to planners' satisfaction that to the integrity of the tree be maintained.
- 22/00107/FU/NE - change of agricultural fields to grass sports pitches for the land at Miry Carr Lane). **No Objections.**
- 22/00363/FU/NE - Single storey rear extension, 11 Leeds Road. It was noted that the property had previous been extended in 2018 and they were concerns about the effect on a neighbouring property and for these reasons it was decided to **object.**

Three other applications were under review. The Working Party were also concerned about a barn conversion on Rakehill Road for which prior approval had been sought under permitted development rules. They were concerned that this would have an adverse effect on the green belt and that it would have a negative effect on traffic movement on The Boyle (residents' concerns about this having been reported at previous meetings).

Cllr. Cantelo would circulate the notes of the meeting.

## 9 FINANCE

The RFO reported that a revised Christmas lights invoice had been received (see item 6a above) and reported on invoices received since distribution of the agenda paperwork. It was **resolved** that twenty-three payments totalling £6,531.61 be approved, all in favour (six direct debits totalling £230.53 and seventeen BACS payments totalling £6,301.08).

## 10 CRIME REPORT

Cllr. Cantelo reported that the next Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting would be Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February. Concerns would be raised regarding dog poo bags being thrown into people's gardens and adult toys being found on Hall Tower Hill.

## 11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of forthcoming meetings:

**Parish Council** – 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 7:30pm, Barwick Village Hall.

**Finance and General Purposes Committee** – 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, 7pm, Pavilion.

**Note:** The wording of agenda items to be submitted in writing to the Proper Officer at least ten clear days before a meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Signed

Chair

