

RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th SEPTEMBER 2022

Present

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

7 Members of the Parish

Cllr Ayres welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

All Councillors present.

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 4th April January 2022 were approved. It was agreed that the minutes of this and any future meeting will be produced, checked and approved by the Parish Council and posted i.e. on the village website and hall noticeboard, ideally within two weeks of the meeting

4. Matters Arising

The chair congratulated the village hall supporters on organising the Jubilee Saturday picnic. Thanks had been received from those attending and the members of Barnard Castle Brass Band had also expressed their enjoyment.

5. Open Forum

There was much useful discussion and exchange of information during this session of the meeting.

There was a question about what was happening with the Methodist Chapel. Cllr Ayres informed the meeting that the new owners had submitted at the beginning of February a planning application which attracted general approval. Despite making much contact with Richmondshire planning, no progress was made and the disappointed owners withdrew their application on 22 August.

In reply to an attendee's enquiry about the application to re-open the Gayles Quarry, Cllr Ayres invited Cllr Addinall to provide an update on the application. The PC's response had been diligently and thoughtfully prepared by Cllr Addinall and he remains engaged and active in the matter.

Background

Stainton Quarry Ltd have applied to reopen Gayles Quarry last used in 1895. They propose to extract 15,000 tonnes of sandstone/year for 15 years.

Stone will be moved from the quarry site on tippers and low loaders along the U1095 track, down Sturdy House Lane, over Copper Mill Bridge and then some will go to Richmond.

40 tonne low loaders will come through Ravensworth and join the A66 at the junction with New Lane.

There will be a maximum of 5 laden lorries per day, 10 lorry movements in total from the quarry.

Consultation

The consultation period ended on 31st July (after two extensions).

As of this morning there have been 76 letters of objection raised, 9 originating from Ravensworth.

Ravensworth School Governors and Dales Academy Trust raised a strong objection.

The objection produced by Ravensworth Parish Council was circulated by e-mail to the village.

Objections raised cover: noise, dust, road safety, impact on rural crime, impact on fauna and flora, impact on the PROW, record of Stainton Quarry at their existing site.

There was a local meeting of all Parishes in Dalton on 20 June 2022, attended by about 11 Ravensworth residents, some of whom voiced strong objections to the scheme

The issue has been raised with our local councillor, Angus Thompson, our local MP, Rishi Sunak and there is ongoing communication with Richmondshire District Council and North Yorkshire County Council.

Following the close of the consultation period a campaign team has been formed to monitor developments and keep the focus on the application.

If people are interested in receiving updates, please let me have your e-mail address.

Current Status National Highways have paused the planning process until they can assess the impact of lorries joining the A66 at New Lane, so no planning decision will be made until 2023.

The applicant has proposed alternate routes for the low loaders, through Richmond and out through either Skeeby or Gilling.

Richmond Town Council has raised a very clear objection to this route.

The campaign team has contacted the Parish Clerks at Skeeby, Aske and Gilling West, but as yet no response from them.

The other area of concern is crossing Copper Mill Bridge. North Yorkshire Highways have looked at the proposal and have stated that they are "minded to reject the application" on the grounds of visibility, even if they were to prune trees, which would require the landowner's permission, which they do not have.

Last week traffic monitoring was carried out at Copper Mill Bridge without the permission of North Yorkshire Highways or Planning Depts or a formal application in advance for a required Streetworks Notice or the notification of local Parish Councils or Meetings.

Contact with Rishi Sunak

We are still waiting to receive a substantive response from Rishi Sunak, the first reply we received was a copy of an out of date reply to a previous query from the Corporate Director Business & Environmental Services at NYCC. We have asked for an updated response and for Rishi to raise issues with NYCC again on our behalf but have still to get a response.

Tree Preservation Order

A tree preservation order has been applied for to protect two trees on the site of the quarry. Richmond District Council have judged it to be worthy of consideration, but because this is part of an NYCC planning application it needs to go to NYCC and the outcome is being chased.

Bats

The application stated that there were no bats at the site. Video evidence has been collected and submitted to show that there are bats at the site. NYCC have now asked the applicant to conduct a full bat survey rather than the desktop study previously conducted.

It was noted that a bench on the Green in need of repair had been replaced by a new one. Cllr Ayres informed the meeting that the bench had been bought and installed by the Fox Hall Gun Club in memory of their treasurer and long-term member Maurice Benson who had recently passed away. It was suggested by an attendee that all the other benches could do with some maintenance and a small working party was formed. The PC agreed to fund all the materials required.

There was some discussion about how to increase communication with villagers about PC matters. While there were a number who had provided their e mail addresses, it was agreed that further opportunity was needed to be made available.

Despite a resident making several requests, a streetlight has remained unrepaired. Cllr Ayres offered to follow up on the issue. He reported that two others had been repaired recently, the one on the North end of the Hall and the other on the new wooden pole outside The Bay Horse.

6. Finance & Payments

Since the last meeting the PC has received £6.68 in bank interest and made a payment of £120 to cover the Defibrillator Annual Standing Charge. The account is £14,045.15 in credit.

7. Planning Applications & Updates

The planning matters concerning Gayles Quarry and the Methodist Chapel were covered in item 5.

While there continue to be problems in the Forge Farm development, the residents have indicated they are engaged with them. On 2 September another attempt was made to sort out the entrance to the estate. The sign at the entrance Holmedale appeared without any official communication of the naming as did the names of the various houses – there is no numbering of the five dwellings. Confusion with post and other deliveries has resulted particularly with names - Gilling House, Holmebeck House has been mixed up with Holmebeck Barn.

The planning application for the two additional new dwellings at the Mill Farm has been granted despite the concerns about flooding from the PC and nearby residents. Two attenuation tanks, one with the capacity of 60000 litres and the other 44800 litres, are reported to have been installed to deal with surface water run off in periods of high rainfall. There is also a requirement on the developer to provide long term maintenance of the mill race and the beck to mitigate flooding and to protect any sensitive ecology identified. There will be a need for all to be vigilant in ensuring the

planning requirements are enforced.

8. Village Hall

Cllr Robinson provided the following report.

Work has continued over the last 12 months to further improve and maintain the village hall.

Plans were approved by Richmondshire Council in May 22 for ongoing repairs listed below:

1. Repair/replace roof
2. Repoint north wall and repair the water table stones (completed August 22)
3. Re-point and repair stone windows (completed August 22)
4. Replace broken glass
5. Remove concrete around the walls and create soak-away
6. Make safe and replace broken and uneven concrete paving
7. Create disability access on gable side of entrance porch

The Parish Council approved the request for a formal constitution to be developed specifically for the financial management of the hall. With guidance from the Charity Commission RVH is to be an unincorporated charity.

The first meeting of the charity was held 5 September 2022. The appointed officers are:

CHAIR	J. Hawes
SECRETARY	K. Ritzema
TREASURER	C. Robinson

EVENTS AT RVH

ART/CRAFT	Monday 2-4pm
YOGA	Tuesday 9.30-10.30am
YOGA	Wednesday 7-8.15 pm (due to start October 2022)

Scheduled future events by RVH - more details will follow:

Scarecrow Trail	October 30th
Soup/dessert	Nov 24th 12-2pm
Wreath making	December
Carols	December

RVH continues to provide a community venue for hire and advertises regularly in the local flyer.

RVH appreciates the local support and welcomes your comments, suggestions and feedback.

9. Village Green

As planned the NYCC grass cutting team were re-engaged for this season and have done a good job for a competitive price. It is worth noting that the school has returned to using their services this year.

While the repair made to the Lower track appears to be holding up to date, the autumn and winter will test its worth. Further repair is still anticipated in the stretch parallel to the village hall and at the various entrances/exits to the lower and upper track from the

highway.

We continue to monitor traffic on the tracks particularly in respect of the use of the lower track as a cut through and for the delivery of pupils to and from the school.

10 Any other Business

The footpath from the lower Green which starts at a stone stile at number 37 and leads to Flats Lane, was cleared earlier in the year. It allows walkers to cut off the corner at The Larks.

A reminder of the hosepipe ban from 26 August was made.

Cllr Robinson raised the PC's involvement in the '20's plenty' campaign and the possible use of publicity material in the village. She will seek further information about seeking to establish a 20 mph through the village.

There was some discussion about the formation of the new unitary council which is set to commence its operation from 1st April 2023 and the devolution process which will culminate in its leadership by an elected Mayor in May 2024. Details of the public consultation on the devolution proposals, Let's Talk Local, start on 19th September – www.ynydevolution.com

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 8 November 2022 at 7pm.

The Meeting Closed at 20.26.