



A routine meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 10th January 2024** in Castleton Village Hall.

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

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Apologies for absence N/A

2. Declarations of interest None declared

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 were accepted by resolution as a true record and were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising from the meeting held 13th December

Highways updates:

- a. Strait Lane, Ainthorpe (school end) – blocked gully. Seemingly not yet inspected.
- b. Ness Tce, Comondale – street light number 5 faulty. Arrangements made to have the light repaired. CClr Murrell reports this repair and the one reported previously have not been actioned.
- c. Ashfield Road – Yorkshire Water barriers still in place around a hole – they have been in situ for over a year. No update.
- 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. Play area gully cleaned 19/12/23. Despite cleaning on the 19th the gully is again blocked. The roadside gutters have been swept by machine but not a particularly good job has been done.
- 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. North Yorkshire Council Highways advise that the issue is the responsibility of the land owner i.e. The Dawney Estate, Highways have reported the matter to The Estate. The erosion has seeming worsened since reporting, Highways to be contacted to consider the possibility of erecting safety barriers.
- 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. Not yet inspected by Highways.
- g. Dibble Bridge bank (Comondale side of the Esk) – blocked gully. Highways Officer is aware of the problem which it is believed being caused by a stream overflowing and washing silt into the drainage system causing it to block. Local knowledge suggest there is a ditch near the entrance to Crown End which may be blocked and possibly a blocked drain from the cattle grid.

5. External Reports County Councillor Chance gave a verbal update with regards County Council issues informing members that the main issue currently is budget planning. It has been estimated that the amalgamation of local authorities has saved in the region of £47 million. Overall cost have increased at an inflation rate of about 8%. Some 'pots' of money which existed at local level have also been secured. CClr Chance also reported that he had directly responded to two highways issues raised by members of the public ie the closure of the road in Castleton (Water Board works) and an issue with a cattle grid near the top of Danby Bank.

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

6. Planning Applications

Members considered the following Planning Application.

6.1 NYM/2023/ 0854, Application for conversion of buildings to two holiday cottages and rebuilding of attached store at Park Nook Farm, Langburns Bank, Castleton. Resolved – no objection

6.2 NYM/2023/0868, Application for variation of condition 2 (material amendment) of planning approval NYM/2022/0001 to allow a reduction in footprint, increase in height, creation of recess for bins and alterations to fenestration and doors of the approved side extension (retrospective) at 43 Brook Lane, Ainthorpe.

Resolved – object. In 2022 the Parish Council supported the original application in respect of this property and subsequently the Authority granted conditional planning approval. It seems however that the applicant may have gone ahead with alterations but not in accordance with the original plans and with some disregard to the conditions set out in the planning approval. The applicant now seeks to legitimise his actions by seeking retrospective approval, the Parish Council see this as being somewhat of an abuse of the planning system, with the issue being compounded because of the applicants background as a Chartered RIBA Conservation Architect (as stated in the Supporting Information in respect of the original plans). If approved this case could potentially open the door for further deliberate breaches of conditions followed by retrospective applications.

Accounts / Financial

7.1 Members considered the statement of accounts for the preceding month and subsequently authorise payment of outstanding invoices.

7.2 NYC Model Agreement Grant.

Background

At the December 2023 meeting of the Parish Council the Clerk had reported that sometime during 2024 North Yorkshire Council would be reviewing the current arrangements with regards payment of the Model Agreement Grant. The grant would be made to the Parish Council for the financial year 2024/25 but beyond that the situation was uncertain with their being 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 issue was discussed at length with CClr Chance who is aware of the situation, which has the potential to affect all Parish Council's in the old Borough of Scarborough. CClr Chance was unable to give any indication as to what the decision is likely to be but an answer should be given by NYC in September.

7.3 **Defibrillator pads** Clerk was given approval to purchase of 4 sets of replacement defibrillator pads (approx cost £244 excluding VAT) and replacement batteries as required (approx £289 each + VAT).

Esk Valley Lifeline to be approached in writing seeking financial support.

Consideration to be given to possibly moving the Abbeyfield defibrillator to a different site.

8. Correspondence (to note receipt / respond)

a) Defibrillator Cabinets (issue raised by a member of the public) should the cabinets be unlocked permanently? Removed from the agenda – agenda item for the February meeting

9. Items reported by Councillors

a) Given the recent tragic drowning of three men trying to cross a ford in a vehicle at Glaisdale the question was asked about appropriate signage at Duck Bridge ford – this road / ford gets used by people attending weddings at Danby Castle and is likely a 'satnav' route.

- b) Salt heaps –Cllr Findlay reported that 2 salt heaps had been ‘dumped’ on Westerdale Side (better than none) and Cllr Rudsdale reported bins and heaps in Castleton had been replenished.
- c) General dissatisfaction expressed with the lack of progress / instigation of repairs etc. in respect of some issues which have ‘been on the books’ for a considerable amount of time i.e. excess water running down the road off Sugar Loaf, erosion of the gutter at the side of Danby bank and the reportedly blocked gully near the garth at the top of Dibble Bank. The Clerk informed members he has a meeting arranged for the 23rd January with Highways and he will raise concerns.

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

Meeting closed 7:50pm