



A routine meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 8th February 2023** in Castleton Village Hall.

Present : Councillors: J. Day Chairman, R Rudsdale, P Stonehouse, D Murrell, S Medd, E Watson, I Dodsworth, R Findlay, G Thompson, Mr Taylor (Village Caretaker) for item 8 on the Agenda), PCSO Lewis North Yorkshire Police, one member of the public throughout the meeting and J Preston (Clerk).

Not an agenda item but PC Lewis North Yorkshire attended and presented the latest Police Report, which unfortunately highlighted a big increase in rural crime in the area of the upper Esk Valley. Criminal activity had seen farm out buildings and isolated sheds being broken into with a favoured target being quad bikes and similar. The increase in crime had been met with a big increase in Police activity in the area under the umbrella of 'Operation Alibi'. Members of the public are urged / encouraged to report suspicious vehicles and people. Depending up on the circumstances an emergency call could be made or alternatively the non-emergency Police Number 101 could be used (being mindful there may be a delay in calls being answered). A third reporting option being on live by way of the North Yorkshire Police website (although this is not monitored 24/7). Owners of quad bikes etc. are encouraged to fit trackers in non-obvious locations on their vehicles.

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** Received from County Cllr Chance

2. **Declarations of interest** None declared

8. **Agenda item re grass cutting / wild flower recovery project taken out of order**

Mr Taylor was involved in discussions and agreed to liaise with Mrs Carol Wilson who in turn will work with Castleton & Danby Schools with regards a grass cutting schedule to enable arrangements to be made to rake up cuttings. Weather permitting it was hoped the first cut in the project areas would be scheduled for late March. The project areas being part of Brier Hill and West Lane, Danby (on the left heading up hill a cut strip to be maintained for pedestrians), Ashfield Road, Castleton and around Westeredale Side / Broadgate Farm junction

3. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 11th January were accepted by resolution as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising from the meeting held 11th January 2023**

4.1 The Clerk updated members in respect of highways issues which had been reported and raised awareness with regards a potential pollution issue at Duck Bridge, Castle Lane. Highways had visited the area ref the reported blocked gully and had advised they believed the issue related to a blocked land drain from which raw sewage was emanating. Further investigation was needed but Highways advised "this won't be resolved quickly." Furthermore a member of the public had reported raw sewage on Castle Lane which the Clerk advised he had reported to the Environment Agency. The Clerk added that he had also reported concerns to the NYMNP River Esk and Coastal Streams Partnership Officer.

4.2 Defibrillator cabinet, Comondale. The Clerk reported that the new cabinet has been fitted.

4.3 Correspondence has been received from North Yorkshire County Council with regards County Councillor Chance's Locality Budget. £800 has been made available, which will be used to fund purchase of a new notice board to be fitted on the wall of Comondale Village Hall. Members expressed their gratitude to C/Cllr Chance for offering this financial assistance.

4.4 Traffic calming near Danby School. The Clerk reported the suggesting for flashing advanced warning signs near the school had been raised with Highways. Who had advised that the School's Board

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

of Governors need to submit a Speed Concern Form to the traffic bureau at North Yorkshire Police who would then assess if there is somewhere to deploy the data logger to get a true picture of vehicle speeds. With regards to the flashing lights, these can only be used where there is a school crossing patrol or a recognised crossing point for the children. Accordingly Highways determined the area would not meet the criteria for the so called 'wig-wag' signs.

4.5 Water Rates – Commondale. The Clerk reported that despite an undertaking on behalf of Business Stream to examine the water meter / check for leaks at Commondale on the 26th / 27th January this work had not been done.

5. External Reports – None

6. Planning Applications Members considered the following Planning Application.
NYM/2023/0038. Ref Beech Bank, 8 Ainthorpe lane, Ainthorpe for the installation of 18 ground mounted solar panels. **Resolved – no objection**

7. Accounts / Financial

The Clerk Presented a brief report showing the projected income and expenditure upto the end of the Financial Year. Payment of outstanding invoices was thereby authorised.

8. Grass Cutting

Item taken out of order.

9. North Yorkshire Council – Draft Parish Charter

Draft Charter discussed and responses formulated – Clerk to submit on line.

10. Correspondence (to note receipt / respond)

10a Letter of complaint (previously circulated) regarding the building site at the old Central Garage, Castleton. Members acknowledged that there were genuine concerns about the site that had on this occasion in writing but also been raised orally around Castleton. It was accepted this issue was beyond the remit of the Parish Council but it was agreed the letter of complaint should be forwarded to NYMNPA, Planning.

10b NYCC Consultation (previously circulated) ref proposed 'No Waiting At Any Time', Houlisyke – to consider a response. Acknowledged, no response required as the proposed scheme is outside of the Parish.

10c Visibility splay grass cutting 2023 / 24 Members resolved to accept the offers of payment made by NYCC ref grass cutting at junctions (visibility splays) in the Parishes of Danby, Westerdale & Commondale.

10d Grant application – Castleton Village Hall. Members considered the application worthy of support but in light of the financial report submitted by the Clerk it was considered inappropriate to determine at this meeting the level of grant to be awarded. To be an agenda item in the next financial year (April meeting)

10e Complaint (previously circulated) regarding the overall condition of Castle Lane (cattle grid Crossley Gate Farm). Noted – the cattle grid repair is complete and it was acknowledged this had taken longer than had been hoped. The general condition of the road / roadside drainage seems adequate at this time but area will continue to be monitored.

10f Defibrillator at Danby village hall. Members authorised purchase of a replacement battery costing £279 + Vat (clerk to progress). In light of the fact that another 5 batteries are going to be needed in the near future at a total cost to the parish Council £1,674 + Vat (and thereafter on a four yearly cycle) the possibility of defibrillator sponsorship was discussed and will be progressed (possibly via Esk Valley Life Line and / or local businesses).

11. Items reported by Councillors

The following Highways issues were raised:

11a Gated Road in poor condition / potholes

11b Pavement edge near the Coop in Castleton in a poor state of repair

- 11c Commondale adjacent to the entrance to Thornhill Farm – road in poor condition / potholes
- 11d Bottom of Burtree Lane where the road crosses Danby Beck on the approach to Crag House farm – road surface in a very poor state.
- 11e Castle Lane near Crossley Gate Farm where the cattle grid has been replaced various road signs have been left on the verge in the undergrowth and need to be collected.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Next meeting Wednesday 8th March 2023