

RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023**

**Present**

Cllr A Ayres (Chair)

Cllr R Addinall

Cllr B Hird

Cllr C Robinson

5 Members of the Parish

Cllr Ayres welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

**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:**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 were approved.

**4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters required to be addressed.

**5. Financial Report**

Every year the PC must complete an Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). The PC must approve the various sections of the documents, send an appropriate section of the AGAR to the government's external auditor and publish the whole of the completed AGAR.

The PC must evidence that all the correct steps have been taken in the required order and record this in the minutes of the meeting. All the documents referred to under item 5 had been reviewed by all the councillors and the internal auditor before the meeting.

**5.1** The cash book for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 showed our precept of £5400 was supplemented by Northern Power Grid £3.45 and bank interest of £19.99. A payment of £174, intended for the Village Hall charity Coronation celebrations, made by Richmondshire DC was also included but will be transferred to the charity's account.

Our major expenditure included £3532.88 – materials associated with the repair of the hall roof, £2318.40 – scaffolding to allow the roof repair and £1364 - for grass cutting. The PC account had a final balance of £5812.23.

**5.2** Since neither our total income nor our total expenditure for the financial year exceeded £25,000, we will certify ourselves exempt from review by the external auditor. The completed Certificate of Exemption will be displayed, along with all the other AGAR related documents, on the PC notice board and will also be published on the website <https://www.ravensworthvillage.com/parish-council>

**5.3** The Annual Internal Audit report for 2022-23 required by AGAR was noted.

**5.4** The Parish Council approved the 2022-23 Annual Governance Statement for that year's AGAR.

**5.5** The Parish Council approved the 2022-23 Accounting Statements for that year's AGAR.

**5.6** The Parish Council undertook to comply with the AGAR publication requirements which include publishing the documents noted in 5.2-5.5 using the previously identified website for the period Monday 5 June – Friday 14 July 2023.

## **6. Elections**

Chair: Andrew Ayres proposed by Cllr Addinall seconded by Cllr Robinson

The PC can have 5 Councillors and it was agreed to continue to seek a suitable resident to co-opt.

Dates for future meetings were proposed and agreed - all Tuesdays for Ordinary Meetings 5/9/2023, 7/11/2023, 6/2/2024, 9/4/2024 and the Annual Meeting 7/5/2024. These dates will be displayed on the notice board and published on the website.

## **7. Open Forum**

The chair of the Village Hall charity committee provided some insight into and overview of the members' activities. The King's Coronation celebration on the afternoon of Sunday 5 May had been well attended and from the comments received, enjoyed. It provided a chance to see some of the work produced by the pupils from Ravensworth School in response to the competition organised by the Hall committee. The selection of the winners had been thoughtfully undertaken and a book token given to each one. A list of forthcoming events has been published in The Flyer with the return of the monthly Thursday soup and dessert lunch starting on 21 September.

The Parish Council agreed unanimously not to give approval to NYC regarding the applications by Holmedale Valley Developments Ltd to revoke affordable housing contributions associated with the buildings at Mill Farm.

Cllr Addinall added to his earlier reports about the Gayles Quarry planning application by raising concerns about the recent noise impact assessment report which was at odds with the original one. The more favourable result was the product of a different methodology rather than 'good science'. He reminded the meeting that there were significant problems to be overcome by the applicant regarding the routing of any transport of the quarried stone. Finally, he assured everyone that any development was being closely monitored by a large team of resolute people.

There was some discussion of the recent pollution of the beck which had been reported in the press and on TV. Cllr Addinall clearly detailed what had occurred and informed the meeting that in response to the incident registered river monitoring sites were being established at the beck so any findings can be officially reported to the Environment Agency.

**Next Annual Meeting is on Tuesday 7 May 2024. The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.**