

LONG PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2015

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Goodall (Chairman), Tyrer (Vice Chariman), Kay, Inglis, Morley and Sturgess
In attendance: Gillian Muir (Parish Clerk & RFO), North Yorkshire County Councillor Welch, Craven District Councillor Moorby, Police Community Support Officer (PSCO) Montgomery, PCSO Joseph Simms and 4 members of the public

1. Opening and Public Participation

The Chairman opened the meeting and invited PSCO Montgomery to report on Police matters prior to commencement of the public participation session. PSCO Montgomery reported on the burglaries at Gallaber Caravan Park, parking issues, a suspicious vehicle, an episode of sheep worrying and incidences relating to flooding issues caused by the recent bad weather.

The Chairman invited members of the public to put forward concerns or make comments. No matters were raised. The PCSOs left the meeting.

2. Apologies and reasons for absence - none

3. Code of Conduct and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

- a. Cllr Kay stated that his register of interests form has been updated to disclose his interest in the Playing Field Association. No Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or other interests were recorded in relation to items on this Agenda.
- b. No requests were made for dispensations in connection with items on this Agenda.

4. Confidential agenda items – none

5. Minutes of the council meeting held on 5th November 2015

Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Long Preston Parish Council meeting held on 5th November 2015 should be approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Goodall, as a true and accurate record.

6. Issues relating to Craven District and North Yorkshire County Councils, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, the Police, Parish Council Representatives to External Bodies

Cllr Welch reported that the budget for English National Parks, AONBs and forests has been protected in the recent Government spending review. YDNPA has decided not to pursue a Creation Order to implement a safer, alternative equestrian route for the Pennine Bridleway through Long Preston.

Cllr Moorby reported on several matters relating to waste: the cost of the recently installed dual waste bins; CDC recycling costs; the extension of the collection point policy for wheeled bins and clarification of the bin collection day for Long Preston. The CDC Local Plan has been approved by the full council and concerns relating to the NYCC local transport plan were outlined. A copy of the full report presented by Cllr Moorby is available from the Clerk.

Cllr Kay reported that from 1 August 2016, the boundary of the Yorkshire Dales National Park will extend north-west into Cumbria and west into Lancashire. It is not yet clear if YDNPA will receive additional Government funding to cover the extension.

Parish Council Representatives were invited to provide reports.
Cllr Inglis stated that the village hall ran a Christmas Fayre at the weekend raising much needed funds.

Issues relating to the playing field were discussed with Cllr Kay under item 8 of the agenda.

Cllr Sturgess declined to provide a report relating to the Hartley Educational Foundation stating that the charity was only required to report to the Charity Commission. The Clerk referred to the role of parish council representatives defined by Yorkshire Local Council Association. The Council will invite the Chairman of the Hartley Educational Foundation, John Matthews, to ask if he would be willing to provide any updates.

6.1 The Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) Initiative

Councillors offered differing views on the merits of the VAS system. Further to the resolution made under item 6.1 of the meeting held on 5th November 2015, Cllr Tyrer will compile a questionnaire to gauge opinion of residents in the parish in consultation with Cllrs Kay and Morley.

6.2 Highways issues on Green Gate & Moor Lanes.

The disruption and damage arising from the delivery of paper mulch up Green Gate & Moor Lanes was discussed including damage caused to road surfaces and properties, drainage problems, and safety issues relating to pedestrians and school children. NYCC Highways has been notified of the problem: NYCC incident report 101003205970 was filed by the Chairman on behalf of the council on 9th November. Both NYCC and YDNPA are assessing the damage and discussing how to make repairs and improvements. The possibility of introducing a weight limit restriction on this road was debated. Delivery of the mulch has now stopped. A publication produced by the Environment Agency (Ref SC 030181/SR – Nature and impact of paper waste applied in England and Wales) analyses the risks and benefits of the process and concludes that risk of harmful contamination is low.

6.3 The local occupancy condition and PROW maintenance

Cllr Tyrer continues to liaise with YDNPA on his proposal to make the local occupancy condition fairer and work better in practice.

YDNPA may be able to reimburse the parish council for PROW maintenance carried out on behalf of the Authority from next year. YDNPA Area Ranger, Cat Kilner, will draw up a draft maintenance programme and funding package. The Clerk will invite Cat Kilner to the next meeting on 14th January 2016 to present the proposal.

6.4 Dog waste bins

Three new dog waste bins have been installed. The bin at West End has been temporarily re-located near the Rohan shop.

RESOLUTION: this bin will be moved to the top of Moor Lane where it meets the track.

Overhanging branches along School Lane will be reported to NYCC Highways.

7. Web and mobile phone based communications

Cllr Kay and the Clerk are keeping the website up to date. There has been one website communication regarding standing water; an incoming call relating to lorries on Moor Lane and a call requesting the supplier details of our bus stop from the Chair of Over Kellett PC. All are being dealt with.

8. Playing Field

8.1 Financial support for the Playing Field Association

Councillors referred to the supporting paper detailing the background information and motions to be proposed by Cllr Sturgess. Cllr Sturgess made a point of order stating that the motions were not presented on the agenda as outlined in section 4 of the Standing Orders. As such Cllr Sturgess did not wish to present the motions for consideration.

8.2 Inclusion of the playing field as part of the 2016 grass cutting programme

In response to a request from the PFA, Members considered if the playing field should be included in the council's 2016 grass cutting programme. The PFA accounts for 2014-15 and 2015-16 compiled by Cllr Kay were noted. Council requested to see a budget for 2016-17 so that future income and expenditure could be considered. Cllr Kay intends to produce a 25 year action plan for the playing field with particular focus on the next five years. Item 8.2 was further discussed under item 10.4, to consider and agree the budget for 2016-17.

9. Parish Maintenance and Assets

9.1 Street Lighting

a. Street lighting maintenance

New street lights at West End Bungalows, Station Road, Green Gate / School Lane and Back Lane have been installed. Back Lane lights are now connected. Connection of the remaining 3 has been delayed due to necessary ground works. Outed lights at West End substation, the billiard room on the village hall and the Green substation will soon be repaired.

b. Proposal to purchase a spare LED lantern unit

This item was deferred.

c. Removal of Chapel Walk street lights from asset register.

RESOLUTION: the four street lights on Chapel Walk (SL017, SL018, SL019 and SL020) will be removed from the asset register as they are the responsibility of NYCC to maintain.

9.2 Village green grass cutting

A cost-benefit analysis for acquiring a mower and hiring a contractor to cut the village greens and Baptist Burial site was considered. Costs for the disposal of grass cuttings, storage, insurance, tax and maintenance were discussed. It was noted that the council has not budgeted for the purchase of a lawn mower in this financial year. However, the council could afford to buy one using monies from the reserves since the surplus at the end of 2015-16 is estimated to be between £11-12,000.

RESOLUTION:

- Council will purchase a lawn mower in this financial year using monies from the reserves so that it is ready for use in the spring of 2016. It was noted that Cllr Sturgess objected to this decision stating a preference for the mower to be budgeted for and purchased in 2016-17.
- The Clerk will obtain 3 estimates for the mower and prepare a job specification for the grass cutting contract. This information will be presented at the January meeting.

9.3 Christmas Lights

Electricity supply for the lights has been secured for this festive season however; alternative arrangements will be needed for next Christmas. A free Christmas tree has been acquired for Back Green thanks to Katie Attewell.

Three members of the public and Cllr Moorby left the meeting. Due to time constraints, item 10.4 & 10.5 were brought forward.

10.3. The budget for 2016-17

Budgetary figures for asset maintenance were considered in detail. Further to the debate started under item 8.2, councillors considered if the playing field should be included in the council's 2016 grass cutting programme.

RESOLUTIONS:

- The council will allocate £800 to cover the cost of grass cutting for the playing field. This financial support will be for a trial period of one year. In exchange Cllr Kay stated that the PFA would provide a site for disposal of grass cuttings, secure storage for the mower and a volunteer driver to provide emergency and holiday cover as required. The PFA will provide these items as a gift in kind valued at £400. Cllr Kay will ask the PFA to confirm this arrangement at their next meeting.
- Budget expenditure was set at £21,000.

10.4. The precept for 2016-17

The council aims to maintain reserves at 50% of the precept value. The surplus at the end of 2015-16 after the purchase of a mower is estimated to be £9,000. Cllr Tyrer proposed that the 2016-17 precept should be set at £23,000 to cover the cost of the budget and bring the reserves up to the recommended level. It was highlighted that this level of precept would be £2000 less than the current years' levy.

RESOLUTION: the precept for 2016-17 will be £23,000. The precept form was duly signed by the Chairman, Cllrs Morley and Tyrer and the Clerk.

9.4 Benches

Cllr Tyrer has liaised with Richard Boothman, the Chairman of Long Preston Heritage Group, and a course of action for the repositioning of the bench on Kayley Hill has been agreed. It was suggested that the bench at West End could be moved to the Green as it is rarely used in its current position. A Teak Garden Bench has been purchased with funds raised by Jean Rogers, the Over 70s group and donations collected by Angela Kay and Katie Attewell. It was suggested that it could be positioned near the Rohan shop. A decision on the precise location will be made in consultation with Mrs Rogers. A brass plaque for the bench on Magna Green has been purchased (and is now fitted).

9.5 Parish Lengthsman Tasks

RESOLUTION: the parish lengthsman will carry out the following tasks:

- Repair of verge on Magna Green
- Repair of verge on Maypole Green
- Manoeuvre stone to protect the edge of Maypole Green
- Reposition the bench at Kayley Hill in consultation with Cllr Tyrer

9.6 Other parish maintenance matters

Stage One of the application process to 'adopt a telephone kiosk' has been completed. British Telecom will now consult with the local authority to ensure they agree with the adoption. It will take up to 90 days for the consultation to take place.

10. Finance

10.1. RESOLUTION: payment of accounts was authorised as outlined in the finance statement dated 3rd December:

Long Preston Village Hall	Hall hire	£ 72.00
E.ON	Electricity	£ 80.70
Sustainable Furniture (UK) Ltd	Bench, anchor kit and plaque	£ 665.00
HMRC	PAYE - income tax	£ 61.00
Gillian Muir	Clerk's Expenses including share of SLCC subscription	£ 82.00
Craven District Council	3 x dog waste / litter bins	£ 630.00
Total		£ 1,590.70

10.2. RESOLUTION: The finance statement dated 3rd December was reviewed and approved.

10.5. RESOLUTION: a donation of £70 will be made to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal under Local Government Act 1972 Section 137.

10.6. Cllr Tyrer reported that the bank reconciliations for quarters 1 and 2 have been verified and are accurate.

10.7. Other financial matters – none reported.

11. Planning

11.1. Applications: none received

11.2. Decisions:

- a. C/52/703A Full planning permission for erection of first floor rear extension to provide additional bedroom, single storey side extension to provide sitting room and conversion of kitchen back to former use as a garage, 6 Back Green, Long Preston. Not yet decided.

11.3. Other planning issues - none

12. Correspondence

The Monitoring Officer for Craven District Council, Annette Moppet has written to the Chairman to notify him of a request for advice from a concerned resident regarding the recent resolution made at the Extraordinary Meeting held on 15th October regarding communications with the Clerk. The Monitoring Officer informed the resident that in her opinion the resolution is not inherently unlawful; that the council owes a duty of care to its Clerk; that the resolution was proposed to deal with a specific situation and is motivated by good intention. Councillors confirmed that the resolution would be reviewed in the near future if it does not work in practice.

13. Items of information & future agenda items

13.1. It was noted that a reply have been sent regarding the recent Freedom of Information request regarding the playing field.

13.2. Cllr Morley announced that following an official complaint made against him, CDC has concluded that he did not breach the code of conduct at a parish council meeting held on 4th September 2014.

13.3. Cllr Sturgess' motions regarding the playing field will be debated at the March meeting.

14. Date of the next meeting

RESOLUTION: the next meeting will be held on **Thursday 14th January 2016**, 7.30pm at Long Preston Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.