



A routine meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 13th December 2023** in Castleton Village Hall.

Present : Councillors: J Day (Chair), R. Findlay, E Watson, D Murrell, I Dodsworth, P Stonehouse, R Rudsdale, G Thompson, J Preston (Clerk) and one member of the public throughout the meeting..

Minutes of the Meeting

1. **Apologies for absence** Received from Cllr Medd

2. **Declarations of interest** None declared

3. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 were accepted by resolution as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

4. **Matters Arising from the meeting held 12th July 2023**

Highways updates:

- a) Duck Bridge – the scale showing the depth of water in the ford needed to be replaced. **Cllr Dodsworth reported the depth gauge has been replaced.**
- b) Comondale, Sandhill Bank – street light column number 3 reportedly not working. **No update, reported by a resident prior to Parish Council involvement.**
- c) Crown End / Dibble Bridge Bank from the Comondale side – blocked ditches / gullies, extensive amount of water running down and across the bank. **No update from Highways available.**
- d) Westerdale High Street – pot holes at various locations on the road. **Repaired.**
- e) Westerdale High Street – a number of pavement edge granite sets are loose. **Order placed for loose sets to be repointed.**
- f) Westerdale, adjacent to 'Archangel' – blocked gully. **Potholes caused by flooding have been infilled and an order placed for the gullies to be cleaned / jetted**
- g) Westerdale, from 'Sugar Loaf' down towards the village – extensive amount of running water. **No update from Highways available.**
- h) Langburns Bank, just on the uphill side of the railway bridge – manhole cover with sharp edges / tarmac breaking away. **Repaired.**

5. **External Reports** None presented

6. **Planning Applications**

Members considered the following Planning Application.

6.1 NYM/2023/ 0762 Application for construction of single storey extension with glass canopy, erection of glazed balcony and rendering/cladding together with demolition of existing double garage, construction of quadruple garage and alterations to stores at 12 Strait Lane, Ainthorpe. **Resolved, no objection**

6.2 NYM/2023/0815 Application for installation of three replacement roof lights and construction of three dormer windows to facilitate conversion of attic to bedrooms at Bria Hill House, 27 Briar Hill, Danby. **Resolved, no objection.**

6.3 NYM/2023/0819 Application for demolition of existing conservatory and construction of replacement orangery at Box Hall, Comondale. **Resolved, no objection.**

6.4 NYM/2023/0826 Application for construction of replacement detached garage at Weighbridge, Station Yard, Castleton. **Resolved, no objection.**

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

7. Accounts / Financial

7.1 Members considered the statement of accounts for the preceding month and by resolution authorised payment of outstanding invoices.

7.2 Clerks Salary increase – Members noted an increase to the Clerks salary in accordance with the terms of his contract of employment and the Local Government Service Pay Agreement 2023. (Gross increase £8.40 / month).

7.3 Precept / Budget for 2024 / 25.

Members considered the Council's financial situation for the current financial year and projections for the financial year 2024 / 25, taking note of the report prepared and circulated by the Clerk in advance of the meeting. In brief the report showed a financial year end projected excess of income over expenditure in the region of around £3k. Assuming the NYMNPA Toilet Maintenance grant is received yearly income will be slightly more than projected and expenditure slightly less. The projection importantly however did not take into account any unexpected expenditure between now and the year end – for example defibrillator consumables. Members were also mindful of the fact that costs are increasing and that previously it had been considered prudent for the Parish Council increase the Precept by small amounts year on year rather than a larger jump every three or four years. **Following a lengthy debate it was resolved to increase the Precept from £16k to £17K.**

An increase of 4.24%

Band D equivalent would increase from £714.46 to £728.35

Band D charge would increase from £22.39 to £23.34

Council Tax increase based on the proposed Precept 95p

The Model Agreement

Looking towards the Financial Year 2025 / 26 and beyond, the Clerk's report mentioned current situation with regards the Model Agreement will be reviewed by North Yorkshire Council some time in 2024. The review means there is no guarantee any Model Agreement payments will be made after the payment promised for 2024/25. If the decision is taken to abolish the Model Agreement payment this would mean the Parish Council would have to seek an extra income of around £7k. If this additional income could not be sourced (for example by way of a very large jump in the Precept) the Parish Council would have to look to cut services. This is to be an agenda item for the meeting in January and County Councillor Chance is to be asked to lobby on behalf of the DGPC and other Parish Council's in the same situation.

8. Correspondence (to note receipt / respond)

a) YLCA – 'Biodiversity duty' under the Environment Act 2021. Members resolved to formally adopt the drafted Biodiversity Policy.

b) NYMNPA – underground overhead electricity wires in Comondale.

Since 2005 the North York Moors National Park Authority has been working closely with Northern Powergrid to underground overhead electricity wires. The scheme is funded by Ofgem and delivered by Northern Powergrid and is aimed at enhancing the visual appearance of protected landscapes such as within the National Park by the removal of unsightly overhead lines. In Comondale the overhead infrastructure includes both electricity and telecommunications (BT) apparatus. The funding would only result in the removal of the electricity wires with the BT wire and poles remaining in situ. Members considered whether they would like the Authority to submit a proposal to underground electricity supply lines in Comondale to Northern Powergrid for further consideration. After much debate members agreed the Parish Council would not oppose the scheme. Serious concerns were expressed however with regards the mess and disruption which would potentially be caused by a scheme which would only have very limited visual impact on the basis that telecoms' poles would remain.

9. Items reported by Councillors

a. Strait Lane, Ainthorpe (school end) – blocked gully

b. Ness Tce, Comondale – street light number 5 faulty

c. Ashfield Road – Yorkshire Water barriers still in place around a hole – they have been in situ for over a year.

d. Station Bank – the path generally in a very poor condition with the condition worsening because of the amount of debris in the gutter and the continually blocked gully near the Play Area.

- e. New Road – recent heavy rain and high water levels in the River Esk have caused further erosion of the river bank. The bank side is badly undercut and it and the utility pole may be in danger of collapse. This has been reported previously but the situation seems to have worsened.
- f. Near Hagger Back farm a number of drains run off the fields / moors and under the road, these have not been cleaned out for many years and are consequently blocked causing water to run over rather than under the road.

10. Next meeting Wednesday 10th January 2024, 7pm Castleton Village Hall

Meeting closed 7:50pm