

## **Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 on Zoom**

The Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021 on Zoom. Present were Councillors Silver, McCartney, Lewis and Crapper with Cllr R. Alderson presiding. NYCC County Councillor Yvonne Peacock was also present. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams.

1. Apologies for absence. No apologies were received.
2. Declaration of Interests. None declared.
3. Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the last meeting, held on 4th February 2021 were agreed to be a correct record, and these were signed by the Chair.
4. Matters Arising.

### a) Bench at Church, Low Row.

The Council was advised that there have been no objections to the installation of a bench outside the Church from either Reeth Estates or the Church and it is expected that this will be put in place in June this year.

### 5. Finance

#### a) Clerk's salary and expenses

The clerk's salary of £1100, plus expenses of £14 were agreed.

#### b) Insurance.

It was agreed to renew the insurance through Zurich Municipal for £167.44. Both cheques and orders to pay will be signed after the meeting.

c) The Council noted that the current balance is £4181.85, with a precept of £1500 requested for 2021-22.

### 6. Highways

a) It was noted that a road closure has been notified between Feetham and Gunnerside which will be taking place between April 7<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup> between 1900 hrs and 0600hrs.

b) The clerk to raise the following issues:

i) Pothole on the B6270 at Strands, between Gunnerside and Low Row, which is on the North side of the road just past Strands heading to Gunnerside. This was reported previously on the portal but nothing appears to have been done.

ii) Heading from Surrender Bridge towards Healaugh, the gutters have been eroded by heavy rain and these are quite deep and dangerous

iii) Drain in Gunnerside from road to Dyke Heads.

iv) Blocked drain at Brocca Bank Low Row.

### 7. Richmondshire District Council

#### a) Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner election - May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

The Council was notified of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner election on May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021.

#### b) Local government re-organisation/consultation

Councillors have received letters from both North Yorkshire County Council and Richmondshire District Council with their separate proposals for the re-organisation. There are 2 proposals being put forward; East/West, which will consist of Richmondshire, Harrogate, Hambleton and Craven, which would split North Yorkshire into two, and the other option is to leave NYCC as one Unitary Council. This is out to consultation from the government.

It is not expected that there will be any major implications for Parish Councils, although Cllr Peacock advised that if the NYCC bid is successful, they would want to work more closely with Parish Councils, and it is anticipated that there would be improvements to the Upper Dales Community Office and Hudson House. It was also noted that NYCC are already running services such as adult social care, highways and education etc., which are generally working well, and to split these into East/West would mean starting afresh.

A concern was raised that having a larger unitary authority may not understand local issues.

### 8. North Yorkshire County Council

Local government reorganisation/consultation (as above).

### 9. YDNPA

a) Planning application: Victoria House, Gunnerside: No comments or objections were

raised.

b) Planning application: Sunnyside Low Row: No comments or objections were raised

10. AOB/other correspondence

a) Community Consultation Telecommunications Base Station Installation

The clerk advised that a response has been sent to say that the Parish Council has no comments until the planning application is received. A question was raised by a local resident as to whether there would be a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the track, as the resident currently contributes to this. The response was that a contract would be made with Reeth Estates, and it was noted that it is important that if this does go ahead, there is a contract made and that repairs are carried out.

Councillor Peacock advised that BT is upgrading telephone lines underground in the area and she will check up whether this includes 5G and superfast broadband.

b) Melbecks Emergency Plan

This is now mostly complete, and Councillor Peacock was thanked for getting in touch with Helen White. This is now active and lodged with North Yorkshire Resilience Forum, and it was noted that this is a live document.

The final things that need to be completed are for an emergency kit to be located at each venue, and a flyer to be sent to residents of Melbecks, however it had been decided to wait until later on in the summer to deliver the flyers, in order to have the most impact and when the threat of Covid-19 has hopefully reduced. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to be included in the plan, and Councillor Lewis was thanked for all his work putting this together. It was questioned what would happen in the event of Gunnerside being flooded as the plan suggests that residents would come to Low Row which would not be possible as all roads would be impassable, however it was noted that if an event that disastrous had taken place, it would be down to the emergency services to co-ordinate, with our role quite limited. There are also different emergencies to consider, such as flooding, military aircraft crash etc. Volunteers are on a cascade system with an emergency co-ordinator to contact volunteers as and when required by emergency services.

b) Best Kept Village 2021

The Council was notified of the Rotary Club of Richmondshire for the Best Kept Village competition 2021, but it was decided not to participate this year.

c) Speeding issue, Low Row

Several residents have contacted the Council regarding an issue in Low Row with cars speeding through the village. It was noted that this is an ongoing problem and it was suggested contacting the local PCSO to ask whether a spot check could be done. Light-up warning signs could also be considered although these cost around £2-3K. Councillor Peacock kindly offered £1K of financial assistance from the Locality Fund with the remainder potentially to be requested from Area Partnership funding from Richmondshire District Council and/or fundraising. Councillor Peacock will contact NYCC regarding this and send the details to the clerk who will look into this.

d) Dales Police report, February 2021

The Council noted receipt of this.

e) YLCA subscription

It was agreed to continue membership of YLCA, the clerk will arrange for a cheque/order to pay for £131.00 to be signed.

f) Code of Conduct

The Council unanimously approved and adopted the Code of Conduct.

g) Darlington and Stockton Times report

It was noted that the last report published in the Darlington and Stockton Times had referred to the Council as 'Melbecks Gunnerside', the clerk will ensure that this is corrected.

h) Phone box at Three Roads End

It was noted that this payphone is included in the list of pay phones to be removed as part of the BT Proposals to remove payphones, although this is in Grinton Parish.

11. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday May 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7.30pm at Low Row Institute.

(Post-meeting note: The meeting will take place at 8.00pm due to another booking in the hall).

It was noted that the current regulations state that Parish Council meetings cannot continue virtually after May 6<sup>th</sup> 2021, therefore the next meeting would need to be a face-to-face meeting.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 8.36pm.