

MUKER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10TH JANUARY, 2011

The Parish Council meeting was held on the 10th January 2011. Councillors Calvert, Metcalfe, Reynoldson, Porter, RDC Councillor Gardner were present with Councillor Whitehead presiding. The Clerk was Mrs T Sharp.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Apologies excepted from Cllr Porter and Blackie.
2. **Welcomes:** The Chair welcomed Mr Ian McPherson a Member of YDNPA invited to attend by the Council after correspondence from the Park Authority in August. Mr McPherson reported on recent activity and latest issues relating to Park business. The Park's current main activities are affordable housing and the renewal of the 5 year Management Plan. The Authority seeks to work with Councils and Parish Councils to develop this new Management Plan. Mr McPherson reported that DEFRA were reviewing the governance of National Parks and that as a consequence a Member need not be a Parish Councillor only but could be any member of the Parish. The number of Members on a Park Authority would not be cut. Priority issues for the Park are:
 - 1) Yorkshire Peat Partnership – restoration of peat bogs
 - 2) Rights of Way
 - 3) Farm Conservation / Agri-environment schemes
 - 4) Biodiversity aims
 - 5) Web based services
 - 6) Volunteers and Sustainable Development FundMr McPherson advised that funding was available under the Sustainable Development Fund and grants were also available for designated conservation areas, new woodlands and nature conservation work. Mr McPherson informed the Council that The Yorkshire Dales Housing Plan has been submitted to the Planning Office for review and a Public Hearing will take place on 17th & 18th January. Mr McPherson confirmed that repairs would be carried out on the flood damage at Rampsholme Bridge, Muker. Councillors were invited to direct any questions to Mr McPherson. Councillor Metcalfe asked for an update on the situation with regard to the extension of the National Park boundary. Councillors noted Natural England's willingness to continue with the scheme despite many Parish Council objections from within the Park and Cumbria. Mr McPherson advised that the next stage was that designation orders would be submitted to the Secretary of State in October 2012 but that due to the number of objections it was expected that there would have to be a Public Enquiry. The Council unanimously agreed that local views on this issue must be represented and listened to by the Authority and Natural England.
3. **Declaration of Interest:** None.
4. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 29th November, 2011 had been circulated and were approved as a correct record on the proposal of Councillor Calvert and seconded by Councillor Metcalfe. All were in favour.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. Cllr Gardner reported that he had looked into the matter of planning permission at Blacksmiths Cottage, Thwaite and it did indeed need planning permission on the grounds that the construction 'protrudes past the front of the building'.
 - b. The Chair reported that the Parish Council's new webpage provided by the RDC was now live and could be used to upload Parish events and links to any relevant websites.

6. Finance:

There were no financial matters arising.

7. Highways:

- a. The Clerk reported Highways were to review the drainage off the B6270 below Angram. Recent severe flooding had resulted in water gathering on the road and the drainage currently provided, fitted by Highways in Summer 2011, was unable to drain the water quick enough causing a substantial volume of water building up and stopping the passage of traffic.
- b. The Chair read out a letter from Jacobs via Highways notifying the Council of repairs to Park Bridge, Stonesdale Lane, Keld. This would result in road closures and would commence in 'the financial year 2012/13' for an as yet unknown period. Councillor Gardner further reported that he had spoken to Jacobs to advise them that the closure of this road was unacceptable. Access for West Stonesdale to Upper Swaledale and through to Hawes was essential through lambing time and for emergency vehicles. Councillor Gardner and Jacobs agreed a series of short closures every 20 minutes to allow for passage of traffic.

8. Richmondshire District Council:

- a. The Council noted various leaflets sent to it on volunteering and community projects throughout the District.
- b. The Council noted the publication of the Revised Register of Electors now available.

9. North Yorkshire C.C.

No items were received.

10. Yorkshire Dales National Park:

- a. The Council considered a map submitted by the Swaledale & Arkengarthdale Area Ranger for landownership of various fields west and east of Gunnerside. The map details areas of flood damage to be repaired by the Park Authority.
- e. The Council considered Planning Application: Dunny Hill, Nr Ivelet for moorland access track – the Council had no objections.

11. YLCA:

- a. The Council noted the White Rose update.
- b. The Council noted the correspondence relating to Diamond Jubilee Beacons.

12. Other Correspondence/A.O.B.:

- a. The Council noted the Yorkshire Dales LEADER programme update 2008-2013.
- b. The Council noted the Clerks & Councils Direct publication.
- c. The Council noted correspondence from the Upper Dales Health Watch advising Andrew Landsley's visit to the Central Dales GP Practice on 23rd February 2012. No Muker Parish Councillors are to attend.
- d. The Chair brought to the Council's attention correspondence from County Councillor John Blackie regarding the proposed closure of maternity and paediatrics services at Northallerton Friarage Hospital and proposed closures or winter closures of various public conveniences throughout the Dales. Councillor Blackie advised that Muker public conveniences would be kept open and Keld public conveniences would be closed between November and end March. Councillor Blackie noted the Councils previous advice on this subject. The Council directed the Clerk to write a letter strongly

objecting to the closures at The Friarage citing this to be a continuation of services in the Dales being eroded.

- e. Councillor Reynoldson advised that the noticeboard at Thwaite had been severely damaged in the recent high winds and was no longer useable. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a number of quotes locally for the construction of a wooden noticeboard replacement.
- f. Councillor Reynoldson reported that the drains all the way up the road to the Buttertubs are blocked with grit and need cleaning out. The Clerk was instructed to write to Highways.
- g. Councillor Gardner reported on the following:
 - Councillor Gardner contacted NYCC to report that the light shield had not been fitted to the public lighting in Keld yet. Delay had been caused by manpower issues and Councillor Gardner insisted on fitting of the shield within the week.
 - At the request of a parishioner Councillor Gardner had obtained agreement from Highways for the compulsory gritting of the road from Gunnerside to Ivelet under category 3. Additionally Councillor Gardner had obtained the compulsory gritting of the road at Stonesdale under category 2.
 - Councillor Gardner had attended a Strategy Board Meeting at which the closure of the public conveniences was discussed. Councillor Gardner reported putting forward the proposal of a 20p entry charge for the public conveniences to fund their continued use. Councillor Gardner also proposed reducing cleaning hours on the public conveniences to cut costs to allow them to stay open.
 - Councillor Gardner reported that the planning application for Park House campsite had gone to Committee on the grounds that they have requested an increase in the number of tents and motor homes allowed on the site. Planning therefore requires an impact assessment.
 - Councillor Gardner had raised concerns on the planning application for Dunny Hill that the use of limestone aggregate might constitute a visual scar on the landscape.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

The next Parish Council Meetings will take place on the 14th February 2012 and 20th March 2012 at Muker Institute at 7.30 p.m.