

**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council**  
**meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

This meeting was held in the Village Hall after a risk assessment had been carried out and all appropriate Covid-19 guidelines had been followed to ensure safety of all attendees. All documents had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting to ensure all time constraints were met.

1. There were **Apologies for absence** from J Bell and Councillor R Ormston.
2. There were no **'Declarations of Interest'** in items on the agenda.
3. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 were approved and signed.  
(Under lockdown, the Council adopted an approach which was posted on the website and on the bus shelter noticeboard. It was supported by all councillors and formally approved at the meeting. It will stay posted whilst lockdown continues).
4. The **report** from the **internal auditor** was received. B Sampson was thanked for undertaking this role this year.
5. The **annual governance statement** was approved.
6. The **annual accounting statement** was approved.
7. **Matters arising:**

- **Cherry tree cuttings** – L Ryder had taken cuttings to Braithwaites (nursery at Leeming). It may take up to two years for any cutting to become established. There will be a cost for this at a later date.
- **Drainage** – this is work in progress and we must keep pressing to ensure this matter is satisfactorily resolved. As such, it will be kept on the agenda
- **Covid -19 group** – the group will continue to monitor information from the local hub at Leyburn. w 40 volunteers joined and the mutual aid group worked well throughout the initial lockdown crisis. It is now beginning to settle down. A WhatsApp group continue to exist.
- **Speed markings** – the clerk had chased this matter up with both Councillor K Sedgwick and NYCC highways. The reply from NYCC stated:  
'Just to confirm that an instruction for the road markings to be installed has been sent to our road marking contractor for attention. The apparatus required to lay the markings does however only come to this area on an irregular basis when there is a sufficient amount of work to justify this.

Accordingly, the request for the work in Newton Le Willows is being held with a package of other similar work and will be completed at the earliest opportunity. I regret that I cannot however provide firm confirmation of when the work will be undertaken at this time'.

**8. Reports – Village Hall Trustees:**

Towards the end of what had been a very busy and successful year all activities in the Village Hall obviously ground to a complete halt when lockdown was introduced at the end of March. However, it is still worth looking back at activities and events in the Hall prior to lockdown.

The monthly coffee mornings are always well supported and are a great way for the various groups to raise much needed funds as well as being a social meeting place.

PIN also held a number of musical and theatrical events which again were well attended and bring live theatre and music in to the rural village environment.

The weekly Table Tennis club went from strength to strength even adding another table to accommodate the extra members.

The Newton Le Willows Choir, as well as having weekly rehearsals in the Hall, also gave two stirring performances during the year.

The WI and the Climate Change Group continued to use the Green Room for monthly meetings.

Rowena Simpson resurrected the Acoustic Music Fish and Chip night in the Green Room which hopefully will continue at some point in the future.

Rowena also found time to set up a weekly craft group which again was well attended and we hope continues.

The new team at the Green Room Village Bar as well as being open on a regular basis also promoted a number of events throughout the year and prior to lockdown there were a series of theme nights with some great fancy dress on show.

There was also the Ceilidh on the 22nd February featuring local band Blind Panic which was a complete sell out and raised significant funds for the Village Hall helping the Green Room have one of its most successful years in contributing funds to the Village Hall.

Unfortunately, all events have now had to be put on hold for the foreseeable future although, following a Village Hall meeting in the last week, we are looking at a very limited reopening of the Hall subject to Risk Assessments and adherence to strict Covid-19 restrictions.

One of the positives to come out the Pandemic is that the Village Hall qualified for a one of receipt from the government of £10000 which goes some way towards compensating for the loss of revenue.

The other major project prior to lockdown were the plans to improve and extend the hall to upgrade the facilities, particularly the toilets, and provide more useable space and storage. The plans have been submitted and informally approved and we are now just waiting for the Planning system to get fully up and running for formal approval to be granted.

Obviously the building extension is a long term project and funding will be a key factor but, following the recent Village Hall meeting, it was agreed to carry out an assessment and costing of some of the urgent maintenance works that need to be done to the existing fabric of the building with a view to getting them done as a matter of urgency.

The Village Hall is the social hub of the Village and whilst the Pandemic has had a major impact on the activities in the Hall we hope that slowly and surely, we will be able to restore events and get back to normal as soon as is safely possible.

## 9. Specific matters:

- **AJ1 project** – road safety initiative with funding from office of North Yorkshire police, fire and crime commissioner. A draft application had been sent to the electorate for their response initially. The comments received were incorporated into the draft application sent to NYCC highways for their support. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so which makes it a no go. However, it was agreed that the council needs to ensure that all road markings are updated and made more visible in place where they have worn off.

### **Action -**

- **Playground** – the clerk had been asked to find out information about cleaning the current surface. This information was sought and fed back at this meeting. It was agreed that rather than cleaning the surface, it may be better to replace the surface.
- Action -** the clerk to obtain quotes for a variety of options moving forward.

- **Meals on wheels** – this was a project in which Aysgarth School provided meals for the vulnerable in the community. It has now come to an end and the council felt a letter of gratitude should be sent to the school.  
**Action** - the clerk to draft a letter for appreciation.

**10. Planning applications** commented on during lockdown were highlighted:

- **200/00360/CLE** – this was completion of paperwork for a completed build.
- **19/00826/FULL** - this is the building of a shepherd hut which will arrive flat-packed for assembly on site.
- Also discussed at this point was the planning application raised as a question at the AGM (20/00412/OUT). It was agreed in principle that, due to the special circumstances of this particular application, the Parish Council would positively support this Outline Application. The resident has lived in the village, and been an active member of the community, for almost 30 years. The success of this application will allow the person to remain living in the village.

**11. Financial** matters paid during lockdown were highlighted to the electorate.

**12. Communications:**

- Letter received from CAB regarding our donation was acknowledged.
- Letter regarding renewable energy from a parishioner was acknowledged and passed to the Village Hall Trustees for their opinion.

**13. Items** for the next meeting will include drainage, Climate Emergency Policy and playground.

**14. Date** for next meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm

**Meeting declared closed at 7.40pm**