

Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday March 28th 2019 at Low Row Institute

The Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday March 28th 2019 at Low Row Institute. Present were Councillors Calvert, Silver and McCartney, with Cllr R. Alderson presiding. RDC Cllr Blows was also present. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams.

1. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Crapper and County Councillor John Blackie.

2. Declaration of Interests. None declared.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 7th February 2019 were agreed to be a correct record, and these were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising.

a) Area behind the public toilets, Gunnerside. Both Cllr Crapper and Cllr Calvert have spoken to those concerned regarding the state of the area behind the public toilets in Gunnerside that was raised at the last meeting. They were asked that the area be tidied up, which has now taken place. Councillors agreed that no further action is required at present.

b) Public Toilets, Gunnerside

A concern was raised regarding the public toilets in Gunnerside. A private security firm is collecting revenue from the pay machines and it was felt that it is hard to understand how the revenue from the toilets could cover this cost, and leave any surplus to recoup the cost of installing the doors in the first place. It was suggested that the policy of charging for the use of toilets in small villages, and the way the policy is being managed, makes no economic or financial sense and this policy should be reversed.

RDC Councillor Blows advised that this issue has been raised with Colin Dales, Richmondshire District Council who advised that this has to be seen as an overall package to keep the toilets open and it was confirmed that the scheme is generating income across Richmondshire. There will be a full report at the end of the first year of the scheme, but the Council was advised that there are no plans to change this policy at the moment.

5. Finance

a) Clerk's salary and expenses

The clerk's salary of £1000, plus expenses were agreed and paid. An order to pay was completed. The clerk left the meeting whilst the salary for the following year was discussed and it was agreed for the salary to increase to £1100 from next year.

b) Insurance.

An order to pay and a cheque for £167.44 to Zurich Municipal was signed.

c) Grant funding for Low Row Institute.

An order to pay and a cheque for £935.14 was paid to Low Row and Feetham Literary Institute, which has been received from the Upper Dales Locality Budget towards the repair of the roof of Low Row Institute.

6. Highways

a) Drain at West End Cottage, Gunnerside. This is continuing to cause problems in heavy rain, and councilors feel that more work is needed to prevent this from happening. A letter from the owner of the cottage has already been sent to Highways to raise this issue. The clerk and RDC Cllr Blows will also raise this with Highways.

b) Peat Gate cattle grid. Some work has already taken place to clear the cattle grid, however this has become blocked again with leaves after recent heavy rain. Work is also needed to cut back the hawthorn bushes on the sides of the road.

c) Brocca Bank. There are bushes are growing into the gutter and the recent heavy rain has washed leaves into the gutter and pipes.

7. Richmondshire District Council

a) Parish council elections

Nomination forms have been distributed to councilors who were advised that these need to be returned by April 3rd 2019. RDC Cllr Blows advised that he will not be standing in this election in this area this time, and he was thanked for his help and support.

8. North Yorkshire County Council

No items.

9. YDNPA

a) Vacancy for Secretary of State (Parish) Member. Councillors were advised that in May 2019 there will be a vacancy for a Parish Member for Richmondshire.

b) Planning decision: Whitelock House, Gunnerside. This has been conditionally approved.

c) Planning decision: Jingle Pot Cottage, Gunnerside. This has been approved conditionally.

d) Parish Forum: Councillors were notified of the next Northern Parishes Forum, to take place at Fremington Sunday School on Wednesday May 15th 2019 at 7pm.

10. AOB/other correspondence

a) Best Kept Village 2019

The council was notified of the Rotary Club of Richmondshire for the Best Kept Village competition 2019, but it was decided not to participate this year.

b) Dales Police Report. The council read the Dales Police March 2019.

c) Allerton Waste Recovery

The council noted receipt of this update from Allerton Waste Recovery Park.

d) Home Safety and wellness visit checks

The council noted receipt of this from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's Community Safety Officer.

e) A letter was read from County Councillor John Blackie, with information on grants from the Upper Dales Locality Budget and an update on the Minor Injuries funding for GP surgeries in Reeth, Hawes and Aysgarth, which has been reinstated.

f) Village green, Low Row.

The state of the village green had been raised by a resident and how it could be kept tidier.

The area has kindly been mowed in the past by local residents, but more work is needed to keep this area tidy. It was suggested that the Pasture Committee should be contacted and the clerk was asked to contact Highways to see what could be done.

g) Cllr Calvert advised that he will be standing down from the Parish Council, and he was thanked for all the support that he has given to the Parish Council over the last few years.

11. Date and time of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Gunnerside Village Hall on 7.30pm on Thursday May 16th 2019.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.