



A routine meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 9th February 2022** in Castleton Village Hall.

Present : Councillors: J Day, D Murrell, E Watson, S Medd, R Rudsdale, R Findlay and J Preston (Clerk).
No members of the public in attendance.

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr's P Stonehouse, I Dodsworth and CClr Pearson
2. **Declarations of interest** None
3. **Minutes** The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 were accepted by resolution as a true record and were signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.1 **Condition of the footpath – Station Road, Castleton.** The County Council as the highways authority are generally only responsible for footpaths that run along the side of the carriageway and not responsible for paths giving access to properties. Enquiries have been made with the Senior Technical Officer at County Hall to search the County Council's definitive list of streets but there are no records of this path either on the historic list of streets or any mapping records. It is not shown as a Public Right of Way so is not maintainable by the PROW team. The County Council have no records to confirm that they have ever carried out maintenance works on this footpath. The previous Highways Officer had been working in this area for over 30 years and had never ordered any works for this footpath. The County Council have come across similar paths that provide access for certain properties where the maintenance of the footpath is shared amongst the properties and this is highlighted on the deeds to these properties. The County Council have no records that show this is the case here.
Currently the County Council is not in a position to take over maintenance of this length of footpath. The County Council is not in a position at the moment to provide a cost to include this section of footpath in any future micro-asphalting or surfacing work as no costings have been prepared.

The Contractor who quoted to do the repairs has confirmed tarmac is the most cost effective option and that his quote (£4,200) does not include VAT.

Following lengthy discussions members resolved to finance the necessary repairs to the footway accepting the quote tendered. It was stressed that by agreeing to finance the repairs the Parish Council **was not** accepting responsibility for the pavement or indeed an indication that any future repairs necessary would be paid for by the parish Council. The Parish Council does not own the footpath.

The Clerk was tasked with enquiring as to whether any grants were available eg by way of the NYMNPA Village Improvement Scheme or via CClr Pearson's Locality Budget.
 - 4.2 **New Road river bank erosion.** The area has been re-inspected by one of the County's highways officers who also carried out a search as to the extent of the maintainable highway in this location. The County Council are only responsible for the tarmacked section of New Road whilst the verge between the tarmac and the river is the responsibility of the land owner. The

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

Project Engineer for the area is in the process of trying to contact the land owner to ask them to carry out the required repairs. The County Council has also reported the issue to BT to make them aware of how close the riverbank is to their apparatus.

4.3 Footpath repairs outside the Co-Op, High Street, Castleton. The County Council has confirmed the repairs were carried out as the paving had become damaged and was unsafe. The repairs are temporary but the Parish Council's concerns over the standard with the County's Maintenance Manager.

4.4 Speeding concerns regarding – Comondale In terms of extending the current speed limit, North Yorkshire County Council, as the Highway Authority, and North Yorkshire Police, as the speed enforcement authority, have agreed a joint protocol covering both the setting and enforcement of speed limits, taking into account the guidance set out in Department for Transport Circular 01/2013: 'Setting Local Speed Limits'. The protocol states:

"The reasons for a limit need to be apparent. There should be a consistent message between the posted speed limit and what the road looks like to the road users. Changes in speed limit need to be reflective of changes in the road layout and characteristics. Every effort should be made to achieve an appropriate balance between actual vehicle speeds, speed limits, road design and other measures."

Accordingly (as per the County Council's determination) the area does not meet the criteria for an extension to the current 30 mph speed limit as the road beyond Ness Terrace becomes a rural lane and is not part of the built up area of the village.

The County Council can not provide a footpath or street lighting from the village to the farm.

The local Project Engineer has said that the County Council could consider installing some warning signs in the vicinity of the Beyond Boundaries care farm. Two possibilities have been suggested ie triangular 'Advanced Warning' signs one showing children with a plate below stating 'Disabled Children' or Elderly People with a plate below stating 'Disabled People' Following discussions it was felt that the most appropriate signage would simply indicate that pedestrians and in the road / crossing. Clerk to progress with highways.

4.5 Street light issue Ness Terrace – repaired

4.6 Offsets Sandhill Bank, Comondale – cleared

4.7 Notice Board, Ainthorpe. The notice board is beyond repair and subsequent to last month's meeting the Clerk circulated prices for a replacement notice board. In the absence of Cllr Stonehouse who had agreed to explore the possibility of fixing a new board to the wall of the fire station it was agreed this item would go on the agenda for next month's meeting.

5 External Reports None presented

6. Accounts / Financial

Monthly accounts By resolution the monthly statement of accounts was approved and payment of outstanding invoices was thereby authorised.

7. Roadside verges grass cutting

Verbal update provided by Cllr Watson who has taken advice from the NYMNP Ecologist and done some of her own research. In brief, to encourage the growth of wild flowers nutrient levels need to be reduced and this can be achieved by gathering grass clippings after verges have been cut. Reducing the number of cuts and avoiding cutting before and after flower seeds have set will also improve the likelihood of wild flower growth. It is not known at this time if the Village

Caretaker will be able to gather and dispose clippings. Cllr Findlay will attempt to make contact with a Westerdale resident who has a passion for wild flowers and seek further advice.

8. Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that it had come to his attention that ex-Councillor Banner, who had been the 'guardian' of the defibrillator in Comondale and the one outside Abbyfield had not, as he had promised, found replacements to take over from him when he moved from the area. Guardians are needed for the Defibrillators at Comondale (to be progressed by Cllr Murrell), Abbeyfields (to be progressed by Cllr Day) and Westerdale (to be progressed by Cllr Findlay at the Westerdale Village Hall AGM)

Furthermore it had been reported to the Clerk that the Westerdale defibrillator was not working. This had been checked and found to be incorrect; however there was no power to the cabinet, which upon further investigation may indicate the transformer needs to be replaced. In addition there appears to be no power to the cabinets at Comondale or Abbeyfields. Transformers will cost £42 including VAT and shipping / handling. However electrical upgrades may be needed which would take the cost up to £192 (new transformer, VAT and shipping / handling included)

The three defibrillators are 'rescue ready' but the cabinet electrical supplies need to be checked and Cllr Day offered to try and progress this.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Pre-application consultation letter in reference to the proposed telecommunications radio base station for the Shared Rural Network on land at North Eastern Plantation, Botton. Members agreed that if and when planning permission is sought the Parish Council would in all likelihood support the application as it would be of benefit to the community.

9.2 Letter on behalf of Comondale residents requesting the Parish Council consider providing financial assistance regarding an event in Comondale to mark the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Resolved to grant £250.

9.3 Email from Castleton Resident requesting the Parish Council consider registering a business in the village of Castleton (which in the future may be closed / sold) as being an 'asset of community value'. Following discussions it was agreed to progress an application with SBC and Cllr Medd offered to take this forward.

9.4 Danby Court Leet Cheque for £400 received – to go towards the upkeep of areas of Common. Members expressed their gratitude for the continued support of the Court Leet

10. Items reported by Councillors

The future of the Co-op store – a number of residents have raised concerns about the future of the Co-op in Castleton. (1) It seems the building of a new store may have been 'shelved' and (2) the existing Co-op building has been up for sale / let for some time and reportedly (rumour) an offer has been made. Clerk to write to the Co-op head office and seek clarity as to the long term future of the shop.

Next meeting

Wed 9th March 2022 at 7pm in Castleton in Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 8:20pm