

RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th SEPTEMBER 2023

Present

Cllr A Ayres (Chair)
Cllr R Addinall
Cllr C Robinson

8 Members of the Parish

Cllr Ayres welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. To receive and note **apologies for absence**

Cllr Hird had sent her apologies.

2. To receive '**Declarations of Interest**' in items on the agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. To approve the **minutes** of the meeting held on the 11th April 2023:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th April 2023 were approved.

4. **Matters Arising/Open Forum**

Cllr Ayres reported that he had registered once again with NYC the need to repair the streetlight numbered 10 (now according to NYC identified as 12) attached to 52 The Green which illuminates the entry to Mill Court. In addition, he had managed to call for action by Highways about the faded/non-existent road markings in the village. Clear signage is essential in aiding the safe passage of vehicles through our village. This summer has seen a substantial increase in traffic, unfamiliar with the road through Ravensworth, heading towards the A66.

Cllr Ayres had spoken with our NYC Councillor, Angus Thompson and asked about progress with the application by Holmedale Valley Developments Ltd to revoke the affordable housing contributions associated with the Mill Farm development. He was sympathetic to RPC's objection and promised to follow up on the situation. The meeting was uncertain as to what the money raised from levying affordable housing contributions was used for and Cllr Ayres will investigate.

Asked about the situation regarding the Gayles quarry planning application, Cllr Addinall replied that no decision had been provided despite the deadline having passed. The local campaign team were remaining vigilant and awaiting rather than pursuing any announcement. Cllr Addinall informed the meeting about a recent accident at Kirby Hill involving an army low loader which had added to the concerns about operating such large vehicles on local roads.

Further information was sought about the state of Holmedale Beck following on from its recent pollution. Cllrs Addinall and Robinson were among the volunteers who have

undergone training in monitoring water quality and they have been securing data locally. Reports so far have been encouraging. The quantity of growth of vegetation in the watercourses by Mill Farm was noted and there was some discussion about the presence of Himalayan Balsam in the Beck and approaches for its removal.

There had been some conflicting information in news reports about the A66 project, but the PC had received assurance that work would start as planned 'as there was only one signature required'. Given the many issues there have been with traffic at Scotch Corner, the roundabout's fitness for purpose remains problematic. Progress with the Scotch Corner Designer Village appears to have slowed/stopped.

5. Finance & Payments

Since the last meeting, the PC has made payment of £131 for YLCA annual membership, a £120 annual defibrillator charge and £270 for the replacement of a dog waste bin on The Green.

We have successfully claimed from HMRC vat amounting to £1878.23, received £224.36 from NYC for cutting visibility splays around the village and bank interest of £8.38. Consequently, the PC account is £6706.71 in credit and with the second half of the precept, £2700 due in September, we are in a healthy position.

Approval was sought and unanimously agreed by the PC to register the account for internet banking. Cllr Ayres will organise.

6. Planning Applications & Updates

An application by Stoneygate Farm to operate as a certificated location with Caravan and Motorhome Club has been approved.

The PC has objected to an application, made by the owners of Holmebeck Barn, for a proposed change of use of an agricultural building to a dwelling house.

There has been no contact with the PC regarding any development proposal for the Methodist Chapel.

It was noted that local news concerning planning decisions had reported that while much time and effort were spent in detailing conditions for agreed developments, there was no dedicated enforcement resource in Richmondshire.

7. Village Hall

Cllr Robinson reported on the Village Hall. The heating system is now working after the installation of a new boiler. Contact has been made regarding the seeking of grants from the National Highways Social Value Fund and application(s) will follow. The recent Greek Night had been a success, raising over £1000 and other evening events are planned as listed in The Flyer. Ever popular soup & desserts lunch sessions from 12-2.30pm begin again on 21 September and weekly Yoga returns to the hall at 9.30 am on the same day.

8. **Village Green**

Despite the provision of dog waste bins and the vigilance of villagers, there is still some fouling occurring on The Green and footpaths.

Grass cutting has generally gone well and been aided by the many residents who ensure that their vehicles do not impede the NYC team's efforts. Parking on The Green should only occur when there is none available on the track. There is no reason to drive across our Village Green.

While the PC supports the 20's plenty campaign, progress is slow. However, a recent report from our local NYC Councillor contained the following which the PC will pursue, given the proximity of the school to the highway.

*'The 20's Plenty campaign rumbles on but a blanket 20mph speed limit in all built up areas and villages throughout the county does not seem a possibility in the lifetime of the present council i.e., the next 4 years because of the financial deficit. It would cost between 8 and 12 million pounds to set up. **What is more likely is the possibility of PCs being able to request a 20mph zone in part of their village e.g., outside a school.***

9. **Any other Business**

Concern was expressed by attendees about the parking associated with The Bay Horse. Cllr Ayres will organise a meeting with the owners regarding this and report back.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at 7pm.

The Meeting Closed at 20.01