

Leavening Parish Council

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

Email: clerk@leavening.online

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 27th November 2023 at 7.00pm** at the **Venerable Bede Church**, Leavening

Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting.

1. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence

No apologies were received. The Chair was taken by Cllr Audsley for the first part of the meeting.

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hampson and Cllr McDermott declared their roles on the Community Allotments Group.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting of 11th September 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4 Public Session Opens

5. Planning Consultations

- Jolly Farmers Public House Extraction Unit
The Chair reported that a letter of support had been submitted following a discussion with Dan Farrell of the Jolly Farmers. Councillors agreed that it was important to support an important community asset and local business and the planning consultation had demonstrated significant revision to the extraction facilities which mitigated sound and odor impacting neighboring properties.
- Leavening Community Allotments

Mrs Karen McDermott joined the meeting to update on progress with the allotments and explained the planning proposal for the identified site at Boundales Farm had been submitted and was now open to consultation. A number of comments had already been received, particularly from residents in households near to the site. Resident, Guy Holtby, attended the meeting and agreed to raise issues directly with the Parish Council. These were as follows:

- I. Potential for invasion of privacy due to increased activity on the lane and on the site.
 - i. On this point KM confirmed that the proposed scheme had accounted for appropriate planting of hedgerows which would give natural privacy to adjacent homes.

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- II. The ownership of the track to which gives access to the proposed site has been questioned and should be investigated further. On this point KM confirmed that research into the ownership of the track had been taken forward and that previous searches has revealed no detail of ownership. It was agreed that further investigations would need to be taken forward by appropriate parties on this matter.
- III. The state of the above track and extent of usage was questioned, with residents raising strong views on the volume of vehicle access and how this would impact on residents with immediate access onto said track. KM confirmed it was the understanding of the Allotment Group that the track was a public right of way and pedestrian access could not be prevented.
- IV. Flooding and drainage of boundary ditch and lack of maintenance on a storm drain. Concerns were raised that the site would increase pressure on drainage and increase the risk of flooding – which has been raised as a historical risk. KM confirmed that planting on the proposed site would improve the long-term drainage of this area.
- V. Lack of consultation with residents in the immediate area. Members of the Allotment Group confirmed that information had been circulated, with attempts to take forward door-to-door enquiries as well as information being circulated by leaflet.
- VI. Residents felt that alternative sites across the village could and should have been explored. Local land owners would likely have been responsive to an appeal for land. Cllr McDermott explained that two other sites had been offered, after detailed discussions with North Yorkshire Council and these were deemed unsuitable. The current proposed site was the best option for the allotment and this had been agreed with North Yorkshire Council. Councillors acknowledged that other sites had been discussed in the Village Meeting of 2022 but no realistic alternative options had been put forward. Guy Holtby, on behalf of a small group of residents said whilst he was supportive of the allotments, he still felt there were alternative sites to explore around the village.

The Chair reverted back to Cllr Johnston.

The Chair concluded that with the planning consultation still open, residents had their strongest opportunity to air these views so the planning team could make a balanced decision on the proposed application and make recommendations on the suitability of the site based on the concerns raised.

Action: Parish Council to agree a response to the planning consultation and to submit it within the next week. Residents were encouraged to submit their views directly on the North Yorkshire Planning Portal.

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6 Finance & Budgets

- To receive financial statements of accounts since last meeting

An up-to-date statement was circulated to councillors with a current balance of £6536.25. Cllr Audsley agreed to check the status of reclaim from the Events Committee of a contribution to insurance costs and the replacement pads for the village defibrillator. Councillors also were asked by the Chair to consider additional expenditure ahead of the next meeting with an initial suggestion of a contribution to the Play Area redevelopment.

- Expenditure for the next Financial Year
Insurance would be renewed annually and the Chair confirmed a three-year agreement was agreed with insurers to fix costs over the period. The Chair also confirmed the PC was due additional payment after re-negotiation of the play area ground rent. This would be a back-dated and modest rise. Payment for the renewal of security certificates on the Parish Council's email server has also been taken forward and would require reimbursement. Councillors agreed this activity was in line with expectations.
- Parish Precept Setting
On the request of North Yorkshire Council, the Parish Council was asked to discuss the setting of the Precept for the next financial year. The Chair proposed rolling forward the current present value at £1,800 for the year on the basis that this would ensure minimal impact on residents during the current cost of living crisis. All Councillors agreed to this proposal.
- Updates on committee expenditure
No further changes to the Play Area Committee were reported. The Events Committee reported an estimated balance of £2594 after bonfire expenses.

7. Update on Community Projects:

- Community Allotments

The current status of this project has been discussed in 'Planning Consultations' above.

- Leavening Play Area

The Chair updated that progress was being made towards securing funding for the Play Area refurbishment. At the time of the meeting an outstanding application was waiting for a decision from North Yorkshire Council for a Community Grant and the Chair was working on an application to the National Lottery Community Fund. An ongoing conversation with Image Playgrounds was being conducted with a view to monitoring the budget and future costs.

8. Traffic/speeding in the Village – update following meeting with NY Council

The Chair updated on a meeting on 7th November 2023 with North Yorkshire Council's Highways Customer Communications Officer regarding the issue of vehicular speeds within the village boundary. The Officer had conducted some low-level monitoring of

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vehicle speeds over the school drop-off period at both ends of the village and was assured that whilst there would be times of higher speed risk (during peak times), the findings pointed to a low to moderate risk of speeding.

The Officer suggested the following next steps:

- I. As part of North Yorkshire's Speed Management Protocol, Leavening may request a new survey to be conducted by the Police. The last survey was conducted in September 2019 and rated Leavening as a Category 4 site – this is the lowest level of risk of speeding.

Action: PC to request a new survey from NY Police

- II. North Yorkshire Police also have a Community Speed Watch scheme where resident groups can act as volunteers who work with the Police to monitor speeds and send data for evaluation. This does work effectively in some areas of North Yorkshire and can be actioned following the completion of an up to date Speed Management Protocol process.

Action: Chair to inform interested residents who may wish to take this forward following completion of the next survey.

- III. Reporting of dangerous driving or speeding – residents should be made aware that if there is an emergency or recurring problem, then incidents can be reported directly to NY Police.

Action: Parish Council to take forward communication on this matter to residents (via Facebook and the Noticeboard)

- IV. Addition of 'street furniture' to reduce/minimize speeding has also been flagged as an option for the Parish Council to fund. This would involve the purchase and construction of road-safe gateway signs which would create a feeling of entering a village zone and request drivers to drive safely. These gateway signs are also vehicle-proof.

Action: Chair to progress enquiry to identify costs to be considered at the next meeting.

9 Leavening Events Committee – Update on activities

The Village Bonfire took place on 5th November as planned and raised a total of £1544. Attendance was slightly down on last year, but this was put down to the bad weather. The Committee has agreed to consider wider advertising for next year. A complaint about debris from fireworks in gardens has been registered with the Chair of the Events Committee and the Councillors agreed that this would need investigating ahead of next

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year's event. Councillors extended thanks to the Events team for delivering another well-received event.

The Village Elders Lunch was scheduled to be held on 15th December 2023 at the Jolly Farmers and a request to consider what the Village may do to mark 80th anniversary of D-Day on 6th June 2024 has been logged with the Events Committee.

10. Parish Council Communications (noticeboard, Facebook, website)

All communications are reported as up to date.

11. Any Other Business - Questions to the Chair and Councillors

A resident raised a query regarding the hedges on Leppington Lane around the Cemetery. The PC agreed to flag this and a resident in attendance confirmed he would be happy to take this forward prior to Spring.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

- Monday 5th February 2024, 7pm
- Monday 8th April 2024, 7pm
- Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 7pm – for the Annual Meeting of the Village and Meeting of Electors
- Monday 10th June 2024, 7pm
- Monday 9th September 2024, 7pm