

RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Present**

Cllr A Ayres (Chair)  
Cllr J Cooke  
Cllr B Hird  
Cllr A Pledge

8 Members of the Parish

Cllr Ayres welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced new Cllr Cooke

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

Cllr Robinson 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:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024 were approved.

**4. Matters Arising/Open Forum**

There was still no information regarding PC's efforts to get NYC street lighting to illuminate the whole of the road in Mill Close throughout the night. Chair agreed to follow up on previous communication with Police and NYC street lighting regarding this issue.

There had been no further contribution to the Stainton Quarry Ltd application re Gayles Quarry since a Tree Preservation Order recorded on 8/7/24. The decision deadline is reported to be 30/9/24 but this has been moved on every occasion so far.

There has been no new information shared about Wetheriggs regarding its operation and future plans.

Those attending were supplied with a draft copy of a Welcome Letter intended to supply information about the village to recently arrived residents. The letter would also be made available on the website. Cllr Robinson had suggested that such a document should be produced some time ago and Cllr Pledge had taken up the challenge of producing it. There was much discussion about its contents particularly regarding the Defibrillator, its use, training and the possibility of setting up an emergency team using the expertise available within the community. Suggestions were made about organising a village event in the summer and the Chair directed those who were interested in this endeavour to join the Village Hall Charity group.

Representatives of the Friends of Ravensworth School were present and explained that a long-serving parent and supporter of the school had sadly passed away. They requested permission to plant a small cherry tree on the village green in her memory.

Although the Parish Councillors were mindful that the purpose of the village green was to provide recreational open space, it was acknowledged that the deceased parent had long-standing connections with the school and village. It was agreed that the Chair would meet with the representatives the next day and agree on the tree's location.

Cllr Pledge spoke about the defibrillator explaining it had been purchased in 2016 and was guaranteed until 2028. While it may remain functional after this, a replacement would cost £1,055. She explained that the Parish Council, as part of its service level agreement, had opted to purchase the VETS package (Volunteer Emergency Telephone System).

It was agreed that, subject to the village being able to recruit more volunteers, the VETS should be retained. Cllr Pledge to write to villagers reminding them about using the defibrillator, asking current VETS whether they are still able to volunteer and seeking other volunteers.

Resident Debbie Maine offered to investigate the feasibility of running a training session for villagers in the use of the defibrillator.

A suggestion was made about organising a Summer Village event. The Chair directed those who were interested in this endeavour to contact the Village Hall Charity group.

## **5. Finance & Payments**

At the Annual Meeting it was reported that the PC was £7327.05 in credit. Since then, payments totalling £2945.98 have been received including 1<sup>st</sup> precept £2700, visibility splays cutting £239.30 and bank interest £6.68. Outgoings include £188.34 for defibrillator materials, £138 YLCA membership fee, £25.50 training fee for Cllr Pledge and £33.63 for bedding plants. Consequently, the balance of the account is £9886.76 in credit.

Cllr Pledge referred to the cost of replacing the defibrillator in or around 2028 and proposed that £200 pa be set aside from the PC finances to cover this.

## **6. Planning Applications & Updates**

The reply to a FOI act enquiry to NYC, initiated as a result of the non-payment of the contracted affordable housing contribution by the Mill Farm developer, revealed little useful information other than the NYC committee involved in investigating the situation had doubts about being able to enforce the requirements.

Despite rumours to the contrary, the Chair reported that there had been no planning applications submitted to date by the charity who purchased the Chapel.

While the application for erecting solar panels behind the hedge on land at Tofta Farm had been granted, it was noted that a condition of the development was they all had to be removed within 41 years of the installation and the site returned to grassland.

**7. Highways**

The chair noted that on Saturday 11/8 road work was undertaken on the road leading to Flatts Lane which resulted in its closure and much disruption to the main road through the village. While a few residents had been alerted to such work, the timing had not been defined and no notice had been received by the PC. Contradictory signage was left post road work i.e. a 20mph sign was attached to the lower track's Private Road 5mph. Concern about the lack of information had been passed on to the NYC Highways.

Ken Bell, our representative on all matters related to the A66 improvements, reported about a meeting in the village hall with Rishi Sunak on 23/8 following on from another with Highways England and road contractors. Our MP made it clear that any delay or abandonment of the A66 upgrade in North Yorkshire could cost lives and hold back the economy. The A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project is opposed by a campaign group called Transport Action Network. It has launched a legal challenge on environmental grounds to the planning consent granted last year by the Conservative Government. The legal challenge will be heard in the High Court next month. In addition, the new Labour Government has announced a major review of infrastructure schemes. Mr Sunak was contacting all the MPs whose constituencies contained the proposed A66 work to enlist their support for the development.

There was increasing anxiety about driving on local roads due to the number of large vehicles which were travelling at high speeds, and which were unable to keep to their side of the road. While lorries, buses and cars were responsible, agricultural traffic was cited as particularly problematic. Some details from NFU advice about the width and speed of agricultural vehicles were shared with the meeting and the chair promised to take the concerns to a Parish Liaison Meeting.

**8. Village Hall**

The many improvements made to the Village Hall since his last visit were much admired and praised by our local MP.

It was noted that the Soup and Sweet lunchtimes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month would be starting again on 19 September.

**9. Village Green**

A notice attached to a small wooden board stuck in The Green had been found by the Chair close to 60 Ravensworth on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Headed Publicity for Proposed Telecommunications Development, it stated a 9m wooden telegraph pole was proposed to be installed at that point. It was later discovered that there were three other notices also located on The Green. All the notices invited objection at [poleobjections@openreach.co.uk](mailto:poleobjections@openreach.co.uk) and this was immediately done but as yet no reply has been received. The PC has successfully sought advice from several sources and given the proximity of the locations to the road, NYC Highways Legal Team are involved in the matter. The Green is a registered Village Green, is the property of Ravensworth Village not North Yorkshire Council, and its care is administered by the Parish Council. It is our view that any proposal of this sort is a matter for RPC and the residents.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 11 November 2024 at 7pm.**

**The Meeting Closed at 20.26.**