

RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023**

**Present**

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

4 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:**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were approved.

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

Asked about the situation as regards the Gayles quarry planning application Cllr Addinall replied there was little change. The applicant was in the process of submitting paperwork which was originally due at the end of March. It was expected that the final decision regarding the planning would be made by NYC at the end of August.

Cllr Ayres reported that the streetlight outside 31 The Green had been repaired and the light was operating. The other by the entry to Mill Court was still awaiting attention and no progress had been made with reinstalling the Ravensworth sign at the western entry of the village. *Update post meeting – NYC have informed the Clerk that the PC is responsible for the village signage. Previous enquiries had not revealed this response and given the PC were unaware of this duty of care, NYC were asked to supply a list of such obligations for which all village councils were accountable. No meaningful reply has so far been received. Our thanks go to a helpful resident who has effected the necessary repair.*

Concern was expressed about the poor road markings in the village particularly regarding the approach from the west and the difficult bend by Forge Farm. This will be reported to Highways via the Parish Portal. It was noted that there had been some problems associated with poor car parking by customers at the Bay Horse.

Ken Bell, our representative at meetings concerning the A66 project, stated that the design changes in our stretch from Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor reported at our last meeting had been reversed i.e. underpasses rather than bridges will be constructed across the new road. For details see

<https://s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets.nationalhighways.co.uk/roads/road-projects/A66+Northern+Trans-Pennine/9-Stephen-Bank-to-Carkin-Moor-A3-ONLINE-AW.pdf>

2024 should see some construction enabling work beginning with full road building beginning the following year. For further updates see

<https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/a66-northern-trans-pennine/about-the-project/>

Richmondshire District Council has gone, and we are now part of the North Yorkshire Council. For enquiries regarding council services call 0300 131 2 131 or visit the website [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

## 5. Finance & Payments

Since the last meeting the PC has received £3.23 in bank interest as well as a donation of £174 for the Village Hall charity from the Coronation Fund. In addition to the invoices noted in the last set of minutes, payments have been made for membership of the Open Spaces Society, covering a three year subscription to the village website domain <https://www.ravensworthvillage.com/>, and materials associated with the repair of the Village Hall roof. A summary of all financial matters will be reviewed at the next meeting on 9 May, the Annual Meeting, when approval will be sought for all the Annual Governance and Accountability Return materials.

## 6. Planning Applications & Updates

There were no significant matters on which to report.

## 7. Village Hall

Cllr Robinson reported on the Village Hall. The Community Account contains £6714.65. Having been used to pay for labour associated with the repair of the roof, the Business Account stands at £7.41. There are still issues to resolve with the Bell Tower and guidance is awaited from Planning. Other works regarding the hall, i.e. the creation of a disability access on gable side of entrance porch, groundworks around the building and improving the hall's acoustics, will require fundraising events and grant applications.

Unfortunately, the servicing of the heating system in March condemned the boiler and quotes have been sought for its replacement from recommended companies. The breakdown of the heating caused the planned Sound Bath session to be cancelled and insufficient regular support for the weekly Yoga class has led to its demise.

At the recent meeting of the Village Hall Committee, it was decided to increase the hourly hire rate, from 1 May 2023, by £2 if kitchen facilities are required.

The popular monthly soup and dessert lunch will take a break after the 20<sup>th</sup> April's event and then start again in the autumn. From those booking the hall, there was good feed-

back from the organisers of 3 year old's birthday party held in March and the charity fundraisers organising a Thai night (private event) on 18 April have reported much interest. While a list of forthcoming events organised by the Ravensworth Village Hall Friends will soon be available, a Coronation celebration is in preparation for the afternoon of Sunday 7 May.

**8. Village Green**

The following note will be delivered to all the residents of The Green this week.

*Dear Resident of The Green,*

*The first grass cut of the year was begun on Tuesday 11 April by the NYC grass cutting team and due to the poor weather, completed on Thursday 13 April. As ever, The Green has suffered over the winter period and needs some care and attention. The grassed area will continue to diminish as the cart tracks widen if thought and care are not taken in the driving and parking of vehicles.*

*The grass cutting team plan to return every fortnight i.e. the next visit will be Tuesday 25 April. Please can you ensure that there are no vehicles parked on The Green on these days, so the cutters are able to complete their work.*

*Thank you for your assistance in maintaining the quality of our environment.*

*Ravensworth Parish Council*

The cost of the cutting of the Village Green has increased by 5.5% this season to £1200. As well as the usual areas covered, the team will be cutting some additional highway visibility splays at a cost of £150. For the latter work with splays, NYC will pay the PC £224.

**9. Any other Business**

Cllr Addinall provided information about the meeting at Dalton and Gayles Village Hall that he had attended regarding diversity projects to be funded by Highways England. There was a good attendance and it had been decided to ask residents to participate in a survey about the Holmedale Community Nature Project in the first two weeks of May. He noted that there were funds available from the National Highways Social Value Fund for all kinds of projects and Cllr Robinson indicated her interest in seeking finance for the remaining work associated with the village hall.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 7pm.  
The Meeting Closed at 20.05.**