

**Leavening Parish Council
Note of a Meeting held at
Leavening on Monday 10 January 2022 at 7.00pm**

1. Present: Cllrs S. McDermott (chair), R. Ashworth, L. Hampson, A. Hudson, J. Johnston, P. Schofield

Apologies: Cllr N. Audsley

In attendance: C. Edwards (Parish Clerk)

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The Chair declared an interest in the issue of the submitted sites. There were no other declarations of interest.

3. Public session: No members of the public were present. The Parish Council is keen to raise awareness amongst the general public about the meetings and the work of the council.

4. The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20 October 2021, were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

5. **Consultations**

- a) Submitted sites. A letter that was sent to the Chair on 5 November 2021 was circulated to the Parish Council.
- b) Planning application 21/01467/FUL had been circulated to the Parish Council for comments prior to the December 2021 deadline. There had been no opposition to the proposal.
- c) Planning application 21/01466/FUL had been circulated to the Parish Council for comments prior to the December 2021. There had been no opposition to the proposal.

6. **Finance & Business**

- a) The Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/1 (submitted on 26 November 2021) had been circulated to the Parish Council. Thanks were given to Cllr N. Audsley for his work on this.
- b) The Parish Council considered the Parish Precept, which was currently set at £1,800 per annum. The precept is raised from the council tax and there was a general reluctance from the Parish Council to increase the contribution from parishioners. The level of the precept should flow from a general budget, covering the cost of the clerk and general administration. There had been little in the way of financial pressures to incite a need to review the precept and increase the amount requested.

It was agreed that the precept would be reviewed annually and added as a standing item to the Parish Council agenda each year. However, for 2022/3, the Parish Council would request the same amount as previously i.e. £1,800 per annum.

Action: Return the precept form to Ryedale District Council (Parish Clerk)

- c) There had been no further purchases by the Events Committee or the Play Area Committee since the previous meeting on 20 October 2021.
- d) A bank statement for the previous six months was circulated to the Parish Council for noting.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk will be a joint financial signatory and could approve payments subject to the approval of another member of the council. N. Audsley could potentially be another signatory.

- e) The item on Burial fees will be deferred to a future meeting.

7. Election of a new chair for Leavening Parish Council

Following voting from the Parish Council, Cllr J. Johnston was appointed as the new Chair, with effect from the end of the Parish Council meeting (10 January 2022).

8. Speeding in the village

- a) Speed signs:

Leavening Parish Council currently has two signs:

- i. One is owned by Leavening village and is located at Leavening Rise.
- ii. The other is shared with the villages of Scagglethorpe and Birdshall. When it is Leavening's turn to hold this sign, it will be added to the post on York Road. The Parish Council had investigated whether the sign could be attached to the existing post by the school on Malton Road but was informed by the NYCC that no additional signage could be included in the vicinity of the school. Instead a new post would be installed to accommodate the speed sign.

The sign at the bottom of Leavening Rise is currently activated by traffic travelling at 24 mph, indicating that the speed sign is faulty. An engineer was called out but because the batteries needed recharging at the time of his visit, the sign could not be fixed. The engineer will return in due course. It was noted that the batteries should last six months between each charging but this had not been the case.

Traffic data can be downloaded via software from the Swarco site. It was noted that the Scagglethorpe Parish Clerk has successfully downloaded data from the site.

- b) 'Twenty's Plenty' campaign:

It was raised whether Leavening wishes to be part of the lobby group advocating 20 mph speed limits in villages. It was agreed that this question would be taken to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2022 to obtain the views of the villagers.

- c) Traffic survey Dam Lane:

There was a post to the Parish Council Facebook page asking for access to the data collected by the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) via the traffic survey that was carried out on Dam Lane. The Parish Council does not have access to this data and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk would seek further information from the NYCC.

Action: Parish Clerk

- d) A parishioner has voiced opinions regarding the speeding taking place as cars leave the village. Cllr S. McDermott would obtain details from Cllr R. Ashworth so that a visit could be made to the parishioner to discuss the matter.

Action: Cllr S. McDermott

9. **Preston Hill Housing Development**

Following the construction of the Preston Hill houses, Ryedale District Council are making £30,000 of funding available for grant applications to improve the community's outdoor space and are ready to receive applications. The funding is open to applications from residents as well from the Parish Council. Potential bids might include improvements to the picnic area or the dog walking area. One suggestion including setting up markers of the village boundaries to alert drivers entering the village, which might help with reducing speeding.

It was agreed to invite the financial officer, Faye Snowden, to the next meeting of the Parish Council on 11 April 2022 to talk about the process for applications; Cllr A. Hudson will arrange this.

Action: Cllr A. Hudson

[It was subsequently confirmed that Faye Snowden is unable to attend the meeting on 11 April 2022 and alternative arrangements are being considered].

The councillors were asked to forward their suggestions for funding applications to Cllr A. Hudson so that she could compile a list.

Action: All councillors

10. **Noticeboards, Facebook and website**

- a) Parish Noticeboard:

It was agreed that the contact details to be provided would include the names of the Clerk and the Chair, as well as generic emails chair@leavening.online and clerk@leavening.online

[It was subsequently suggested that the Chair's telephone number was also included].

It was agreed that the agenda and minutes would continue to be added to the website. For villages who do not have internet access, they could, by arrangement, visit the church to refer to those documents; information will be added to the noticeboard once that system has been set up.

Action: ?

- b) Facebook and website:

Cllr J. Johnston had produced a short paper on the issues surrounding communications between the Parish Council and the community, as well as methods of communication, to include the physical noticeboard, social media and the website; the paper had been set to the Chair. Cllr J. Johnston is interested in developing engagement between the Parish Council and the wider community and has done considerable work to update the website and social media communications. The

Parish Council thanked Cllr J. Johnston for his work to date and for agreeing to continue this after taking on the role of Chair.

c) **Accessibility:**

It is important for websites, documents and other communications to meet the regulations set out in the [September 2019 accessibility legislation](#) so that those with disabilities can access information. Information circulated by the YLCA on 29 October 2021 on making websites 'accessible' would be forwarded to Cllr J. Johnston.

Action: Parish Clerk.

11. Flooding in the village

A resident has raised an issue regarding the water that is pouring from the York Road onto residents' drives, instead of following the intended course underneath the road. The resident had already approached the Highways Department within North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) but in the meantime, the flooding had caused a landslip in the residents' garden. After further communications between the Parish Council and the NYCC, work was carried out early December 2021 to rectify the blockage on York Road, so that any overflow water is now diverted to follow the intended drainage route.

12. Golden Well equipment

The equipment was still *in situ*, and it was noted that one of the cars was located very close to the road junction; this continues to be an issue. It was agreed to defer this item to a future agenda.

14. Transition to a new unitary council for North Yorkshire

More detailed discussions will be deferred to a future meeting.

Elections will take place in May 2022; these are mandatory elections and those elected will serve for 5 years until 2027; thereafter appointments will be for four years. The new unitary council will commence on 1 April 2023.

The elections in May 2022 will impact on the Annual Meeting of the Council that month. The item will be added to the agenda for the Parish Council on 11 April 2022. By this date, all councillors are expected to have completed requirements set out by the returning office.

Action: All councillors

15. Risk Assessments

This item was deferred to a future meeting.

16. Platinum Jubilee

It was agreed to set up a working party comprising Cllrs A. Hudson, J. Johnston and L. Hampson.

17. Questions to the Chair

There were no questions.

18. **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 11 April 2022 at 7.00pm in the Venerable Bede Church.

It is not possible to set a precise date for the AGM at the moment, other than confirm it will take place in May 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm