

Garsdale Parish Council

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Minutes

of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 28th November 2024 at Garsdale Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors: Chair Cllr Jack Butterworth, Cllr Gillian Dickinson, Cllr Annette Colton, Cllr Thomas Todd, Cllr David Labbate and Cllr Chris Simmonds

Absent: Cllr Bill Mawdsley

Declaration of interest – none.

Minutes of last meeting – confirmed and signed by the chairman.

Reports – Financial matters – cheques signed for said payments:-

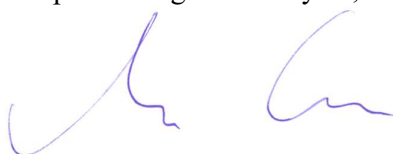
The payments were all for expenditure already incurred. The Chairman did not ask the council to approve or ratify any of the expenditure. Items no 5, 6, 7 and 9 were not listed as discussed or approved in minutes from either last council meeting on 21 September, or the business meeting on 13 Nov.

1. J Butterworth – various including cement for new village signs totalling £169.27
2. P Benson: new village signs - ££617.84. of which receipts for £69.70 not yet received
3. G Dickinson – postage for Newsletter £112.20
4. J Labbate – Fireworks £689.00. Equivalent amount to be donated to PC by VHSC
5. L Bourke – Ink for printer £35.
6. S Burke – Change of laptop to Linux £200.00.
7. Zurich Insurance - £990
8. Calc – Training £82.00
9. SDLC – Clerk’s handbook £72

Precept claim – Business Meeting to be held to discuss precept and agree amount for 2024/25 claim. Date will be published on website when confirmed.

Chairman suggested setting precept at £4950 as suggested by W&F Council The Chair then called for a vote before any discussion around the precept at £4952 as per the agenda presented at the start of the meeting, Annette stated that she could not vote for this , Chris stated that he could not vote for this without first understanding why this amount had been proposed.

Partly because the agenda Item had not been published in advance, in fact it only appeared on the printed agenda presented to the council by the chair at the meeting but also it was pointed out that no budget had been received, although this was in part due to the change over in clerks, and that it was not clear how the W&FC suggested value was worked out, but it was not based on any actual figures from Garsdale. Annette Colton stated that she could not vote for this large an increase without further justification, such as a additional funds required for specific anticipated cost for the village hall, and requested it be noted in the minutes how she voted. Chris Simmonds said that he would need further information i.e. costs from previous years and a budget for the coming year in order to vote for an increase in precept. Thomas Todd said that the PC had previously been told not to set a precept of more than the anticipated budget for the year, and that the PC should not carry a



larger account balance over than a small contingency necessary for unexpected expenditure. David Labbate pointed out that all residents would see the percentage increase in precept for Garsdale Parish on their council tax bills.

A vote on the proposed precept of £4950 was taken; Chairman Jack Butterworth voted for, councillors David Labbate, Tomas Todd, Annette Colton, Gill Dickinson and Chris Simmonds voted against. This was the second vote being called for despite the objections previously raised, Jack Vote for all other members voted against or abstained as in no hands were raised. The chair did not subsequently ask who voted against.

Clerk to check suggested precept amount of £4952.00 with W&F and confirm if a pot can be set aside for roof fund/heating/running costs of Village Hall.

Clerk to contact HSBC and arrange for change of contact details on PC bank account.

Councillors

Highways - CS will note all relevant road matters over the weekend and consult with DL and report back at next meeting. CS also suggested additional signs to aid traffic calming should be appropriate to the area eg 'Tractors Turning'/'Sheep on Road'.

TT asked if planning permission would be required. CS confirmed Highways have to approve signs located on the roadside verge but land owners can agree to signs being sighted on their land. Cllr Ian Mitchell can be approached for information re grants for signage.

Cllr Hazel Hodgson has suggested support for an extension to the 30mph speed limit but residents present at the meeting suggested 'variable speed' signs would be preferable.

DL said trees and saplings need to be cut back and verges cleared as traffic has to go into middle of road around The Firs & Little Town areas causing a potential danger to life. Making the road visible would increase safety for travellers. A suggested maximum safe speed for these areas would be 40mph.

JB proposed inviting Cllr Thornton & Hazel Hodgson of W&F Council to a meeting to discuss speed limit changes. This was agreed unanimously.

CS and DL have reported water bypassing 2 gully pots at Garsdale Old Road (Back Lane) to Highways. No response from Highways as yet.

JD advised you can go onto 'One Network' online and enter postcode to see a list of all planned works in the area. You can also report a problem on this site using 'what3words' and a photo. Please see attached detailed report from PB on the meeting he and JB held with IM from W&F Council on 27.11.2024.

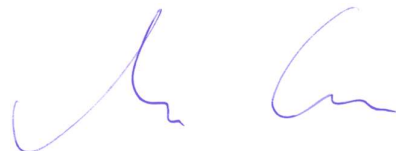
Planning – nothing to report.

Website – still a 'work in progress'. Please get in touch with any ideas you may have for content on the website and the PC encourage everyone to send in photos of interest so we can share our beautiful Dale online, in all seasons.

Whitbeck/Tilhill – after a meeting with Dillon, manager of Tilhill it's been agreed flooding has been caused by a small culvert and a blocked culvert. Tilhill have agreed the culvert will be cleared and a bigger pipe is required. W&F are to arrange a site visit to discuss.

There is good, open communication between PC and Tilhill so any queries can be answered.

Village Hall Maintenance – RD reported an estimated £2,100.00 will be required to replace one heating unit. JB is going to obtain an EPC certificate for the VH (if the rating is a 'G' or less then responsibilities come into force to get it to an 'E' rating). JB suggested RD wait until the rating is in place before committing to repair or replace the unit. A contractor is booked to do the EPC rating in



early December and JB is looking for grants to fund the costs. Some discussion followed, but it was not agreed to go ahead with the EPC, and no vote was taken to ratify the decision.

Community Groups - meeting held in Village Hall on 14.11.2024 to ascertain whether there was enough community interest in forming a group to deal with environmental issues. PB reported on both environmental survey, and the meeting, where the subjects of bat/litter/bird boxes, hedgehog runs and a community orchard were discussed. It was mentioned the Quaker burial ground requires clearing, not just cutting, and volunteers are required for this. The group also requires a Chair, any please contact Paul Benson if interested.

Paul Benson gave a report on behalf of the Respect the Dales Group. When PB referred to the survey carried out last year by RtD, several council members and a member of the public (Russell) commented that the response rate and hence p value of the survey rendered it statistically invalid. PB again disputed this and would not let the Russel explain the point further. The chairmain did not intervene, to end the heated debate taking place by the public and move the meeting forwards. Next PB reported that the group has most recently been considering a project to plant an orchard near the Village Hall. PB then asked another member of the public, Richard Dickinson who was also in the audience, several questions regarding the Village Hall & Sports Committee and their funding. RD tried to answer, but PB was not satisfied that his questions had been answered in full so kept rephrasing and repeating his questions. A heated discussion between RD and PB followed, without resolution.

During this heated discussion between two members of the public, the chairman made not attempts to stop the discussion and move the meeting on. Councillor Annette Colton twice commented that it was extremely cold and could we hurry up and move on please, but was ignored by both PB, RD and the chairman.

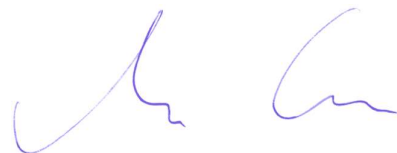
Garsdale Station – telephone box - W&F have acknowledged it was their error that the phone box was removed and JB confirmed it will not be returned by BT which has resulted in no emergency phone connection.

At the meeting 19 Sept Annette Colton suggested contacting B4RN to see if a VoIP emergency phone connection could be provided through their cabinet at the village hall.

JB has contacted B4RN which will supply a VoIP emergency phone outside the village hall for free. It also appears that a spare cable was left at the station which B4RN have agreed can be connected to their router there and PB spoke to a manager at Northern Rail and agreed this. The practicalities of how usage can be monitored are being ironed out and PB is working with JB, Northern Rail and B4RN to get this resolved.

Disabled access at Garsdale Station – PB & JB have contacted Cllr Ian Mitchel & Liz Collinge MP re disabled access at the station.

Passengers with a disability have to declare this when purchasing a ticket so they receive advice on how to safely alight at Garsdale Station (potentially travelling to the next station and returning to Garsdale on the south side of the platform) thus eliminating the need for them to alight on the north bound side of the station and therefore, in effect, eliminating a DDA issue. Cllr I Mitchell, Cllr Hazel Hodgson and Gareth Candlin are in discussions with Lizzie Collinge MP regarding the issue of access to, and exit from, the north side. A site visit was arranged for 27th November so more information can hopefully be shared at the next meeting.



Transport

PB has been in touch with the Little White Bus service, as a result of the community survey, to enquire as to whether a service can run between Sedbergh and Hawes, via Garsdale, on a Tuesday so residents can visit the market in Hawes.

Currently the school bus runs back to Hawes empty after delivering the children to school so there's a possibility that the public could use the bus, during term time, to get to Hawes and return in the afternoon on the bus doing the return journey to collect the school children. This is something that PB will follow up with the Little White Bus service and report back at the next meeting.

Correspondence/notices/publications – none to report.

Councillor matters – none reported.

Public participation/open session – none reported. Members of the public were invited to report and subsequently participated in discussions under relevant agenda items.

Date of next meeting – 16th January 2025.

Next meeting date has subsequently been moved forward to 15th January 2025.



Chairman.....

Date... 15th January 2025.....