

# *Leavening Parish Council*

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

Email: [clerk@leavening.online](mailto:clerk@leavening.online)

## **MINUTES**

The Annual Meeting of the Council and the Annual Assembly of the Electors will be held on **Monday 22nd May 2023** at **7.15pm** at the **Venerable Bede Church**, Leavening

Press and the public are invited to attend the meeting.

### **1. Election of the Chair**

Members agreed to re-elect the Chair, Cllr James Johnston, as chair.

### **2. Election of the Vice Chair**

Members agreed to re-elect the Vice-Chair, Cllr Neil Audsley

### **3. Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

The Chair, Vice Chair, and the elected Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

All councillors were directed to review the council's Code of Conduct and the Register of Interests form for completion.

### **4. To receive apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rona Ashworth

### **5. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received

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

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

### **7. Budgets and Accounts**

- Review of annual accounts ahead of the AGAR  
Councillors received a copy of the draft accounts ahead of the AGAR 2022/23 submissions. This relates to income and expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Councillors agreed for Cllr Audsley to action the internal audit of accounts by a non-council member.

Councillors agreed that the accounts were an accurate record. Any feedback should be directed to Cllr Audsley ahead of the next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

### **8. Public Session Opens and Overview from Chair**

### **9. Update from the Head of Leavening Primary School, Mrs Sian Mitchell**

Chairperson: J. Johnston, Vice Chair: N. Audsley, Councillors: R. Ashworth, R. Chambers, L Hampson, S McDermott,

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Apologies were received by the Chair on the day as Mrs Mitchell was unable to attend. The School had kindly prepared an update report on progress with a plea to explore opportunities for collaboration with village groups and the Parish Council. Members of the public reiterated the importance of the school's success to the village and Councillors agreed to support the school as much as possible.

Action: Cllr Johnston agreed to arrange a meeting with the Head of Leavening Primary School to discuss opportunities further.

## 10. **Progress since the last annual meeting (May 2022)**

- Traffic/Speeding through the Village  
Following an open session about the 20's Plenty Campaign, some residents had agreed to take forward engagement activity and posters had been distributed to residents.

The Chair acknowledged that this was an ongoing topical subject but those residents present acknowledged that the point of principle is that most residents believe road safety, particularly for children and elderly in the village, is of paramount importance.

Cllr McDermot talked through this year's data which had been taken from the MVAS speed signs. This again indicated that the vast majority of cars were travelling on or below the speed limit. There are pockets of activity which again point to repeat speeding offenders. There are also points in the day where increased speeding activity over 30mph is occurring. However, overall the data indicated that this was not an endemic issue for Leavening.

Residents discussed the options to help raise awareness of speeding in the Village. Education was seen as a positive step to prevention. Ideas included: working with the school to raise awareness for parents who are travelling in and out of the village; allocating Parish Council budget to install speed calming street estate (such as white gates into the village, additional "Please drive slowly" signs (for e.g. this has been successfully implemented by the village of Holtby just off the A166); potential for students at the school to design "20s plenty" signage or the purchase of banners which could be placed strategically.

Residents present agreed that the point in principle to abide by lower speed limits for Leavening was important regardless of whether or not North Yorkshire Council adopted this. A decision on this was to be raised at future meeting of the unitary council over the summer and details would be circulated.

Cllr McDermott recommended that the best use of Parish funds would not be to purchase another MVAS sign arguing that funding was better spent on other interventions. Councillors agreed to progress other options on behalf of residents and this would be raised at a future meeting of the Parish Council to be implemented over the next year.

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- Community Allotments

Cllr Hampson updated on the current status of the Community Allotments project which is currently awaiting confirmation of the preferred site for development around the Boundales Farm area of the village. The group was navigating ongoing discussions with the new North Yorkshire Council which had so far not proved fruitful. Councillors noted the current limitation to discussions concerning “submitted sites” for development which may be delayed by up to five years as North Yorkshire reviews its future planning strategy after the merging of district councils such as Ryedale. Funding had been successfully secured from the Section 106 grant to the amount of £30,000 and the group was considering options for how to allocate this funding to support the potential purchase of land. The group would keep the Parish Council updated on progress.

- Play Area

Philip Schofield, Play Area Committee, updated on the current challenge regarding replacement of the current equipment in the Leavening Play Area – with a view to looking at additional funding streams from charitable sources. The most recent ROSPA inspection identified the need for some running repairs on specific items, but the longer-term viability of current equipment was identified as a risk. The Play Area Committee had attempted to solicit support from younger families in the village to take on the running of the committee. Very little interest had been forthcoming to date. The current play area committee seek to transition out of their current roles in the near future.

Action: The Parish Council will work with the current Play Area Committee to approach individuals to support potential funding applications and also look to send out an update to generate interest from residents.

## 11. **A proposal for a Leavening Neighborhood Plan**

Cllr Johnston talked those present through the opportunity for Leavening to develop a neighborhood plan which would shape and inform future planning development which may affect the Village and surrounding parish area.

There were a number of identifiable benefits for this approach and the planning team, based at North Yorkshire Council’s offices in Malton, were supportive of our consideration of this. Further information on this can be found on the meeting slide deck.

A concern was raised by one resident regarding the relevance of this approach if it simply focused on the parish boundaries – given that similar issues may be felt by other neighbouring villages. Others believed this was a positive step forward given ongoing concerns about Submitted Sites and the current status of planning in rural North Yorkshire. Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan would inform future direction, it was not an opportunity to block future development but would be used by planning authorities to give weight to decisions which were in favour of the parish position. The Chair also noted the ongoing national context for relaxation of planning laws by the UK Government, the looming

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General Election and the potential for Leavening to fall within the boundaries of a future Yorkshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Action: Following a useful discussion with residents who were present, the Chair agreed to take this matter to the September meeting of the Parish Council with further input from colleagues at the Council.

## 12. **Updates from local village groups/committee**

Miles Jackson, Chair of the Leavening Events Committee gave an update on progress on events since the last meeting, including the Bonfire and Coronation Party. The Events Committee was looking for new volunteers to join the committee or help with future events. Miles also confirmed that the Committee would like to bring back the Village Fete at some point in the near future.

## 13. **Any other business (AOB)**

A resident raised the issue of faded speed signs (30mph) in the Village. This had already been picked up by Cllr Chambers and had been reported to North Yorkshire Highways to be investigated. The Chair encouraged residents to report these highway-related issues directly to North Yorkshire Council in the future.

## 14. **Questions to the Chair and Councillors**

No further questions were received