



A routine meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 13th April 2022** in Castleton Village Hall.

Present : Councillors: J Day, E Watson, S Medd, R Rudsdale, R Findlay, P Stonehouse, I Margetts, I Dodsworth, CClr Pearson, J Preston (Clerk) and two members of the public as invited guests (i.e. the Village Caretaker and Mrs CW - see Agenda item 3)

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr Murrell
2. **Declarations of interest** None
3. **Grass verges**

Members were involved in lengthy discussions with the village caretaker and invited speaker (CW) to assist in determining a strategy whereby it may be possible to re-wild certain verges and protect wild flowers.

CW made it clear from the outset that there was no 'quick fix' and it was not a case of simply scattering wild flower seeds on the verge. If seeding was a chosen option care had to be taken to use only native flower seeds. It was recommended that a plant "Yellow Rattle" should be one of the seeds first used as this has a tendency to weaken the growth of more vigorous grasses. A proper grass cutting regime is essential, chosen areas need to be cut right at the start of the growing season and then left untouched until the end of the season after seeds have set, grass clippings need to be removed.

The caretaker did make it clear that he did his best to avoid cutting where he knew wild flowers were growing. Areas where nettles and thistles grow need cutting more frequently because they look a mess. All agreed that sheep grazing was problematic.

It was thought possible that local schools could be involved by perhaps growing wild flower plants from seeds which could then be transplanted.

A number of areas were considered where rewilding could be experimented, in particular West Lane, Danby (both sides).
4. **Minutes** The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 were accepted by resolution as a true record and were signed by the Chair.
5. **Matters Arising**
 - 5.1 General Highways issues: Highways have confirmed the following:
 - a) Blocked gullies / roadside drains Lead lane up to Young Ralphs Cross – nothing found when the Highways Officer was on site, he will continue to monitor.
 - b) Langburns Bank, care home junction, road surface damaged around manhole – repairs initiated by the Highways Officer.
 - c) Station Road blocked gullies – works order raised (no timescales)
 - d) Christy Gate road, poor condition – no update received yet.
 - e) Toilet sign, faded mis-aligned – sign repositioned but not renewed.
 - 5.2 Parish Council notice board at Ainthorpe. New board ordered, payment required prior to delivery

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

- 5.3 Defibrillators, issues re guardianship & maintenance. Guardians have been identified for the defib's at Comondale and Abbeyfield. The Clerk will make contact and train individuals as to what is required (action still outstanding).
- 5.4 Station Road pavement – resurfacing complete (invoice awaited) – Clerk to recontact Highways and advise that the condition of the pavement surface is worsening and is loose.

6. External Reports

Nothing to report – business on hold pending the forthcoming election.

7. Planning Applications

Members considered the following Planning Applications.

- 7.1 NYM/2022/0061. Application for the erection of general purpose agricultural building at land and buildings north of Church House Farm, Danby Head, Danby. **Resolved – No objection**
- 7.2 NYM/2022/0086. Application for the conversion of an outbuilding to holiday letting accommodation with associated access path, parking and landscaping works at The Howe, Danby. **Resolved – No objection**
- 7.3 NYM/2022/0251. Application for alterations and construction of garden room and entrance porch at Broad Gate Farm, Meadowcroft, Broad Gate Road, Westerdale. **Resolved – No objection**
- 7.4 NYM/2022/0272. Listed Building consent for replacement fire surround and installation of wood burning stove at Low House, Westerdale, Westerdale. **Resolved – No objection**

8. Accounts / Financial

- 8.1 **Monthly accounts** By resolution the monthly statement of accounts was approved and payment of outstanding invoices was thereby authorised.
- 8.2 By resolution members approved the appointment of Ms Gill Wren as External Auditor for the financial year ending 31st March 2022.

9. Correspondence

The Clerk advised members that applications are invited for the appointment of a Parish Member on the NYMNPA – nfa required

10. Items reported by Councillors

Danby Bank – following the recent repair to the chevron board two large blocks of concrete have been left on the moor, removal is required. In addition on the inside of the hairpin bends the road surface is breaking up.

Cllr Margetts is not standing for re-election and he expressed his thanks to fellow Councillors and that he had enjoyed his time on the Parish Council. The Chair thanked Cllr Margetts for his service.

The Clerk advised that there would be a Casual Vacancy as a result and that the co-option process could start immediately following the may election.

Next meeting

Wed 11th May 2022 at 7pm in Castleton in Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 8:05pm