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The Annual Meeting of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 14th May 2025** in Castleton Village Hall. This meeting was immediately followed by a routine monthly meeting.

Present : Councillors: J Day (Chair), R Rudsdale, I Dodsworth, D Murrell, S. Medd, P. Stonehouse, E. Watson two members 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 R Findlay & G Thompson

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 - Received from Cllr's Findlay & Thompson.

2. Declarations of Interest & Members Dispensation - none

3. Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th April 2025 were approved and signed as a true record by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising from the meeting held 12th March 2025

- a) The Clerk was unable to give any updates with regards reported highways issues due to an ongoing issue with North Yorkshire Council's 'Customer Portal'.
- b) Toilet Cleaning Service Level Agreement (between the Parish Council & North Yorkshire Council) – the Clerk reported that he had been in discussions with a representative of NYC and an agreement had been reached whereby the Parish Council (the Clerk) would take on responsibility for ordering cleaning materials and consumables as and when needed, County would then reimburse the Parish Council. County, in addition has agreed an increase in the payment made to the Parish Council by just under £900. (This financial year the Parish Council will receive £3000).
- c) Complaint lodged with Yorkshire Water ref work on the cobbles – the Clerk confirmed that no correspondence at all had been received from Yorkshire Water regarding the complaints which had been lodged and consequently a letter of complaint has been sent to the Consumer Council for Water.

Signed as a true record:(Chair) Date:

- d) Biodiversity Policy / wild flower project – Cllr Watson gave a very detailed oral report regarding the work she has been doing. Following last month’s meeting of the Parish Council Cllr Watson met with and had useful discussions with CW (botanist, Westerdale) and with SL & AB from the Community Earth Project. Cllr W has also had discussions with the Coordinator of the Community Payback Scheme and he is happy for the Scheme to be involved with clearing grass clippings (with advanced notice) and also to take on some work to tidy path edges in Danby in particular. The National Park Rangers will be involved collecting the clippings which will then be dumped for mulch (as agreed with local land owners (J & JB). Residents overlooking the chosen areas will receive a letter explaining the project and updates will be posted on social media. Signage will also need be posted. Cllr Watson to update the Village Caretaker.

5. External Reports None

6. Planning Applications

Members considered the following Planning Application.

- 6.1 NYM/2025/0205 Application for use of land for the siting of one static caravan with decking for holiday letting purposes (part retrospective) at High House, Westerdale. Resolved – no objection.
- 6.2 NYM/2025/0302 Application for lowering of roof height of side extension (revised scheme to planning approval NYM/2022/0001) at 43 Brook Lane, Ainthorpe. Resolved – object. This is a very complicated case, the original 2022 application was not an issue but the applicant built an extension in contravention of the planning approval. Subsequent retrospective approval was sought and rejected by NYMNPA (the Parish Council also objected), subsequently the applicant then lodged an unsuccessful appeal. The Parish Council are unaware as to why no enforcement action has followed. This new application is made by a different applicant who “seeks to gain consent to modify the as-built construction and bring it as close as practically possible in line with the original approval”. The phrase “as close as practically possible” is considered to be very vague and the plans seem only to address the overall height of the extension and eave height hence the objection.
- 6.3 NYM/2025/0294 Application for improvements to field access including laying a tarmac surface at west of Congrave Farm, 40 Ainthorpe Lane, Danby. Resolved – support. This is an uncontentious issue with a demonstrated agricultural and diversification need.
- 6.4 NYM/2025/0145 Application for variation of condition 8 of planning approval NYM4/046/0039C to change the two holiday cottages to local occupancy dwellings at Skelderskew Farm, Comondale. Resolved – no objection.
- 6.5 NYM/2025/0314 Application for Listed Building consent for repair works/underpinning of substructure, laying of slabs over existing stone clappers, stonework repairs, construction of concrete abutments and dismantling and rebuilding of existing abutments together with replacement timber parapets at Ashfield Road Bridge, Ashfield Road, Castleton. Resolved – no objection with comments ie a need for a temporary pedestrian stream crossing to be built.

7. Accounts / Financial

- 7.1 Annual Governance & Accountability Return. Members consider / discussed and subsequently by resolution approved the Annual Governance Statement. The document was signed by the Chair and the Clerk
- 7.2 Annual Governance & Accountability Return – Accounting Statements. Members consider / discussed and subsequently by resolution approved the Accounting Statements. The document was signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

- 7.3 By resolution members approved the up to date statement of accounts prepared by the Clerk and authorised payment of outstanding invoices.
- 7.4 Policy of insurance. By resolution members approved the insurance renewal offer. (premium for 2025-26 - £1609.36 (up from£1,564.67)).
- 7.5 Churchyard upkeep grant. By resolution members approved the annual grant paid to the Parochial Church Council out of the Model Agreement.
- 7.6 Westerdale notice board. Members approved the purchase of a new noticeboard for Westerdale (cost in the region of £800) To be progressed by the Clerk and a grant to be sought from C/Cllr Chance's Locality Budget).

8. Correspondence (to note receipt / respond

Danby Village Hall management committee are in the process of applying for a grant to continue work on improving the village hall and the support of the Parish Council is sought. Members were in agreement as to the huge value of the village hall for Danby residents but also for the wider as community. The management committee have worked hard on fundraising and money has been invested in hall improvements. Members applaud the efforts being made and are happy to offer the support of the Parish Council in respect of this latest grant application.

9. Items reported by Parish Councillors

- a) Castleton railway station – request to be made to Network Rail for the station to be signposted.
- b) 'Poverty Bank' (from Danby Lodge up towards Danby Beacon) – verges are very badly overgrown and encroaching on the road.
- c) Station Bank, Castleton – loose / dislodged kerb stones.
- d) High Street, Castleton – some sinkage of the road surface subsequent to Yorkshire Water maintenance work.)
- e) Ainthorpe Lane - some sinkage of the road surface subsequent to Yorkshire Water maintenance work to repair a burst water main.
- f) New Road, River Esk subsidence and road closure – progress report to be sought with regards projected timescales for the road closure.

10. Next meeting

Next routine meeting of the Parish Council will take place **on Wednesday 11th June 2025**