

# *Leavening Parish Council*

Website: <http://www.leavening.online>

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## **Minutes of the Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Parish Council was held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023** at **7.00pm** at the **Venerable Bede Church**, Leavening.

### **1. Apologies**

Received from Cllr Neil Audsley and Cllr Sean McDermot.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Robert Chambers and Cllr Louise Hampson declared involvement in the Community Allotments Committee which is not part of the Parish Council but an independent organisation reporting on activity in relation to the status of proposed plans for establishing allotments in the village.

### **3. Minutes from the previous meeting & matters arising**

Minutes from the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record.

Most matters arising would be picked up as standing items on the agenda. Some further matters arising were recorded as follows:

- The AGAR was submitted by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and public notice, agreed at the last meeting, was given within the specified timeframes.
- Meeting with the School – this had been postponed and the Chair was awaiting a new date.
- Neighbourhood Plan – this was raised as an action for further discussion and the Chair proposed deferring to the next meeting so all councillors could discuss in further detail.
- Community Awards – the deadline was not extended for this year's submission to the North Yorkshire Council scheme. Agreed to monitor for next year.
- Noticeboard – this had been fully updated since the last meeting with the correct documents.
- Email Servers – The Parish Council emails had been upgraded to new servers by the provider and this had impacted on security certificates. Cllr McDermott had now resolved this issue.

### **4. Public Session Opened**

### **5. Planning Consultations**

**High Penhowe** - Notification had been received in relation to the demolition of two barns at High Penhowe Farmhouse on Moor Hill and an application for change of use to residential.

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The Parish Council noted that the planning submission had included a full ecological impact survey, including a survey to ascertain impact on local bat colonies. This had been identified as low risk. Councillors noted that there would be interest in the development from the village and that the development of the site should consider the impact on access for the public right of way from Guild Wood. The Chair agreed to write a note to the Planning Team to confirm this perspective.

Further planning applications were available for residents to see on the NY Planning website. <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/planning-and-conservation>

**National Consultation** - The current national planning review was identified by the Chair as being of interest to Councillors and encouraged them to review the consultation online. Further details will be sent around. This was part of the proposed changes by the UK Government to assist with the Levelling Up Agenda which proposed relaxing consultation for the development of new green energy sites and other Government-backed projects. A deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 was set for feedback.

**Action:** Parish Council to submit a view to Planning team regarding High Penhowe and Councillors to consider wider Planning Consultation.

## **6 Finance & Budgets**

- **To receive financial statements of accounts since the last meeting**  
These would be circulated by Cllr Audsley following the meeting. No transactions had been recorded but there were some incoming invoices for the Play Area (inspection, rent, and Gardening Services) and audit fees for the AGAR submission.

The Chair identified a recent enquiry via Leavening Primary School from the UK Land Valuation Office to ascertain land associated with the School Playing Field and owned/leased by the Parish Council and potential tax liabilities. Following inquiries led by Cllr Audsley, the issue has been resolved as this is not land owned or leased by the Parish Council. The Chair has also agreed to notify North Yorkshire Council of this enquiry to ensure their records are correct.

- **Expenditure for the next Financial Year**  
Councillors were asked to consider opportunities to allocate funds from the Parish Council to areas identified by residents. Councillors agreed to bring this to
- **Updates on committee expenditure**  
No further updates had been received from sub-committees but a request for updated accounts would be sent from the Chair following the meeting.

**Action:** Cllr Audsley to update councillors on updated accounts and to feedback on any further developments relating to the Valuation Office enquiry. Councillors to liaise with residents and consider options for funding opportunities ahead of the next meeting of the Parish Council.

## **7. Parish Clerk – update on the search**

The Chair reported no further progress on this, but Councillors agreed to advertise through NALC channels and talk again to the school as some interest had been received from parents on the post. Councillors agreed with the suggestion that approaching other local

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parish councils may be useful and also consider a local leaflet drop in a future village newsletter.

**Action:** Chair to progress options to advertise

## **8. Building work at Preston Hill and Tree Trimming on Back Lane**

The Parish Council received an enquiry from a resident regarding the boundary of the building site on Preston Hill with Back Lane with concerns regarding the felling of trees and hedgerow on the boundary. An enquiry had also been received regarding the duration of planned building work on site.

The Chair confirmed a conversation with the Site Manager from Havenfort Homes and the North Yorkshire Planning Team had taken place. The Chair confirmed the following:

- The builders were looking to complete most of the building work by the end of 2023 and were looking to exit the site before the Spring of 2024. There was remedial work required, as part of the planning process, to complete road surfacing.
- As part of the final planning application, Havenfort Homes agreed to modify the northern boundary which would involve removing some trees and replanting of new trees and varied native hedging along this boundary. This was reviewed by North Yorkshire's Tree and Landscape Officer and accepted. There is a clause that if replanting fails in the following five years this will need to be replanted. The first replanting year has been classed as the period from November 2023 – November 2024. Councillors agreed that this was an acceptable response and further outcomes of the discussion would be feedback to the residents who had raised the enquiry.

**Action:** Parish Council to update enquirers on the above information and monitor.

## **9. Update on Community Projects:**

### ○ **Community Allotments**

Cllr Hampson updated on progress with North Yorkshire Council (previously Ryedale) relating to appropriate designated land in Leavening for allotments. The Community Allotments Group had submitted Freedom of Information requests to North Yorkshire Council to ascertain more detail on the background to their decision to offer alternative sites identified as submitted sites in the Ryedale Plan. This has resulted in a constructive conversation regarding the preferred, and originally identified, site at Boundales Farm (Site 153) which the group. This is currently in negotiation with further work to confirm the legal transfer of ownership and use of Section 106 monies.

Councillors agreed this update was positive and the Parish Council continues to be supportive of this project.

### ○ **Leavening Play Area**

The chair updated on a recent meeting with Philip Schofield on behalf of the Play Area Committee following the agreement to progress the next steps at the last PC meeting. With an imminent ROSPA play area inspection due, the Parish Council

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had been notified of the degraded tower equipment and asked to consider appropriate actions. After a further inspection, the Chair recommended the removal of the single tower ahead of the inspection. Cllr Chambers also raised an enquiry from a resident regarding the grass and weeds. The Chair confirmed that there had been a delay in cutting the area due to the wet weather during August, but a tidy had been requested and was due imminently by gardener Giles Jeffs.

The Chair had also taken forward approaching play area equipment companies locally to request quotes. One forthcoming company was Image Playgrounds who has already designed up a free visualisation of replacement equipment. CAD designed images were circulated at the meeting.

Councillors agreed this was a positive view of next steps for the play area. The Chair confirmed that the expected budget for the replacement of the tower equipment was between £20,000 - £25,000 with a full turn-key solution provided by the supplier for removal of old equipment and build of new. The new kit would be built with specialist-treated timber (Glulam) to ensure longevity. An additional quote for new surfacing has been received and the supplier has conducted a site visit.

Councillors discussed options for funding which included a submission to the Ryedale Community Grants scheme and the Community Fund as well as opportunities for local fundraising from the village. The option for the Parish Council to contribute was also an option. Further work on the development of the project was required.

**Action:** Councillors agreed to

1. Remove the existing tower for safety reasons as soon as possible.
2. Inform residents of the proposed changes and future state and ask for their support to be involved as play area volunteers.
3. The Chair agreed to take forward applications for funding with the support of fellow councillors.

## **10. Traffic/speeding in the Village**

The Parish Council has received a letter (16/08/2023) from North Yorkshire's Cllr Keane Duncan in relation to the stance on 20mph speed limits across North Yorkshire. This information indicated an approach to local level decision-making on this issue and it looked unlikely that there would be consensus on a regional level soon.

Councillors discussed the next steps following recent discussions with residents. It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to monitor information from the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), and that Cllr McDermott would be put in touch with residents who would like to discuss setting Leavening up as a Community Speed Watch Area. The Chair also agreed to take forward a discussion with NY Highways regarding options for street furniture which may encourage speed reduction and noted this may involve a visit to the village and may request support from councillors if a date could be fixed.

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**Action:** Cllr McDermott to liaise with residents and Chair to approach NY Highways local area team for further advice.

## **11. Leavening Events Committee – Update on activities**

The Events Committee was due to meet the same evening as the Parish Council (11/09) and it was expected agreement would be reached on future events such as the Bonfire and Elders lunch.

Councillors agreed that there may be an opportunity to align the Fete and Village Produce Show together in the future and that this should be flagged with the Events Committee.

**Action:** Events Committee to agree on future events and notify the Parish Council and Chair of the PC to write to the Events Committee to outline recommendations for future events in line with discussions relating to funding for the Play Area.

## **12. Parish Council Communications (noticeboard, Facebook, website)**

Councillors agreed to focus on an autumn newsletter delivered to residents, continued updates via the Facebook site, and to liaise with the Events Committee around their comms. A focus on the Play Area – funding and volunteering – was agreed by all present.

## **13. Any Other Business - Questions to the Chair and Councillors**

- Hedge Cutting at the Cemetery – this is overdue (but out of season). Cllr Hampson agreed to raise with Steve Langton and take forward.
- An enquiry had been received from neighbouring parishes (led by Westow) regarding our inclusion in a request for further information via FOI to Northern Power Grid on the reason for power cuts locally in stormy weather. It was agreed that Leavening PC would be happy to be included on this.
- A resident raised an enquiry about sheep loose on Leppington Lane as they were recently found in the cemetery. The Chair agreed to raise with the appropriate farmer.

## **14. Dates of Next Meetings**

These were confirmed as the following. To be held at the Venerable Bede Church, Leavening:

- Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 7pm
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 7pm
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024, 7pm
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, 7pm – for the Annual Meeting of the Village
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 7pm
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7pm