

# ASKHAM BRYAN PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES of a meeting of the PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 starting at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	Simon Peers (Chair)		
Councillors	Julie Barber	Helen Dawson	Mark Walker
	Jason Boakes	Kathryn Smith	David Wiseman

**In attendance:** The Clerk.

**1 APOLOGIES.** None.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST:** Cllr. Dawson regarding 98 Main Street (item 5d below) as the applicant was a close family member.

**3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

**4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PC HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023.**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting of the PC held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023 be approved and that the Chair be authorised to sign, all in favour.

**5. PLANNING**

**a. Planning Applications Received**

Four planning applications had been received since the November 2023 meeting as follows;

- a. 23/01955/AGNOT - Askham Bryan College - Siting of 20ft container with storage tank.  
This application had since been determined – see the last entry of item 5b (below).
- b. 23/02303/FUL - Long Acre 112 Main Street - Variation of condition 2 of permitted application 23/00339/FUL to amend colour of window frames in elevation drawings.  
The Clerk had replied using his delegated authority raising no objections subject to planner's satisfaction that the proposed anthracite grey was in keeping with the rest of the conservation area.
- c. 24/00007/TCA - 109 Main Street - Fell 1 no. (dying) Hawthorn - tree in a conservation area.
- d. 24/00010/TCA - 98 Main Street - Fell 1 no. Willow - tree in a conservation area.

The PC had no objections specifically to either of the two above tree works applications but **resolved** that all future applications to fell trees (where the PC had no objections) should suggest that a condition of approval should be that the felled tree be replaced (not necessarily on the site of the felled tree). Regarding 24/00010/TCA, the tree was largely dead and some of it had broken off in a recent storm.

**b. Planning Decision Notices Received**

The following application had been determined and the decisions noted;

- a. 23/01717/FUL - Tuevais 101, Main Street - Variation of condition 2 of permitted application 22/02387/FUL to raise the roof by 0.5m. Approved.
- b. 22/01074/FULM - Pikehills Golf Club - Redevelopment of the Pike Hills Golf Course involving importation and grading of soils – Revised plans – Approved.
- c. 23/00105/FUL - Field House, 2 Main Street - Construction of field access with gate – Withdrawn.
- d. 23/01848/TCNOT - Telecommunications Mast, Eastfield Farm, Moor Lane - Regulation 5 notice for the removal of 6 No. antennas and 15 no. RRUs. Installation of 6 no. replacement antennas and 15 no. replacement RRUs on existing lattice tower. No objection.
- e. 23/01957/TCA – Greystones, 90 Main Street - Fell 1 no. Ash tree and crown reduce 4 no. trees situated in a conservation area. No objection.

- f. 23/01864/TCA - The Little House, 133 Main Street - Re-pollard 1 no. Willow tree to previous pollard points - tree in a conservation area. No objection.
- g. 23/01955/AGNOT - Askham Bryan College - Siting of 20ft container with storage tank. Approved.

## 6 CRIME REPORT

There was one reported crime in December being a burglary on 10<sup>th</sup> December. The telecommunications depot had been broken into and eight or nine drums of wire had been stolen. This incident had possibly been captured on the closed circuit television cameras.

## 7 REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLOR HOOK

Ward Cllr. Hook had sent her apologies.

## 8 OTHER MATTERS.



### 8.1 Precept for 2024/25

The 2024/25 budget showed a difference between income and expenditure of £10,871 and it was **resolved** to set the precept at this level being an increase compared to 2023/24 of about 3½%, all in favour.

### 8.2 Recreational Area.

Cllr. Wiseman had been having conversations with those who use (or would be likely to use) the Recreational Area and established that there was a majority view in favour of having a zip wire as part of phase two of the development. He had made inquiries with three suppliers based in Cumbria, Derbyshire and in the Chesterfield/Sheffield area. He had tried to ensure like-for-like quotations and tried to ensure that the design was consistent with the equipment purchased last year. Prices varied with two quoting about £6,500 and one quoting £9,000. Delivery times were four to six weeks. The most popular lengths of the zip wires were twenty-five to thirty metres. One option was to use the mound as the launchpad, however, work would need to be done first in order to make the mound safe due to its poor condition. The alternative would be to use a built in platform. The drop height would be no more than 1.1 metres at any given point which was below the level at which additional safety measures would be needed and the grass was an adequate surface. There would be wear and tear on the grass. The prices did not include delivery and installation and Cllr. Wiseman suggested that the price of the project would be in the region of £10,000 to £12,000. Councillors expressed lack of support for the option of using the mound as a launchpad. It was also suggested that the location of the proposed zip wire be chosen to minimise the risk of damage due to falling trees and that it be located away from the mound. Cllr. Dawson had also been involved working alongside Cllr. Wiseman in taking this forward. All the suppliers provided a ten or fifteen year guarantee on the equipment, this however did not include moving parts for which the guarantee period was one year. It was also recognised that the proposed zip wire would have an impact on the insurance premium. There was discussion about raising the necessary funds including a direct appeal via a communication to the village giving them an idea of the total cost, the Tesco scheme and other grant funding sources. Phase two would include benches. There was frustration that there were sufficient funds being held by the Charity which could not be used due to clause eight in the constitution which only allowed the Charity to use funds for projects for which "provision is not made out of rates, taxes or other public funds". Cllr. Peers made the newer councillors aware of the history of previous attempts to make the Charity's funds more freely available leading to an attempt to update the constitution (which had so far proved unsuccessful).

### 8.3 Adoption of a biodiversity policy

Consideration was given to compliance with the provisions of the Environment Act 2021 and the provisions which came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. The Yorkshire Local Councils Associations had produced a template for a biodiversity policy. The need to adopt a formal policy was questioned as the PC had been biodiverse aware long before this act came into effect and had set up the Natural Environment Committee (NEC) with

terms of reference which encouraged environmental awareness and biodiversity. It was **resolved** that the terms of reference of the NEC were sufficiently robust and that a separate biodiversity policy was not needed, all in favour.

#### 8.4 **Reimbursement of the landlord of the public house of £30 for his expenses regarding the Christmas event.**

It was **resolved** to reimburse the landlord of the public house £30 for his expenses regarding the Christmas event, all in favour. It was agreed to minute the gratitude of the PC for his support of the village.

#### 8.5 **Report of the event at Christmas**

There was mixed feedback regarding the 2023 Christmas event. Several residents had turned up expecting it to be similar to the previous year's event. Those who turned up late were especially disappointed finding that the switch on of the Christmas lights had been done and complaining that the event was disjointed. It was recognised that better communication was needed in order to set expectation and a broader base of people would make the planning easier. The event at the public house had been well supported.

#### 8.6 **80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings in June 2024**

Cllr. Wiseman suggested making Stan Cullis central to the commemoration. Being from Yorkshire, Stan Cullis provided local interest to what was planned as he was the only person to be awarded the Victoria Cross as part of the D-Day landings. Information would be communicated by a page in the newsletter (Cllr. Wiseman agreed to write the article) and information in the notice board and on the PC Facebook page.

#### 8.7 **Access to the Recreational Area across Diocesan glebe land.**

Consideration was given to correspondence from the York Diocese solicitors regarding access to the Recreational Area across Diocesan glebe land and proposals to increase this to £100 a year in line with inflation since 2010. It was felt that an increase from £50 to £100 a year was well above inflation over this period unless the £100 a year was fixed to 2030. The Clerk would write to the solicitors representing York Diocese to seek clarification of this matter and to suggest that as the landlord, the Diocese considers repair of the gate giving access to the Recreational Area from the glebe land.

## 9 **FINANCE**

### 9.1 **Report of invoices to be paid**

It was **resolved** that payment of the following invoices to be approved, all in favour (the first five were being approved retrospectively as there had been no meeting in December).

- Dean's Garden Centre - Jo Barker - Tulip Bulbs (mixed) (£5.84), Bedding Plants (14 x £3) - - 17th October 2023 - £39.87 + VAT.
- Dean's Garden Centre - Jo Barker - Fifty litres of Growmore Multi-purpose compost - 28th October 2023 - £4.49 + VAT.
- Mike Walmsley Landscapes - Mole control, £90 call out charge plus four moles caught at £15 per mole - Invoice 83 - £150
- Leaflets Printed Full Colour 170gsm - 250 Flyers. Dzine Studio 87 Limited (eBay) - £21.78
- Garden and Estate Machinery Services – service and repairs to Partner Lawn tractor - engine oil (£7.90), Fuel Filter (£6.85), Air Filter (£21.06), Pre Filter (£6.18), Spark plug (£4.20), 2 x High Lift Rotary Blades (37.20), Deck Drive Belt (£43.65), 2 x Rotor Brake assembly (£16.78), Brake Rod (£8.29), 2 x Hub Caps (£9.44), Tyre Sealant (£8.15). Service (£120). Total £289.70
- Clerk's Salary 01/12/2023 to 31/12/2023 plus deductions payable to HMRC plus cost of living increase backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

The credit balance of payments to HMRC had now been used up and payments would resume.

## **9.2 Appointment of an internal auditor for 2024.**

It was **resolved** to stay with the same internal auditor subject to confirmation that his fees were unchanged since 2023.

## **10 CORRESPONDENCE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

A list of correspondence had been circulated and the contents noted. Where appropriate, the Clerk had posted information of interest to residents on the PC Facebook page.

## **11 ACTION TRACKER**

An Action Tracker had been circulated with the agenda papers listing all previously agreed actions and reports on progress. There had been multiple communications regarding getting the path from Askham Richard to Askham Bryan via Buttacre Lane recognised as definitive right of way by City of York Council. Several residents had responded to an appeal on the Facebook page and some had completed user evidence forms which the Clerk had forwarded to the Chair of Askham Richard PC in time for their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 (to be added to similar forms completed by Askham Richard residents). Land Registry searches regarding the gate were suggested. One of the residents had put forward two other paths between the two villages for formal recognition, priority would be given to trying to get the Buttacre Lane path recognised.

## **12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The dates of meetings in 2024 would be;

15<sup>th</sup> February, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 16<sup>th</sup> May (Annual meeting), 20<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 15<sup>th</sup> August, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 17<sup>th</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> November. All to be held at the Village Hall at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed

15 February 2024