

## **PRESTON UNDER SCAR PARISH COUNCIL**

**Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7 p.m. on 28 November 2023 in Preston under Scar Village Hall**

**Present: Councillors Fletcher, Higham, Knights and Sayers**

**Clerk: Linda Stevens**

**Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Amsden and from Unitary Councillor Sedgwick**

### **1. Election of a Chairman for the meeting**

**Resolved:**

**That Councillor Sayers be elected Chairman for the meeting**

### **2. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 July 2023**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 July 2023 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.**

### **3. To declare Councillors' interests in items on the agenda**

None

### **4. Action taken since the Parish Council meeting held on 4 July 2023**

#### **Cemetery Extension:**

Work to remove the hedgerow separating the current cemetery from the cemetery extension had commenced on 21 November and was expected to be completed on 3 December. The contractor had indicated that he was unsure whether the new area could be reseeded before early spring, given ground conditions and the current weather forecast.

A small number of trees which formed part of the hedgeline had not been felled, pending Councillors' views on whether or not they should be retained. Following a lengthy discussion about the relative advantages and disadvantages of retaining them, Councillors concluded that the trees in question should be removed as this was considered to be in the best interests of the future management of the cemetery overall, including ease of access to graves which would be located in the area of the extension.

Further consideration would be given to including some planting areas in the extension, once Phase 1 of the works had been completed, and having regard to advice from the contractor and any regular visitors to the cemetery.

Councillor Higham had received confirmation from the War Graves Commission that the Parish Council may install a "War Grave" sign at the Cemetery. This had now been obtained and fixed to the cemetery gate.

**Resolved:**

- (1) That the Clerk request the contractor concerned to remove all the remaining trees along the hedgeline in the Cemetery (with the exception of the memorial Silver Birch tree);**
- (2) That the Clerk advise Councillor Sedgwick that, due to current and forecast weather conditions, it may not be possible to seed the extension area until next Spring and request an extension of the deadline by which the Locality Grant funding awarded for the work; and**
- (3) That Councillor Higham be thanked for liaising with the War Graves Commission and obtaining the War Grave sign for the Cemetery and that Andrew Fletcher be thanked for his work in fixing this to the cemetery gate;**

**Village Play Area:**

North Yorkshire Council had completed work to refurbish/replace the play area items for which it was responsible. The snapped plank on one of North Yorkshire Council's benches in the park had been reported to and inspected by them but no timescale for its repair had been provided. The Clerk would pursue this with North Yorkshire Council.

**Village Entrance Signs**

The Village Entrance signs on Light Lane and Moor Road had been replaced by North Yorkshire Council. Their invoice (£375) was outstanding.

**5. Report of the Clerk on decisions taken since the last meeting**

**Resolved:**

**That the following decision taken by the Clerk under delegated powers between 4 July 2022 and 21 November 2023 be noted:**

**Subject of decision:**

**Application for Full Planning Permission for Single Storey Extension to Front of Property; Conversion and Extension of Outbuilding to Create Sun Room/Annexe (Plans Dated 15.8.23 and Amended Description) at Prospect House Preston Under Scar Leyburn, North Yorkshire DL8 4AQ – AMENDED**

**Summary of information considered:**

Application documents submitted by applicant  
Outcome of consultation with Parish Councillors

**Decision Taken:**

To advise North Yorkshire Council that the Parish Council has no objections to the above application.

**6. Finance and Banking**

Councillor Fletcher reported on her contact with Barclays Bank following their recent review of business customer accounts. She had been advised that the Council should now be operating a local authority account and was hopeful that it would be possible for the bank simply to transfer the Council's existing account rather than having to open a new account.

**Resolved:****(1) To note the following opening balances as at 1 November 2023:**

**Current Account: £10,309.83**

**Savings Account: £2,289.63**

**(2) To note the following payments authorised by the Clerk since the last meeting of the Parish Council on 4 July 2023 under her delegated authority:**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Payment type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>DCN</b>	<b>Grass Cutting</b>		
	<b>June</b>	<b>BACS</b>	<b>£130</b>
	<b>July</b>	<b>BACS</b>	<b>£280</b>
	<b>August</b>	<b>BACS</b>	<b>£280</b>
	<b>September</b>	<b>BACS</b>	<b>£150</b>
<b>Town &amp; Parish Council Websites</b>	<b>Annual website hosting charge</b>	<b>BACS</b>	<b>£170</b>
<b>Andrew Fletcher</b>	<b>Village Coronation Celebrations –</b>	<b>BACS</b>	<b>£89.93</b>

## **Binding of photographic Record of events**

**(3) To thank Andrew Fletcher for his excellent work in producing the Village Coronation Celebration Book.**

**(4) To approve the Second Quarter Financial Review as submitted to the meeting**

### **7. Budget and Precept for the financial year 2024/25**

The Clerk advised Councillors that she had received one suggested item for inclusion in the Parish Council's budget for 2024/25, namely an amount to cover the reimbursement of the cost of providing the village Christmas Tree and batteries for its lights. The Clerk had advised the resident who had submitted the request that the resident who provided the tree and lights etc had previously indicated that she did not wish to be reimbursed.

Councillors were invited to consider the Parish Council's draft budget for 2024/25 and the proposed precept of £4,657. The draft budget had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting and published on the Parish Council's website.

#### **Resolved:**

- (1) That the draft Parish Council budget for 2024/25, as circulated with the agenda for the meeting, be approved**
- (2) That the Clerk be authorised to apply on the Parish Council's behalf to North Yorkshire Council for a precept of £4,657 for 2024/25, as set out in the approved budget attached As Appendix A to these minutes.**

### **8. Village Maintenance**

Councillor Sayers reported that he had repaired the seat in The Stanney but that it would not withstand any further repairs.

### **9. Street Lighting**

Councillor Knights referred to the recent replacement of the street lamp bulbs in the village with LED bulbs and reported that several residents had noticed that these were much brighter than the previous bulbs. He reminded Councillors that in 2015, following a residents survey, the Parish Council had requested the then Richmondshire District Council to introduce part night lighting in the village. This had been implemented in February 2016. Following commencement of the installation of the LED lighting, the footway lighting had, at some point reverted to all night lighting. In addition, the brilliance of the lamps had increased following recent work to the lighting, carried out by Northern Powergrid and this was having an adverse impact on some properties as a result of increased light disturbance. Councillor Knights asked the Parish Council to consider requesting North Yorkshire Council to reinstate

part time lighting, in accordance with the previous agreement with Richmondshire District Council, and to investigate the cause of the increased brilliance of the lamps and whether This could be remedied.

**Resolved:**

**That the Clerk write to North Yorkshire Council to request the reinstatement of part time lighting in the village, in accordance with the previous agreement with the former Richmondshire District Council and to ask them to investigate the reasons for the current increased brilliance of the lamps and whether this can be remedied.**

**10. Moor Road**

Councillors considered an email from the Highways Maintenance Manager, North Yorkshire Council explaining that:

- There had not been time to include a road gully and road crossing to channel surface water emanating from the access track above Rock Cottage in the surface dressing undertaken earlier in the year. This location had subsequently been inspected during periods of heavy rainfall and no problems had been identified.
- Following a recent meeting with the Coal Board, it was now believed that the large culvert running beneath Moor Road was a chimney flue for old industrial workings in the area. This was not a structure for which the coal board was responsible but was something for which the Bolton Estate may have records and he would contact them in due course.

Councillors expressed concern that continued heavy rainfall on already saturated ground meant that there was an increased risk of localised flooding from surface water run off coming down Moor Road into the village and requested the Clerk to:

- seek clarification about the significance or otherwise of the flue, and whether it was providing the drainage under the stretch of Moor Road concerned.
- request the Highways Manager to contact the Bolton Estate for any information/records they may have of the flue as soon as possible.

**Resolved:**

**That the Clerk write to the Highways Maintenance Manager, North Yorkshire Council to:**

- **seek clarification about the significance or otherwise of the flue, and whether it was providing the drainage under the stretch of Moor Road concerned.**
- **request the Highways Manager to contact the Bolton Estate for any information/records they may have of the flue as soon as possible.**

## **11. Cemetery Extension – quote for new gate and rabbit proof fencing**

Councillors were requested to consider a quote received for the provision of a new Gate and rabbit proof fencing for the cemetery extension.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the gateway was very close to a burial mound and that English Heritage may have concerns about the impact of the proposed new gate on the setting of that burial mound, which was a scheduled monument.

**Resolved:**

**To defer consideration of the quote pending a site inspection**

## **12. Climate and Ecology Bill**

Councillors considered a motion (attached as Appendix B to these minutes) prepared by Zero Hour, the organisers of a cross party campaign for the Climate and Ecology Bill, a Private Members Bill which sought to address the challenges resulting from Climate Change by creating a whole government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

It was noted that the Bill had failed to complete its passage before the end of the Parliamentary Session concerned and so was unlikely to make any further progress. However, Councillors felt that the Parish Council should express support for the proposals in the Bill and write to the MP for Richmond (Yorks) to inform him that it had adopted the motion.

**Resolved:**

**(1) to support the Climate and Ecology Bill and adopt the motion set out in Appendix B to these Minutes**

**(2) to inform local residents of resolution (1) above**

**(3) to write to the MP for Richmond (Yorks)**

**(4) to write to Zero Hour expressing the Council's support for the Climate and Ecology Bill**

## **13. North Yorkshire Council Budget 2024/25 Consultation "Lets Talk Money"**

**Resolved:**

**Not to submit any comments in response to this consultation.**

## 14. North Yorkshire Council Draft Housing Strategy

**Resolved:**

**Not to respond to this consultation.**

## 15. Planning Applications

### New Applications

**Resolved:**

**That the position in relation to new Planning Applications as set out below be noted:**

ZD23/00358/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Proposed Garden Building, The Old Barn, Wensley Station, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn (*the Parish Council had no objections to this proposal – planning permission granted*).

ZD23/00299/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Extension to Kitchen to Allow for Additional Porch / Boot Room, Addition of Downstairs Bathroom to Front of Property and Proposed Alterations to Shed at Bottom of Garden Prospect House Preston Under Scar Leyburn North Yorkshire (*the Parish Council had no objections to this proposal – planning permission granted*)

### Update on Previous Applications

**Resolved:**

**That the position in relation to previous Planning Applications as set out below be noted:**

23/00130/FULL - Full Planning Permission for Proposed Solar Panels to Roof of Existing Detached Modern Outbuilding at 2 Preston Mill, Wensley Station, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4AG (*the Parish Council had no objections to this proposal –planning permission granted*)

23/00129/LBC - Listed Building Consent for Replacement Roof to Existing Modern Lean To Garage at 2 Preston Mill, Wensley Station, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 4AG (*the Parish Council had no objections to this proposal - awaiting decision*)

ZD23/00275/FULL & ZD23/00276/LBC – Applications for Full Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for Extension to Existing Garage Including Provision of Rainwater Goods, Alterations to Rainwater Goods of Main House and Installation of Extract

Fans/External Vent at Manor House, Preston Under Scar, Leyburn, North Yorkshire *(the Parish Council had no objections to this proposal - awaiting decision)*

**13. Date and agenda items for the next meeting**

**Resolved:**

**That the Clerk liaise with Parish Councillors in relation to the date of and agenda items for the next meeting.**

**The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN**