

**Leavening Parish Council**  
**Note of Parish Council Meeting held at**  
**Venerable Bede Church, Leavening, on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 7pm**

1. **Present:** Cllrs: J Johnston (Chair), N. Audsley (Vice-chair), R. Ashworth, R. Chambers, L Hampson, S. McDermott,

Apologies: Cllr P. Schofield

**In attendance:** County Councillor Caroline Goodrick; Mr Geoff Pacey, Play Area Committee representative; Karen McDermott, Allotments Group and a member of the public.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**  
Nothing to declare

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11 July 2022, were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising from these minutes**

- ***Play Area Committee***  
Further discussion would be picked up under Item 7 but the Chair gave an update on the feedback from the recent village survey relating to the Play Area with 15% of the village responding to the flyer and 11% of respondents giving support to the Play Area, 4 were opposed. The response to engage with the discussion about the future of the play area and becoming involved was positive and the current committee acknowledged this was a positive step forward given the play area would require further investment in the future.
- ***Status of the Parish Clerk***  
No further interest had been received regarding this position. Cllr Johnston had requested further information on circulating via YCLA and Cllr Hampson suggested circulation to local solicitors.
- ***Planning***  
A draft statement on planning had been compiled by Councillor McDermott and circulated at the meeting. This was to be discussed by councillors with agreement that this should be submitted to Rachel Balmer in the Planning team at Ryedale District Council. Councillors were asked to review this document and input comments to the Chair by the end of w/c 17 October.
- ***20's Plenty Campaign***  
Councillor McDermott updated on current discussions relating to 20s Plenty. Input was received from Cllr Goodricke who confirmed that North Yorkshire County Council are responsible for highways but the call for reduced speed limits would have major cost impact at a time of diminishing budgets and rising costs. Ryedale falls within area 4 highways based at Kirby Misperton. Cllr McDermott stated that there was a point in principle, following this year's village meeting, that the Parish Council would encourage lower speeds in the village. Cllr Audsley stated it was important that the Parish Council acts as the voice of parishioners on this issue.  
Councillors agreed to take forward a separate meeting to discuss tactics in approach to North Yorkshire CC and involvement in the ongoing national and

regional campaign which was receiving traction. Input was received from Cllr Goodricke who confirmed that North Yorkshire County Council are responsible for highways but the call for reduced speed limits would have major cost impact at a time of diminishing budgets and rising costs. Ryedale falls within area 4 highways based at Kirby Misperton. Cllr McDermot stated that there was a point in principle, following this year's village meeting, that the Parish Council would encourage

- **Section 106 Funding**

Two bids has been submitted to Ryedale Council. Details of these were to be discussed at a later item.

- **Speed Cameras in Village**

Cllr McDermot had progressed discussion with sharing the VAS speed signs with Settrington Parish Council, a third potential partner along with existing partner Scagglethorpe PC. Councilors agreed on this move. Further items and replacement fixing parts were required to be purchased by Leavening. All agreed to sanction the payment on this. Cllr McDermott agreed recover monies from these partners and raise an invoice. Settrington plan to come in on the sharing agreement from 1<sup>st</sup> December.

- **Website and information relating to the AGAR**

Councilor Johnston confirmed the web-site updating the parish on the notice of audit had been updated in the requested timeframes along with appropriate information.

- **YCLA – representation of the Council at YCLA meetings.**

Councilors agreed that given the size of Leavening Parish Council all councilors should be minded to attend YCLA meetings and agree representation on a local level basis.

#### **4. Public session opened**

#### **5. Consultations**

The chair highlighted the recent planning application for the removal of timber stables at Busk Hill and also reported on the status of the initial public consultation on the proposed Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty for the Yorkshire Wolds which had recently closed and had identified the Parish of Leavening within its border. This reported 89% of respondents in favor of further consideration to be given by Natural England. Once a decision was taken on the next steps, the Parish Council would expect a trigger a statutory consultation.

#### **6. Finance & Business**

- a) Update on the AGAR Review of 2021/2022 and Auditor Update**

Following the update received from PKF Littlejohn informing the Parish Council of an official notice of audit. Cllr Audsley talked councillors through the process which has now been invoked with a notice period from 22/09/22 in which the Parish Council must comply with requests to notify the public/parish of the audit.

Councilors agreed to update notification to the parish via the Leavening Parish Council website, social media and village notice board.

Councillors also welcomed further feedback from the audit which would make recommendations to aid stronger future financial management. Councillors noted the challenges relating to the carrying of the Parish Clerk vacancy, the impact on business activities over the pandemic period and the missing of the deadline for 2020/2021 AGAR submission that resulted in a late submission fee. The Chair agreed to review the findings in full once the audit had been conducted by colleagues at PKF Littlejohn and this would be brought to the next appropriate Parish Council Meeting. Councillors agreed on setting the future dates for full meetings of the Parish Council to ensure a timely sign-off of next year's AGAR and accounts.

Cllr Audsley updated on a recent request from SAAA who have been appointed under by the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 to oversee auditing of smaller authorities with income and expenditure which is less £6.5 million. The appointing period comes to an end in 2022/2023 and a procurement exercise will be conducted. All authorities are required to appoint an external auditor. Leavening Parish Council is asked to consider whether it would like to opt out of the central procurement and appointment scheme. Councillors considered this request and agreed to remain opted in to this scheme.

**b) Update on financial information from committees**

The Play Area Committee has a current balance of £1,200. The chair agreed to seek updates for the next meeting from the Events Committee.

**c) Receive financial statements from the Parish Council**

A financial statement of the main bank account was provided by Cllr Audsley outlining receipt of and debit of funds. This included income relating the parish precept, cemetery fees and a recent grant accepted on behalf of the Allotment Group prior to them establishing their bank account. This funding has now been transferred (£1000). The balance as 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 was £4875.50. Cllr Audsley also confirmed that a retrospective VAT Reclaim for the past three years has recently been submitted.

**7. Section 106 Funding**

The Chair invited updates from representatives of the Play Area Committee and the newly formed Allotments Group.

Two applications had, to date, been received by Ryedale District Council for Section 106 monies which include the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) for funding to pay for the development of a shelter and the Allotments Group who applied for the full amount of funding to develop their preferred site. The Play Area Committee confirmed it would not pursue the recent round of funding at this stage.

Mr Jeff Pacey, attending in Cllr Schofield's absence, reported that following a review of options had spoken to the current supplier of play area equipment and the

estimate for replacement was circa £24,000 to replace the equipment like for like (with towers and slide). There was a clear need for fundraising activities to support any refurbishment on the current site and the Play Area Committee has confirmed it is looking to establish a new committee soon to take this forward.

The Allotment Group, Karen McDermott (Chair of the group), confirmed that discussions with Ryedale continued and that the submission for the full amount of Section 106 monies was key to covering the costs of the development of an appropriate site. Mrs McDermott recognised the ask for the full amount would potentially impact on other projects and stressed that the group would like to ensure that other groups have the opportunity to access funds from other sources and this should be something that the Parish Council supports them on. The allotment group continued to liaise with Ryedale on the potential site at Boundales Farm. This was a complex negotiation, but the group were confident that this would align with funding allocations when available. Mrs McDermott raised the point that there may be a legal obligation for the Parish Council to provide space for allotments in the parish based on the feedback from residents (15 people were interested in taking on a plot following a recent survey to the village). The Chair confirmed that at this stage the Parish Council would need to take further detailed advice on this matter before further discussions take place. This would require a proposal from the Allotments Group. Councillors agreed that this would need to be revisited at a future meeting.

#### **8. Farm Equipment at Golden Wells**

Complaints of continued placement of redundant farm equipment on verges and the road at Golden Wells had been received from Parishioners. Councillors agreed to again write to NY Highways to request further notice to be served.

Action: Chair to take forward.

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#### **9 Events Committee Updates**

Councillors were asked to consider who should be nominated onto the Events Committee following Cllr Schofield's resignation from this committee. Cllrs Hampson and McDermott agreed to share responsibility and the group agreed that the Chair of the Parish Council should also receive updates and invitations to participate.

Following the Jubilee event over the summer the Events Committee were taking forward plans for the Village Bonfire and Elders Christmas Lunch.

**Action: Chair to Update the Events Committee of Decision**

#### **10. Parish Council Communications**

Councillors noted the need to update information on the AGAR via all channels. The Events Committee would circulate flyers for future events and communications around parish issues were still being communicated out via Facebook and the Notice Board.

### **Grit Bins**

11. Enquiries had recently been received relating to the state of village grit bins. The Chair reported that these had all been replenished in the past week in advance of winter. There was a note from Cllr. Schofield that the Parish Council should monitor this annually and report any need for damaged bins which may need replacing in the near future.

### **Burial Fees and Headstones**

12. Cllr Hampson outlined a proposal to align Leavening Burial Fees with those agreed by the Church of England and other churches in the West Buckrose Parish. This would see an uplift in costs relating to burial fees. Councilors agreed this was appropriate and should be taken forward.

A recent request from a deceased parishioner's family regarding headstones highlighted the requirement for the Parish Council to update guidance on headstones to ensure a uniform approach to headstone style. Councillors discussed the context of this particular case and agreed that these requests should be in keeping with the style of the cemetery and respectful of our rural community

Action: Cllr Hampson to update fees in line with CofE guidance and update guidance in relation to headstones. This should be updated on the Village website, liaising with Cllr Johnston.

### **AOB**

13. Cllr Chambers reported that specific signage across the village, including speed signs and a directional sign on Wold View/Preston Hill required replacing. Agreed that this matter will be taken up directly with NY Highways.

The Chair thanked Cllr Goodricke for attending the meeting in her capacity as County Councilor and giving advice throughout the meeting. Councillors also thanked Mr Jeff Pacey for attending on behalf of Play Area Committee.

### **Date of Future Meeting**

14. The Parish Council's next meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7:00pm in the Venerable Bede Church