

PRESTON-UNDER-SCAR PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom at 7.00pm on 29 November 2021

Present: Councillor Brooks (Chairman), Councillors Amsden, Fletcher, and Knights
Clerk: Linda Stevens

In attendance: County Councillor K Sedgwick and District Councillor J Amsden
Mrs J Woodyer

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the late conversion to a Zoom meeting. He explained that this decision had been taken following consultation with all Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk, and in the light of the overriding duty of care the Council had to all those attending the meeting given the increasingly high levels of COVID being recorded locally and to the very recent emergence of the Omicron variant of the virus. It was considered that this duty of care took precedence over the legal requirements relating to the holding of Parish Council meetings. Notice of the change had been posted on the parish noticeboard and Council website and residents also had been notified by email.

1. Apologies for absence: None

2. Resignation of Parish Councillor

The Chairman reported that Andrew Cormack had resigned from the Parish Council. Parish Councillors joined with the Chairman in thanking Andrew for his contribution to the Parish Council and his work on behalf of the village.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 May 2021

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 May 2021 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. To declare Councillors' interests in items on the agenda: None

5. Action taken since the last meeting

Councillors noted the following action taken since the last meeting:

Additional Litter Bins – in response to a decision by Richmondshire District Council (RDC) to offer Parish Councils an opportunity to purchase additional litter

Bins, and after consultation with Parish Councillors, the Clerk had advised RDC that the Parish Council may be interested in purchasing 2 additional bins – 1 to be located at the Cemetery and one to be located at the west end of the village.

Village Playground – Richmondshire District Council had been requested to fill in the large rabbit hole between the swings and the wall on health and safety grounds and had agreed to attend.

Payment of Invoices – in accordance with the terms of the delegated authority granted by the Parish Council at its meeting on 5 May 2021 (minute 8 of that meeting refers), the Clerk reported that she had authorised the payment of the invoices set out below, including two invoices approved after 30 September 2021 in order to ensure that the Council met its contractual obligations to pay its contractor, which actions Councillors were requested to ratify at this meeting:

Date of Invoice/ Claim	Supplier	Service Provided	Amount £
5.5.21	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass cutting 8 & 22 April 2021	220
30.5.21	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass cutting 6 & 22 May 2021	220
13.6.21	Cllr D Brooks	Parish Council Zoom Account Fees (March/April/May 2021)	43.17
2.7.21	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass Cutting 3 & 17 June 2021	220
1.8.21	Town & Parish Council Websites	Annual website Hosting and Maintenance	130
4.8.21	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass cutting 1 and 20 July 2021	220
31.8.21	Cllr D Brooks	Parish Council Zoom Account Fees (June/July/August)	43.17
3.9.21	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass cutting 3 and 24 August 2021	220

4.10.21*	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass Cutting 7 September 2021	110
29.10.21*	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass Cutting 7 October 2021	110

The Clerk also reported that no decisions had been necessary to ensure the continuous business of the Council. Councillors noted the invoices paid prior to the date on which the Clerk's delegated powers ceased.

In the light of the continuing incidence of COVID 19 in the Dales area. Councillors were invited to consider renewing the delegations to the Clerk which they had granted on 5 May, in order to avoid the need to call meetings simply to deal with administrative matters. It was suggested that, if granted, the delegation should remain in place until 30 May 2021.

Resolved:

(1) To ratify the action of the Clerk in authorising the following payments after 30 September 2021:

Date of Invoice/ Claim	Supplier	Service Provided	Amount £
4.10.21*	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass Cutting 7 September 2021	110
29.10.21*	DCN Fencing and Landscaping Contractors	Grass Cutting 7 October 2021	110

(2) to delegate the following powers to the Clerk to the Parish Council with effect from 30 November 2021:

(a) to authorise payment of invoices for work undertaken for and services provided to the Parish Council subject, where necessary, to verifying with Councillors that the supplies/services have been provided in accordance with the invoice details;

(b) following consultation with the Chairman of the Parish Council, to do anything expedient and necessary to ensure the continuous business of the Council, on the basis that Councillors will be advised of any action taken under these powers and that such actions will be reported to the next available meeting of the Council, for recording in the minutes of that meeting.

This delegation does not modify or affect the approved signatories to the

Parish Council's bank account

The above delegation to terminate on 30 May 2022 unless terminated earlier.

6. Finance and Banking

Balances - Councillors noted that the opening balances at 1 November 2021 were as follows:

Current Account: £10,887.98

Savings Account: £2,287.27

Second Quarter Financial Review - the second quarter financial review had been circulated for Councillors' consideration.

Resolved:

To approve the second quarter financial review as circulated.

7. Budget and Precept for the financial year 2022/23

Councillors were invited to consider the Parish Council's draft budget for 2022/23.

It was noted that:

- funding had been included to enable the Clerk's hours to be increased, on a temporary basis, during the coming financial year to reflect the increased hours worked during 2021/22 and to enable her to address a number of outstanding issues for the Council.
- The cost of grass cutting had increased because of the inclusion in the contract of the verges along Long Lane and an unanticipated increase in the number of cuts carried out. The higher number of cuts was also reflected in the increased provision for grass cutting in the cemetery. It was generally agreed that the level of grass cutting this year had been beneficial in both the village and the cemetery, and should be continued. In addition, the Clerk had sought a quote from DCN for the strimming of the vegetation around the two seats in The Stanney to improve ease of access. DCN had provided a quote of £20 per cut for both seats and had recommended that strimming be carried out every 4-6 weeks. In total the cost of grass cutting next year was likely to be approximately £1,500. It was suggested that the budget for grass cutting be increased to £1,000, the balance of the funding required to be met from potential savings on other elements of the budget (such as Cemetery Maintenance on which no expenditure had been incurred so far this year) and/or the Parish Council's reserves.

- The Clerk had received one indicative price of £732 for a new flagpole (based on the specification set out in minute 10 below) and was waiting for two further such prices. Councillors queried whether this represented value for money and agreed to consider this further at the next meeting, alongside consideration of whether/how the Queen's Platinum Jubilee might be marked.
- If the Parish Council Precept for next year was set at the same level as that for the current financial year, the Council's year end balances would reduce slightly to approximately £6,500.
- Richmondshire District Council had agreed to an extended deadline of 31 January 2022 for the submission of the Parish Council's precept request.

Resolved:

- (1) That the draft budget be revised to take account of the matters raised and recorded in the preamble to this minute and that the revised proposed budget be considered at the next Parish Council meeting.**
- (2) That the Queen's Platinum Jubilee be included on the agenda for the next meeting and that the Clerk research and report back on the availability of grants towards the cost of commemorative events**

8. Quarry – Noise Complaints and Monitoring

The Chairman referred to ongoing discussions between residents and the Quarry Manager about the incidence of noise from the quarry and to the quarry operator's failure to observe the Noise Management Plan. Concern was also expressed about vibrations from quarry operations and about the quarry's expansion closer to the village. It was noted that Leyburn Quarry was also getting closer to Condenser Wood.

The Council was reminded that it had previously agreed to arrange a further residents' meeting with the Quarry Manager when the results of the last dust monitoring exercise were available.

Resolved:

That further consideration of noise from the quarry be deferred and referred to a residents' meeting with the Quarry Manager, to be arranged when the latest dust monitoring results were available.

9. Request for investigation into the impact of increased water draining off the Hillside and fells onto properties or into the village

The Parish Council had been requested to consider this issue by Mrs J Woodyer, who attended the meeting and spoke to the item. Councillors noted the difficulties in undertaking such a task and in utilising the results from what would be an informal exercise.

It was noted that the Clerk had recently written to North Yorkshire County Council to ask them to carry out various small works along Moor Road which would assist with managing water draining onto the road from the hillsides in this area. These included clearing the culvert of collapsed masonry and reinstating/re-aligning kerbstones which would assist in preventing surface water draining from the road onto properties on its south side.

Resolved:

That North Yorkshire County Council be reminded that a response to the Clerk's request for the carrying out of various small works along Moor Road was outstanding.

10. Village Maintenance

Flagpole – Councillors noted that the Clerk was currently investigating prices for a replacement flagpole on the basis of the following criteria:

- Material – Aluminium
- Height – 5 or 6 metres
- Internal Halyard
- Fold over at base
- Price for installation

As noted in minute 7 above, one indicative price had been received to date and the Clerk would report further to the next meeting.

Winter Maintenance – Councillors noted the decision of North Yorkshire County Council not to include the West End of the village in the winter gritting round.

Additional Grit Bin – Councillors noted that North Yorkshire County Council had agreed to the provision of an additional grit bin at the West End of the Village, and that County Councillor Sedgwick has agreed to meet the cost of installing and refilling the bin for a period of 4 years from her Locality Budget. The bin had been installed and filled before Storm Arwen. Councillor Amsden reported that over the weekend, he had observed someone taking grit from the grit bin on Moor Lane and loading it into a barrow.

Resolved:

That the Clerk send an email to residents to remind them that it was an offence, punishable by a fine, to remove grit from a grit bin for the purposes of using it on private property.

13. Welcome Pack

Councillors considered the possibility of introducing a Welcome Pack for new residents to the village. Whilst agreeing that such a pack could be helpful, it was noted that many people now used social media to find information about local services and amenities, and that regard needed to be had to the amount of time and work required to maintain such a pack and to keep it up to date.

It was suggested that there was a more pressing need at this time for the Council to prioritise the preparation of a Resilience Plan for the village.

Resolved:

To take no action on the production of a Welcome Pack at this stage in order to enable the Council to devote time to the preparation of a Village Resilience Plan.

14. Planning Applications

New Applications:

21/00745/TEL - Application for Prior Approval Determination Under Part 16 of the General Permitted Development Order for Proposed installation of 15m Monopole Telecommunications Mast – *the Parish Council suggested a specific condition should be attached to any permission granted. Planning permission has subsequently been refused*

21/000720/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Proposed Two Storey Detached Dwelling with off Street Parking and New Highways Access at Hillcrest, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4AJ – *The Parish Council raised a number of queries on this application to which the Planning Authority is currently seeking responses from the applicant*

21/00771/FULL - Full Planning Permission to Demolish Existing Timber Garden Room and Replace with Timber Clad Garden Room at Underscar, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4AQ – *the Parish Council had no comments on this application for which planning permission has been granted.*

21/00887/FULL - Full Planning Permission Wooden Outbuilding and decking in Rear garden at Loaning View, Preston under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4A – *the Parish Council had requested the inclusion of specific conditions should planning permission be granted for the development.*

21/00911/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Proposed Building which will be a very

Typical Farm Building which will be used to House Livestock (Sheep) at Low Scar Barn, Redmire, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4NL – *the Parish Council had no comments on this application*

Upcoming Applications: None notified

Update on Previous Applications

20/00258/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Change of Use from Ancillary Accommodation to Hawthorn Cottage to Independent Dwelling with Extension at Croft Edge, Preston Under Scar Leyburn North Yorkshire DL8 4AQ – *permission granted*

20/00473/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Installation of Ground Source Heat Pump and Associated Pipework (Retrospective) at Bolton Hall Wensley Leyburn North Yorkshire DL8 4UF – *permission granted*

Building (Covered Muck Store) and Slurry Lagoon at Bolton Hall Farm Wensley North Yorkshire - *permission granted*

20/00956/FULL - Full Planning Permission to Construct a Family Home on a Brownfield Site (the Address Should Read "Rose Tree Cottage" and not "Rose Tree" as Previously Stated on the Original Consultation) (as Amended Plans Received 9.3.21) - *permission granted*

20/00781/FULL & 20/00782/LBC – Full Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for the demolition of existing lean-to garage and construction of lean-to porch at 2 Preston Mill, Wensley Station, Preston-Under-Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4AG – *permission granted*

21/00178/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Alterations to Provide a Larger Opening
20/00684/FULL - Full Planning Permission for the Development of an Agricultural with Folding Glass Doors on South Side of Living Room and a Balcony at First Floor Level at Hawthorn Cottage Preston Under Scar Leyburn North Yorkshire DL8 4AQ – *permission granted*

Full Planning Permission for Proposed Single Storey Extension to the Residential Dwelling at The Old Barn, Wensley Station, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4AG – *decision awaited*

15. Date and agenda items for the next meeting

Resolved:

(1) That, subject to Councillor Fletcher’s availability, the next meeting of

the Parish Council be held on Tuesday 18 January 2022.

- (2) That a decision on whether to hold a face-to-face or Zoom meeting be taken closer to the date of the meeting having regard to the Council's duty of care in relation to prevailing COVID rates.**

The meeting closed at 20.10 hrs.

