



The Annual Meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 8th May 2024** in Castleton Village Hall. This meeting was immediately followed by a routine monthly meeting.

Present : Councillors: J Day (Chair), R Rudsdale, I Dodsworth, R Findlay, Murrell, Medd, C/Cllr Chance, five member of the public and J Preston (Clerk).

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

1. Election of Chairman

By resolution Cllr Day was elected as Chairman and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

2. Apologies for absence Received from Cllr's Stonehouse and Watson

3. Election of Vice Chairman

By resolution Cllr Findlay was elected as Vice Chairman.

4. Other appointments

4.1 By resolution Cllrs Stonehouse was elected as Parish Council representatives on the Castleton Village Hall Management Committee

4.2 By resolution Cllr Day was elected as the Parish Council representative on the Castleton Play Area Committee.

4.3 By resolution Cllr Medd and the Clerk were elected as Parish Council representatives on the Yorkshire Local Councils Association.

Routine Monthly Meeting

1. Apologies for absence

To receive / approve apologies for absence. Received from Cllr's Stonehouse and Watson.

2. Declarations of Interest & Members Dispensation

None.

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10th April 2024 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising – from the Minutes of the afore mentioned meeting (for information / update on outstanding actions).

Highways issues

The Clerk reported that he had directly raised a number of concern's and highways issues with Mr Santon the County's Highways Customer Communications Officer. Mr Santon provided the following information / response.

"Whilst I appreciate the frustration of your councillors many people do not understand that in Area 3 alone we have well over 26000 roadside drains and from January 2023 – December 2023 we cleaned 14500 of these. The cost of this operation was £200K. We also spent £80K on non-programmed drain cleaning. Every time we get reports of blocked drain the highway officer has to decide, 1 – is it dangerous, 2 – is someone's house being flooded, 3 – when is the next programmed clean of the drain due – in other words can it wait until then?"

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

Every time we pull the gully tanker off the programmed cleaning schedule it costs us £124 per hour. If we then need to arrange an external contractor to come out and jet and clean the gully it costs us £800 per day. The scheduled cleaning programme then gets delayed.

When you consider that last year the maintenance budget for Area 3 was £1.6m and we have over 800 miles of roads and around 360 miles of footpaths to maintain, drain cleaning is a significant part of the maintenance budget for the area.

All publicly maintained roads and footpaths are subjected to cyclic safety inspections, the frequency is determined by the hierarchy of the road. Any defects that are found that meet our intervention levels as specified in our Highway Safety Inspection Manual will be highlighted for repair. Between these inspection the highway officer will react to reports we receive and again if the defects meet our intervention levels they will be repaired.”

- a. Blocked drain / pipe under the road Dibble Bridge Bank almost opposite the allotment
The local highways officer has had this drain jetted and there is a blockage in the system. The project engineer for the area has added this to an existing order for Dibble Bridge to have the area excavated to try to establish what is going on and then to work out a solution.
- b. Station Road, Comondale (from Fowl Green to the Railway Station) – road in very poor condition / potholes. The local highway officer repaired some potholes on this section of carriageway on the 15th April.
- c. Lead Lane j/w High Street, Westerdale blocked drain. This issue has been logged on our system – **27690 / 101010452740** and is waiting to be inspected by the local highway officer
- d. Dibble Bank major issues with blocked drains high volume of water running off the moor and down the bank. The local project engineer is arranging some investigation works in this area. Please be aware that the highways authority have a responsibility to remove precipitation that falls on the road – NOT – have a drainage system that will accommodate the water that runs off the surrounding land. Landowners have a duty to try to prevent water from their land ending up on the highway.
- e. Howe Bank corner above the War Memorial – pot holes. The local highways officer visited the area on the 15th April and repaired those potholes that were at our intervention levels.
- f. Brooke Lane towards the Fox PH blocked gullies. Local Highways Officer requested to investigate.
- g. Footpath from the War Memorial walking in the direction of Castleton over the beck and up Piper Lane emerging onto Church Street – path in a bad condition due to a blocked drain. Mr Santon will report this to the Public Rights of Way team as this is not part of the publicly maintained highway. Should you wish to contact them directly about PROW issues, their email address is Paths@northyorks.gov.uk (Issue also reported to NYMNP and they will look to resolve the issue).
- h. Low road to Danby beyond the railway bridge – gorse bushes encroaching onto the road. Yet to be investigated.
- i. Golden Lion Inn, Blakey – concerns raised about the brightness / direction of security lights on the building which are dazzling drivers approaching from the direction of Hutton Le Hole. The County’s Electrical Engineering Manager is aware of the issue and was planning a night time inspection of the lighting. Mr Santon has asked if this has taken place yet and if so what were the outcomes. Highways are also aware that the National Park have also raised concerns.
- j. Christy Gate Road where it crosses Tower Beck, Westerdale – road in poor condition / potholes. Awaiting update from the local Highways Officer.

Other issues

- k. Rail repairs at ‘Old Mans Park’ – work is on going and is being progressed well by Mr Taylor.
- l. Replacement notice board for Danby – quote received, external aluminium board powder coated in green with posts to match, and a header board. £949.20 (inc VAT). Members resolved to go ahead with the purchase.

5. External Reports

County Councillor Chance gave an informative and interesting overview of work currently being undertaken by the County Council advising members that the County’s restructuring process is almost

complete. C/Clr Chance paid particular attention to his own portfolio including Stronger Communities now referred to as 'Localities'. Money is still available from the Locality Budget (£874K having been allocated to worthy causes last year.) One of the main issue mentioned was the ongoing consultation with regards the provision of / charging for school bus transportation. C/Clr Chance has supported a grant application made by Castleton Village Hall and he was thanked for his prompt response.

6. Planning

Members consider the following Planning Application and respond accordingly to the NYMNPA.

- 6.1 NYM/2024/0236 Application for removal of condition 4 of planning approval NYM/2013/0868/FL to sever the tie between the residential accommodation and Tea Room at Old Chapel Tea Room, 5B High Street, Castleton. The Chair read out Condition 4 of the 2013 planning approval and members heard from the applicant. He explained in detail the background to his application mentioning the financial difficulties, which he believed hugely impacted on the viability of the Tea Room and which had forced closure of the business. The applicant acknowledged he was aware village residents were opposed to the application. Members also heard from 3 Castleton residents who spoke in opposition to the application. Generally speaking it was their contention that the business could be viable but only if it was owner operated and not operated by someone renting the premises. The Tea Room has always been a community focal point. After listening to arguments and debate members resolved to object to the application. The Tea Room is an important village amenity and in the opinion of members of the Parish Council it can only be viable if not split.
- 6.2 NYM/2024/0219 Application for Listed Building consent for 'like for like' re-roofing works, installation of three rooflights, leadwork to chimneys and abutments and refitting of stone ridges at Green Oak Farm, 1 Briar Hill, Danby. Resolved – no objection
- 6.3 NYM/2024/0287 Application for Listed Building consent for installation of one replacement timber window at Danby C Of E Primary School, Ainthorpe Lane. Resolved – support, essential maintenance to maintain the fabric / integrity of the building.

7. Accounts / Financial

- 7.1 Annual Governance & Accountability Return. Members considered and resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement. Signed by the Chair and Clerk.
- 7.2 Annual Governance & Accountability Return. Members considered and resolved to approve the Accounting Statements for the year ending 31st March 2024. Signed by the Chair and Clerk
- 7.3 To consider the statement of accounts for the preceding month and authorised payment of outstanding invoices.
- 7.4 Members gratefully acknowledged receipt of a £50 donation from the trustees Fryup Village Hall which had been earmarked for defibrillator upkeep.
- 7.5 Policy of insurance. Members resolved to approve the insurance renewal offer. (premium for 2024-25 £1,564.67 up from £1,502.08)
- 7.6 The Clerk informed members of a change of process introduced by HMRC regarding PAYE payments made by the Parish Council. Payments had previously been made on a monthly basis by cheque forwarded by post accompanied by a HMRC payment slip. HMRC are phasing out routine cheque payments consequently it had been necessary to set up a Direct Debit. Payments will subsequently be made by quarterly Direct Debit with the first payment due in July.

8. Correspondence (to note receipt / respond)

- 8.1 Notification from NYMNPA ref planned tree felling 5 Ashfield Rd, Castleton. Noted, no comment considered necessary.

9. Items reported by Councillors

- a) Invitation received from the Danby Beacon Trust to attend on the celebrations planned for 6th June to mark the anniversary of 'D Day'.
- b) From Ralphs Cross all the way down to Castleton the road side off sets are blocked so when it rains water runs down the road rather than off the road and down the drains.

10. Next meeting

The next routine meeting of the Parish Council Wednesday 12th June, 7pm Castleton Village Hall.

Meeting Closed 8.15pm