

# *Leavening Parish Council*

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

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

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

The regular meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023** at **7.00pm** at the **Venerable Bede Church**, Leavening

Press and the public are invited to attend the meeting.

**1. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence**

Apologies received from Cllr Louise Hampson and Cllr Sean McDermott

**2. To receive any Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were received

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

Councillors were given the action tracker from the Annual Meeting. Full minutes were to be circulated by email for sign-off.

**4. Finance & Budgets**

- Review of annual accounts and authorisation to sign off the AGAR for 2022/2023  
Cllr Audsley updated on progress ahead of this year's AGAR submission ahead of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.

Councillors talked through the feedback from the AGAR internal audit review, which was conducted by Mr George Edmond, a local resident. This identified effective financial management in areas which were earmarked for improvement in the External Auditor report received in January 2023 and the reviewer was satisfied effective measures were in place. The internal audit review would be signed off as part of the AGAR submission.

The Council then reviewed the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR Section 1) and Accounting Statements (AGAR Section 2) which accounted for the Parish Council, Play Area Committee, and Events Committee bank accounts. It was agreed to move to approve these submissions based on the accounts that had been presented.

Councillors agreed that publication of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR would occur week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and a declaration the accounts are as yet unaudited would be uploaded to the website. Cllr Audsley, in his role as RFO for the Council, recommend setting the commencement date for the public exercise of duty as 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 which would cover 30 consecutive working days and the statutory period outlined.

Councillors extended thanks to Mr Edmond for his internal audit review of Parish Council accounts.

- Expenditure for the next Financial Year  
Councillors were asked to consider options for purchase of items or services that would enhance the Parish in light of the PC's previous recommendation to allocate surplus

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

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funding over the 23/24 financial year. This would be discussed further at the next PC meeting.

The Chair reported that the Insurance for this year had been renewed as per the previous policy. The premium had increased by around £100 but the premium had been locked into a three-year period to ensure no further annual increases.

- Updates from committees  
No further changes were reported to the Play Area account. The Events Committee has invested in a new marquee which has been purchased from funds in the account. The Chair reported that this had been added to the Parish Asset Register. Cllr Audsley reported that a further allocation of funding for the Picnic Site was overdue from Ryedale. It was agreed this should be followed up.

*Action: Cllr Audsley*

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

## **6. Discussion on Action Points following the Annual Village Meeting**

- Collaboration with Leavening Primary School.  
Councillors agreed that an active link to the Primary School was important to the work of the Parish Council. The Chair reported that a meeting has been set up with the Head, Sian Wallace, in the coming weeks.  
*Action: Cllr Johnston to progress and report progress to fellow councillors*
- Speeding of vehicles through the village.  
A resident had come forward to work with the PC and local residents to raise the profile of 20s Plenty. Councillors agreed that they would consider funding the purchase of banners or speed reduction items (such as Gates to the Village). Councillors were encouraged to explore options and costs for discussion at the next meeting.  
*Action: All councillors to feedback in advance of the next meeting any opportunities to fund items for the benefit of the Village.*
- Play Area Committee  
The Chair reported that following the Annual Meeting, a discussion took place regarding the future viability of the Play Area Committee. Following repeated attempts to consult residents no active participation in a future committee was forthcoming. The Chair proposed that one option to progress the changeover of the committee was for the Play Area Committee to be absorbed into the Parish Council which would retain oversight of maintenance and inspection. The bank account and funds would be retained to pay for ongoing repairs to the current equipment and be a destination for funds raised in the future. Councillors discussed the option, acknowledging that it was important to give the opportunity to for the current committee to relinquish their roles.

On the matter of encouraging new volunteers to come forward, there was increasing interest in the use of the play area for families in the village and the

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recent discussion on Facebook about the over grown grass in the Play Area, suggested that individuals were likely to support fundraising or activities which would enhance the Play Area in the future. It was therefore agreed to absorb the Play Area Committee into the Parish Council including the bank account.

Action: Cllr Johnston agreed to take this to Mr Philip Schofield and Mr Jeff Pacey for agreement. Councillors would use the summer period to assess community support for an informal volunteer group to support further development of the Play Area site.

Cllr Ashworth reported that she had inspected the site recently and found some of the wooden towers to have exposed nails and rotten timbers. Cllr Audsley agreed to inspect and arrange repair.

- Taking forward a Neighborhood Plan.  
Councillors agreed that this issue was fast moving given changes at North Yorkshire Council and potential changes to national planning legislation related to levelling up funding. The prospect of having an agreed framework for future planning would place Leavening, and its residents, in a strong position to feedback on a North Yorkshire plan. Ryedale District Council colleagues had advised that the absorption of future planning requirements into North Yorkshire may take a number of years to come into force. Whilst the step towards developing a plan was positive and would be welcomed by residents, Councillors agreed that further information on this should be brought to the next meeting for consideration of options.

Action: Cllr Johnston to liaise with the North Yorkshire Council Planning team to assess whether a meeting on this is possible in the near future.

## **7. Community Awards**

Cllr Johnston reported a recent call out for community awards. It was agreed to take forward to the Picnic Site group to consider a submission.

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

Cllr Ashworth fed back that the Noticeboard at the Old Post Office was out of date.

Action: the chair agreed to update this with information relating to the current meeting.

The Parish Clerk – one enquiry had been received from a local resident and was being followed up. A further advertisement would go out via the YLCA group.

Future Events Committee activities – the Chair agreed to write to the Events Committee to request an update of future meetings and an events schedule.

## **9. Questions to the Chair and Councillors - No further questions were asked.**

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The date of the next meeting is 7pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023