

GRINTON & ELLERTON ABBEY PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Grinton and Ellerton Abbey Parish Council held in the village Institute on Monday 4th January 2016.

Present: Cllr H Brown (Chairman), Cllrs Coates and Porter and District Councillor Blows, the Clerk and one member of the public.

Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Barningham and Alderson and press reporter T Little.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd November 2015 were read, approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

Commons Registration Insurance Enquiry: Cllr Coates has checked with the insurer and there is no insurance to cover an administrative error.

Transparency Funding: The money has now been received.

Barrier Site Meeting, Moor Road: Cllrs Coates and Barningham and County Cllr Blackie have had a site meeting with NYCC Highways regarding the provision of a crash barrier on Grinton Bank. NYCC were not hopeful that this would meet with the necessary criteria required for the works to be carried out but no official decision has yet been received.

New Payroll Arrangements: O'Reillys Accountants at Hawes will handle the Clerk's payroll at a cost of £60.00 per annum plus VAT. They have been instructed to carry out this work.

Defibrillators: District Cllr Blows reported that the Communities Opportunities Fund is now closed but that the British Heart Foundation has been funding defibrillators. Cllr Blows to investigate.

Correspondence:

Commons Registration:

An email from County Councillor John Blackie was read out stating that the standard fee of £2400 for de-registering the two pieces of land could not be reduced. He is offering a figure of £1000 from his Locality Budget towards the costs and this together with a contribution of £400 from each of the landowners and £600 from this Parish Council be used to rectify the situation. It was decided to proceed on this basis as both landowners were in agreement with this proposal.

YDNPA:

Low Lane: The Area Ranger, Michael Briggs has replied regarding the state of this lane. As the route is unclassified and surfaced it is not YDNPA's responsibility to maintain but that of NYCC. When the route is adopted as a section of the Swale Trail Cycle Route it may be possible that some maintenance could be undertaken by YDNPA.

New signs at Steeping Stones near Wood House: These are now in place. Similar signs are also in place near the stepping stones at Hags Gill.

Bushes House Planning Decision: Permission has been granted for solar panels.

NYCC:

Rapid Response Catchment and Flood Action Campaign: Information was received asking if the Parish Council wish to develop our own plan. A Risk Assessment has already been carried out by Cllr Alderson and the information would be passed to him.

Minerals and Waste Joint Plan: This was not relevant to our area as it was covering York and the North York Moors National Park.

Local Bus Subsidy Reduction: Wensleydale and Swaledale were not mentioned so hopefully there will be no more cuts in this area.

YLCA White Rose:

Clerks Contract of Employment: All employees now require a contract of employment. If this is not already in place the YLCA can be contacted for assistance. Cllr Coates to proceed with this. District Cllr Blows will enquire with RDC to see if they have a general contract that could be used.

Clerks Pension Update: Earnings need to be over £5000 per annum so this does not apply.

Accounts and Audit Regulations: Each Parish Council must decide whether to stay within the scheme or opt out by the end of March 2016. It was decided to stay in the scheme.

Transparency Grant: £424.99 has been received for purchasing a laptop and scanner. Cllr Coates will purchase these.

Membership Fee Increase: Membership fees will increase by 4.9% in 2016.

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations: Item was deferred to the next meeting.

K Webster:

Hall Hire, January payment suspended. Item deferred to next meeting.

Butterwick Hospice Appeal:

Councillors felt that they could not contribute to this appeal.

Air Ambulance Appeal:

It was decided to donate £25.00.

RDC Election Booking:

A request to book The Hall for the elections for Police and Crime Commissioner on Thursday 5th May has been received. The Clerk to confirm with Richmondshire District Council with a fee of £70.00.

Precept:

Cllr Coates proposed that the precept for the coming year be set at £2000, Seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed unanimously.

Bank Account:

The new signatures have now been accepted and the contact address changed to the new Clerk. On-line banking was discussed and it was agreed to proceed with this if possible. The Clerk would look into this.

Finance:

The previous Clerks pay of £187.50 has been paid on 14th November 2015.

Npower - £96.58 paid 15th December 2015. It was agreed to look for a cheaper deal at the end of the contract period.

Acting Clerks Expenses: £23.62 to be paid when a second signature has been obtained on the cheque.

Any Other Business:

Parish Clerk: Mrs Karen Silver has resigned from the role of Clerk. Mrs Jill May has agreed to take on clerk's role. Cllrs unanimously agreed.

Swale Hall Lane: Cllr Brown informed the meeting that the hole in the road near Swale Hall has now been inspected but the road is still closed.

Grinton Bridge: Concerns were raised regarding the state of the walls of Grinton Bridge. There are several cracks and following the recent floods it was felt that this should be reported to NYCC. The Clerk will report this via the NYCC website.

Archived Parish Records: Cllr Coates reported that The Big Dig Project have a large scanner and proposed that all the Parish Records are scanned to a disc for our records and that the originals are then returned to the County Archive in Northallerton. It was agreed that this was a good idea.

Heating: The storage heater downstairs in The Hall is not heating properly. Cllr Coates proposed buying a portable electric heater, agreed unanimously. Cllr Coates to arrange.

School Buses: District Cllr blows raised concerns from a resident regarding the speed of school buses through the village.

Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday 7th March at 7.15 pm.

