

# *Leavening Parish Council*

Website: [www.leavening.online](http://www.leavening.online)

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

## MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Parish Council was held on **Monday 12th December 2022** at **7pm** at the **Venerable Bede Church**, Leavening. This session was open to the public.

### 1. **Apologies**

No apologies received, all councillors present

### 2. **Declarations of Interest**

None received

### 3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the regular meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022 signed off as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising:

- Play Area Committee – Cllr Schofield would take forward a meeting of the Committee and interested parties in the New Year.
- Parish Clerk – Cllr Johnston updated on the request to review the job description and salary band with YLCA and this would be updated at the next meeting.
- Submission of Parish Council position on Sites for future development. An amended response has been received by Ryedale District Council and the full response was now available on the Parish Council website. Cllr Johnston updated that there was an ongoing dialogue about community led planning/neighbourhood plans and it was agreed this was an area for potential action based on the outcome of the move to North Yorkshire and adjustments to planning decisions.
- Traffic and the 20's Plenty Campaign – Councillors agreed to revisit the discussion around the national campaign in the new year.
- Financial matters. Cllrs Audsley and Johnston had taken forward a review with PKF Littlejohn. This would be picked up later in the meeting.
- Equipment at Golden Well. Councillors had observed that there had been recent improvement in the usage of the verge for unused farm equipment, but residents continued to identify this as a problem. The matter had been logged with Highways and the Parish Council would monitor this position based on feedback from residents.
- Signage in the Village and Wold View. Councillors resolved that Cllr Chambers would take the review of signage forward, co-ordinating a response with North Yorkshire Highways and agreed that this could be sent officially from the Chair if needed.

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- VAS Speed Signs. Engagement with Settrington and Scagglethorpe Parish Councils was being co-ordinated by Cllr Audsley. The VAS would be with Scagglethorpe PC until the end of December and then would go to Settrington. Cllr McDermott confirmed insurance cover for usage of the sign with Settrington PC had been arranged by them.

## **4. Public Session Opens**

No members of the public were in attendance on this occasion

## **5. Consultations**

The Parish Council considered applications that had been received since the last meeting. This related to a planning application for addition of an air source heat pump and solar panels to Brook House, Dam Lane. Councillors discussed the submission and welcomed the move to sustainable energy usage in houses across the Village, noting the historical character of this particular property and urging residents to work closely with the Planning Department to ensure that developments of this type did not impact on the character of the village.

## **6. Finance & Business**

### **a) Update on the AGAR Review 2021/2022**

Cllr Audsley confirmed that all information had been sent to the appointed external auditors on 11<sup>th</sup> November and the PC would receive the final auditor's report in January 2023.

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

No information has been received. This would be requested ahead of the next PC meeting in January 2023.

### **c) Financial Statements**

An item of £95 was identified as a payment relating to the play area. Cllr Schofield agreed to follow up with Ryedale DC regarding future contributions to the Picnic Site as the most recent was overdue.

Cllr Audsley reported that the PC had received monies from the VAT reclaim.

VAS Signs - Cllr McDermott and Cllr Audsley agreed to liaise with Settrington PC to reclaim their contribution for use of the signs through the year. It was agreed that tax would be deducted from this request.

### **d) Setting of the Precept for the next financial year**

Ryedale District Council had written to the Chair to request confirmation of our Councillors unanimously agreed that the precept should remain unchanged based on confirmation of the financial health of the Parish Council and the impact of the cost of living crisis. Cllr Johnston would confirm the rate of the precept at £1,800 before the deadline outlined.

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## **7. Status of Section 106 Funding**

Following the successful bid to Ryedale District Council, the Allotment Group confirmed it had received all the available Section 106 monies and the funding round was now closed. Cllr Hampson updated on the current status of the allotments, confirming £36,000 had now been received from grants.

The future success of the allotment project was linked to the status of the Ryedale Neighbourhood Plan and the formation of the new North Yorkshire County Council. The allotment group has attempted to gain a clear understanding of next steps towards securing a potential plot to develop on land adjacent to Boundales Farm.

Cllr Hampson also confirmed that Leavening PC was not the responsible council where allotment plots were being considered. This responsibility sat with North Yorkshire County Council and this is why the group were pursuing various avenues to ascertain whether land could be granted or purchased.

Councillors agreed to continue supporting this investigation by the group and further information would be shared in the new year based on confirmations from North Yorkshire County Council. Councillors noted that this may involve a further discussion with the Parish Council, particularly if this related to the transfer of community assets. Information on the pilot scheme run by Ryedale DC in relation to community assets was shared with Councillors prior to this meeting.

## **8. Future State of Village Committees**

Cllr Johnston invited a discussion with regards to the future state of village committees and community groups identifying that there was merit in reviewing the current status of village committees. The proposed benefits would relate to coordinated fundraising, overcoming the limitations of sourcing new committee members which was on the ongoing challenge and delivering cost-sharing or cost benefits in relation to items such as public liability insurance.

Councillors agreed that this matter should be scoped out in further detail and Cllr Johnston agreed to bring a proposal paper to a future meeting following further discussion with committee groups.

## **9. Updates in relation to Leavening Events Committee**

Cllr McDermott updated on the successful village bonfire event on 5<sup>th</sup> November which had received unanimously positive feedback. Over 400 people attended and the committee made £600 profit. The Committee were taking forward the Elders Lunch on 16<sup>th</sup> December and exploring options for the King's planned Coronation in May 2023.

## **10 Parish Council Communications: noticeboards, Facebook and website**

No further updates

## **11 Update on recent Heating Oil theft and subsequent pollution risk**

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Councillors discussed a recent reported case of heating oil theft from a property on Back Lane. It was agreed that the Parish Council would monitor the situation and expressed concerns that the theft resulted in damage to the oil tank which caused contamination on the plot of the residence affected leading to temporary rehousing of residents. Councillors acknowledge the continuing challenge of oil theft in rural communities and agreed that this was an issue that should be monitored closely based on feedback from residents.

## 12. **Upcoming Training with the YLCA**

Councillors were encouraged to investigate upcoming training and networking opportunities via the YLCA.

## 13. **AOB and Questions to the Chair**

### **Burial Fees**

Following a recent review, Cllr Hampson outlined the complexity of the current Church of England guidance relating to fee for funerals and burials. A proposed amendment to a previous agreed position for the Parish Council was suggested by Cllr Hampson with councillors agreeing to honor the current burial fee rates, reviewing these on a regular basis. This was more straightforward and in line with the volume of requests which was currently being received.

### **Public footpaths and rights of way**

Cllr McDermott updated on discussions relating to the clearing of the footpath which leads from the end of Back Lane, behind Preston Hill around the Boundales/Low Side area, north of the village. This area was overgrown and had been inaccessible for a long period of time. The Allotment group were currently investigating opportunities to re-open access and are currently pulling together a working party. Councillors discussed that public rights of way in and around the village was a recurring issue raised by residents and it was agreed that "Footpaths and Rights of Way" would be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

### **Councilor Resignation**

The final item relates to Cllr Scholfield, who after many years of involvement in Leavening Parish Council, tendered his resignation (this meeting being his final meeting). The Chair extended deep gratitude on behalf of the parish council for Cllr Schofield's service to the parish during his tenure. Cllr Schofield would continue to be involved in the Play Area Committee until new membership was in place soon.

## 14. **Dates of future meetings**

Committee to agree on the future cycle of meetings for Parish Council meetings.

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 7pm
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 7pm - to be rescheduled due to Easter to 17<sup>th</sup> April.
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 7pm
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 7pm

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