

## RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

#### Present

Cllr A Ayres (Chair)  
Cllr C Robinson

8 Members of the Parish

Cllr Ayres welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

A letter from Cllr Addinall dated 28 January 2024 gave notification of his resignation from office. Unfortunately, Cllr Hird, at late notice, was unable to attend the meeting so the PC was not quorate and therefore unable to deal with any matters where a vote was required.

The Chair reminded those present that Ravensworth PC can have 5 councillors but since May 2018, the council had functioned with 3 or 4. It is possible to co-opt interested residents and any interested resident should contact any councillor for further information. Although it may not always be evident, there is work to be done if the village is to function and look after itself. Without a quorate PC, NYC will become involved in our affairs.

**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:**

Prior to today the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 November 2023 had been reviewed and approved by all the councillors attending.

**4. **Matters Arising/Open Forum****

It had finally been recognised in an e-mail dated 14/12/23 from NY Highways that road marking/painting was required in the village. In the meantime warning signs had been placed at either side of the village and, also before the bend on The Green outside The Bay Horse.

Following on from the discussion about the switching off of streetlights in Mill Close, information is available under the heading Report a street light problem at <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/street-lights-traffic-lights-and-signage> . There are 4 lights on the road but three of them are scheduled to be switched off between 12 and 5 am. Given the recent accident and vandalism to a vehicle, it was suggested that more lights should be on all night. Curiously, the lights in the rest of the village are all timed to be on throughout the night. Cllr Ayres to investigate.

There had been no further information about the Gayles Quarry application despite the deadline decision being 31/12/23. The last entry in the application comments was made on 18/1/24.

Having sought further comments regarding the A66 project, the decision was now expected by 7/3/24.

Volunteers had started setting up the new Wetheriggs Animal Rescue Centre (WARC) transferring livestock from the previous location by the A66 and organising the site for their safe keeping. The parking of vehicles concerned with process had proved problematic at times and residents were asked to monitor this and any other issues associated with the development. Cllr Ayres and Cllr Robinson had met with the director Terry Bowes and the vice chair of WARC Mike McGarry on 23/11/23 to receive information about their plans and aspirations.

**6. Finance & Payments**

Since the last meeting, no further payments have been made but some interest has been accumulated along with the annual sum of £3.45 from Northern Power Grid. Consequently, the account is £10464.21 in credit. March will bring invoices for grass cutting £1620 and insurance.

**7. Planning Applications & Updates**

There were no outstanding or new planning applications to consider.

**8. Village Hall**

Cllr Robinson reminded the meeting of the remaining developments agreed for the village hall. The necessary finance to fund the making and putting up of curtains in the hall was now available and this improvement, which should also benefit the acoustics, would soon be in place.

She reported that the evening of music and carol singing before Christmas had been well attended and that the hall was being increasingly used for events and activities. The soup, sweet and hot drink lunchtime event held on the third Thursday of the month is set to continue through to May.

**9. Village Green**

**9.1 Village Green Policy**

A draft of a policy produced in 2010 is displayed on the village website. Given the numerous issues that arise with the use and maintenance of the Green, the PC indicated its intention to produce an up-to-date document. The process would ensure that all residents would have the opportunity to make input into its development, so the final policy was fit for purpose.

**9.2 Parking in the Village**

This matter inevitably will be part of 9.1. The particular issues identified focused on parking required for residents who did not have space on their properties, for school associated vehicles, for visitors and for customers of The Bay Horse. Cllr Ayres reported that he had already had some constructive discussion regarding the concerns with the owners of the pub.

9.3 Grass Cutting

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of taking a nature friendly approach to The Green i.e. not cutting the grass so often or simply cutting it once at the end of the season. Previous investigations on this matter revealed that residents wanted the grass cut regularly. In addition, its suitability for recreation, which is a legal requirement of its status a Village Green, would be questionable/impaired if the grass was long.

**10. Any other Business**

Residents had expressed concern regarding work at the Chapel. The PC will contact the new owners and seek information.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council is due to be held on Tuesday 9 April 2024 at 7pm.**

**The Meeting Closed at 19.54**