

RAVENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

**Present**

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

6 Members of the Parish

Cllr Ayres welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**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 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were approved.

**4. Matters Arising/Open Forum**

Cllr Addinall informed the meeting that there was little progress with the Gayles quarry planning application since the last meeting. The applicant had sought an extension to the decision-making process in order to resolve various issues and it seems likely that the matter will end in the hands of the new unitary authority NYC.

Cllr Ayres stated that a recent call about a long-term streetlight issue (ref 300044, 08/09/2022) revealed that it was still 'in progress'. *Update 08/02/2023 by voicemail – new units needed to make the repair have been received and Northern Power Grid will be fitting them along with led lights by the end of February.* One of the attendees provided information about another streetlight which is not operating by the entry to Mill Court and was assured that this too would be reported for repair. *Update 15/02/2023 ref 322368 by email A New bracket and lantern have been ordered for this unit as it is beyond repair and unfortunately, we will have to wait for delivery before arranging install.*

Ken Bell, who kindly continues to be involved in monitoring the A66 project, reported that the recent consultation with the local population had led to some proposed minor design changes in our stretch from Stephen Bank to Carkin Moor. The details are available at

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/a66-nyo-dco-application-design-change-consultation>

2024-25 is the earliest the project will commence and there has been no decision as to where work will begin. Cllr Addinall also informed the meeting that a by-product of the A66 improvement scheme was some finance being made available to fund local bio-diversity projects and there was a gathering at Dalton and Gayles Village Hall on 13 February to consider what schemes might be undertaken in our neighbourhood.

The meeting was told that there was evidence of fly tipping in the village i.e. an old cast iron guttering and downpipe system had been left in the verge of the road leading towards Larklands and garden waste has also been dumped in roadside verges.

Cllr Ayres reported on his attendance at the Area 1 Highways Office Richmond and the information shared is appended to the minutes. The local '20's plenty' campaign continues to pressure NYC for action and invites supporters to demonstrate at County Hall. Northallerton on 22 February before the full council meeting which starts at 10.00.

The results of the various consultation processes i.e. let's talk local, money, devolution revealed while relatively few replies had been received, there were sufficient to satisfy the necessary support for the changes to take place.

<https://edemocracy.northyorks.gov.uk/documents/s16623/Appendix%20%20-%20Consultation%20Outputs%20Report.pdf>

## **5. Finance & Payments**

Since the last meeting the PC has received £5.04 in bank interest as well as £3.45 from Power Grid and consequently the account is £13828.25 in credit. There are several invoices which will be paid in the next few days i.e. £1364.40 to NYCC for 2022's grass cutting, £33.40 to YLCA for attendance at a PROW webinar and £631.09 to Zurich Insurance for PC and Village Hall.

While the new NYC tax bill for 2023-24 will be increased due to higher charges for rates, the Police and Fire Rescue, the Parish Council precept for Ravensworth will remain unchanged.

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

There were no significant matters on which to report.

## **7. Village Hall**

The planned work on the village hall roof has started with scaffolding being erected. In the interests of safety, access across the grounds will be restricted while the repairs are undertaken.

Those attending the events in the Hall over November and December were complimentary about their quality. However, in the unfortunate and sudden absence of Cllr Robinson little further information about Village Hall matters was available.

## **8. Village Green**

The planned repair to the lower track was completed before Christmas and the PC recorded its thanks to a local resident for organizing the work. In addition, some holes at the exits on to the highway had been filled.

While there has been much investigation and discussion by RPC over the years about how to deal with the problems associated with the maintenance of the Village Green and the tracks, difficulties remain unresolved. After making promising contact with the Open Spaces Society, the Parish Council has decided to become a member at a cost of £45 for the year and so be able to access its advice and expertise regarding the Green.

**9. Any other Business**

As part of trying to get a better understanding of how to handle issues with regard to The Green and Public Rights of Way (PROW), Cllr Ayres reported that he had attended a webinar made available by YLCA presented by the Senior PROW Officer for Barnsley. Presentation slides have been distributed to members of the PC along with notes - any resident who wishes to view the material should contact the Parish Clerk.

While ordinance survey maps provide information about PROW i.e. footpaths, bridleways, byways open to all traffic (BOAT) and restricted byways, the legal document which identifies PROW is the definitive map (and associated statements).

The definitive map is conclusive evidence of the rights of way shown on it. The statement is a description of the rights of way shown on the map and may record widths and gates and stiles that existed when the map was drawn up. However, not all paths are shown on the definitive map, as there may be paths that have been used by the public for many years and so have acquired public rights, but as yet are not recorded on the definitive map.

There are more than 10,000 km of rights of way in North Yorkshire which are covered by the 11 definitive maps maintained by NYCC. They can be viewed at County Hall, Northalerton.

There is a map of rights of way in North Yorkshire available online.  
[http://maps.northyorks.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Out\\_and\\_About](http://maps.northyorks.gov.uk/connect/analyst/mobile/#/main?mapcfg=Out_and_About)

The data on this map is for information only. It is not the definitive map and should not be relied on for determining the position or alignment of any PROW. It can be used to identify PROW e.g. the cut through from The Green to Flatts Lane is 20.55/8/1.

The council is unlikely to own the land on which a PROW is located but nevertheless has legal responsibilities to fulfil e.g. cut surface vegetation, maintain & install signs, improve accessibility, as does the landowner e.g. not to obstruct/damage the PROW, maintain stiles & gates. The PC does not have legal duties and in enforcement related matters should seek assistance from Highways. In general, regarding any matters related to PROW, the PC should seek advice from the Ramblers Association.

There are no minimum standards for a PROW so claims re accidents/falls are difficult to make. Barbed wire is allowed on fences but should stop at stile supports or be properly covered. Informative notices posted by landowners are allowed but they should not be intimidating – recent cases where cattle have trampled walkers are due to come to court so it is expected there will be new advice issued as a result.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 11 April 2023 at 7pm.  
The Meeting Closed at 20.15.**