

Staveley and Copgrove Parish Council

Website: <https://staveleyandcopgrovepc.org.uk>

Clerk: Liz Leatherbarrow

16 Woodlands Avenue, Harrogate HG2 7SJ

Email: clerk@staveleyandcopgrovepc.org.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7pm in Staveley and Copgrove Village Hall

The meeting started at 7pm.

Present: Cllr P Edwards (Chair) Cllr G Bowland, Cllr D Greenwood, Cllr J Thornton, Cllr S Whitworth.
District County Councillor (DCCllr) Robert Windass.

1. Introduction from the Chairman and a reminder of the Council's Policy for the audio or visual recording of the meeting.

A reminder was given.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Cllr G Curnow.

3. To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council's Code of Conduct or members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

None.

4. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on November 8th 2022 as a true and accurate record.

Proposal: To amend to the Minutes as follows:

Agenda Item 10. (ii) 'discussions around' to replace 'support agreed', 'front' to replace 'rear'

All in favour.

Proposal: To accept the amended minutes. All in Favour.

5. To receive updates from the Ward Councillor.

DCCllr Robert Windass gave a report:

The changes resulting from creation of a unitary Authority in North Yorkshire are proceeding, impacting significantly on the number of items tabled on agendas of meetings attended by DCCllr Windass.

A summary of some personnel changes was described, which are impacting on leadership and officers in departments. It was noted some areas of the Authority have reported significantly high

costs/spending.

Changes to the organisation of Planning systems have now resulted in 6 Area Committees being created across the Authority. DCCllr Windass now sits on the local Committee which covers his Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency. It was reinforced that the Central Planning Committee scrutinises planning for developments of over 500 houses, developments below this figure are considered by local Planning Committees. Opposition to developments sometimes leads to change, but DCCllr Windass confirmed that when a development is included in a local plan it will not be overturned completely, but may be altered through the consultation process.

Financing of the changes to the unitary Authority organisation has impacted. £7Million has been taken from reserves in the budget to pay for the new systems. Most likely a 4.9% rise in Council Tax will be confirmed in North Yorkshire to fund the year 2022-23; including 2% of this figure to fund adult social care services.

Local Planning news: The Abacus site has been submitting retrospective planning applications after building, including new submissions for previously refused applications. DCCllr Windass has requested the applications are referred to Committee, but this may not happen before 1st April 2023. The Area Committee will look again at the applications after 1.4.2023.

The development application for 73 houses on Minskip Road, Staveley has been noted by DCCllr Windass. He reiterated that a development already included in a Neighbourhood Plan will be permitted, however he stressed Planning Committees will consider changes to layout or the proportion of different types of homes to be built, if significant opposition through the consultation process prompts this type of review/discussion within Committee.

DCCllr Windass invited questions from the floor. Several questions from members of the public were raised regarding Planning issues, especially relating to the Minskip Road development. In his answers he confirmed changes suggested by Michael Gove MP to Planning law may not be statutorily implemented before the current local planning applications are considered. He also reiterated if a site is identified as suitable for development in a Neighbourhood Plan the building of houses will be permitted. Similarly, he confirmed 'consultation' is a process that has to be followed by the Planning department, defined by rules of implementation. Several comments were made by both councillors and members of the public criticising the current omissions of practice, which are being reported as having taken place in the consultation process for the Minskip Road Application.

DCCllr Windass confirmed the Planning Officers employed by NYCC are transferring to the new Unitary Authority but they may move to new areas.

When asked about the significance of having a Neighbourhood Plan DCCllr Windass recommended continuing to ensure a locality has a Plan in place.

Cllr Bowland thanked DCCllr Windass for his support to the PC in confirming a £3,000 locality grant to fund the Staveley Speedwatch initiative.

DCCllr Windass left the meeting at the end of his report.

6. To discuss matter arising from Minutes of 8th November.

6.1 The Chair reported that he had attended the local Safer Neighbourhood Group meeting. He

commented he was reassured by reports given at the meeting. In reports the Police appear very aware of local issues and reported crime rates in the locality were relatively, and surprisingly, low.

6.2 With regards 'Possible uses of reserves in the budget', including repairing of the crack in the Pinfold, the resurfacing of the driveway at the pub, and repainting of the playground equipment. The Chair went through the suggestions for use of reserves in the budget:

Proposal: To fund the repainting of the Playground equipment as per the quote discussed. All in Favour.

Proposal: To replace the 8 damaged posts on the green. All in Favour.

Proposal: To purchase a new football net for the recreation area. All in Favour.

The suggestion to fund a commemorative gift for children in the village to mark the coronation of King Charles was discussed again. Questions were raised about how this may be organised and how much it may cost.

ACTION: Cllr Whitworth to research how this suggestion may be progressed and to report back to the PC with a proposal at the next PC meeting in April.

Cllr Edwards explained that the suggestion to fund resurfacing of the driveway at the pub had been discussed with residents who would have to contribute towards the costs. This suggestion was no longer viable currently and was consequently withdrawn.

The Clerk had been unable to obtain quotes for repairs to the crack in the Pinfold. Consequently, this suggestion is not currently possible.

6.3 To clarify NYCC and PC responsibilities pertaining to the driveway.

Cllr Edwards confirmed the driveway is owned partially by North Yorkshire and partially by residents.

6.4 Clerks report on actions taken on the resolutions of the last meeting.

The report was accepted, with acknowledgement of actions taken.

7. To receive an update from the local Police Liaison Officer.

No Police report was received. No Police representative was present. No apologies had been received.

8. To receive the current Financial statement and bank reconciliation.

Cllr Bowland gave the Finance report, including details of an explanation of reserves in the accounts; budget forecasts for 2023-24, including Precept information, details of expenditure and income during the period 1st April 2022- 19th February 2023.

Proposal: To accept the Financial Statement, Bank reconciliation and Finance report. All in Favour.

9. To approve any Finance Committee recommendations.

Cllr Bowland confirmed the PC VAT refund for the current year needs submitting. to submit VAT

refund claim. All in favour.

ACTION: Clerk

A question was raised by a member of the public about the possible support by the PC towards legal costs incurred when a response to the Minskip Planning Application is formulated by a village action group. It was confirmed that the PC would like to work in partnership with the action group. It was reiterated that a previous donation made by the PC towards legal costs had been a one-off event.

To receive an update on the Community Speedwatch initiative, including installation of temporary VAS road signs.

Cllr Thornton gave his report.

The speedwatch group had not been active in the last 2 months due to bad weather. During this period 2 further sites for monitoring had been approved and the group will start again in March using 8 different survey locations.

Cllr Thornton explained the details of the costs and specifications of the 2 VAS systems available to purchase currently. He recommended equipment without a data collection facility and explained additional, but insignificant, costs for the payment of electricity supply will be included in the costings. In response to a suggestion from a member of public it was noted that data collection may help in future to review efficacy of the use and site of the equipment.

Proposal: To accept the recommendations made by Cllr Thornton regards the purchase, installation and use of the TWM VAS equipment. All in Favour.

10. To consider the Neighbourhood plan and receive a progress report.

Cllr Bowland gave a report.

A small number of volunteers had been found to join in the project he is leading, which is encouraging and positive, however the task of creating a Neighbourhood Plan is not insignificant. Further support is needed, and any new volunteers would be very welcomed. Cllr Bowland urged anyone interested to contact him through the PC. He reiterated how the report from DCCllr Windass confirmed a Neighbourhood Plan is vital.

11. To discuss progress regarding the Oak Tree on the Village Green.

Cllr Greenwood asked this item to be carried over to the next PC meeting. The Chair confirmed this will be included on the next agenda.

12. To discuss a new PC notice board for Staveley.

It was confirmed there had previously been 2 noticeboards in Staveley and now only one is used. Discussion confirmed the current noticeboard gives sufficient space to post information. It was agreed therefore that a new notice board was not prudent use of funds.

13. To consider any new correspondence received and decide any actions necessary.

13.1 Draft Parish Charter Consultation, PC response to 'A Charter for Partnership working and Understanding between North Yorkshire Council and the parish sector in North Yorkshire' 1 April 2023.

Proposal: To submit a response but only discussions had been considered. All in Favour. 15.2 To discuss request for a greenhouse by the tenant on the allotment land. Request was withdrawn.

13.2 Comments from resident received regarding the See 6.1 above.

13.3 The notice from North Yorkshire County Council to show intention to pass a resolution at a meeting on the 7 February 2023, in relation to adopting the provisions of Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

13.4 Replacement of the short fence posts dividing the small grass area from the unadopted road in front of The Royal Oak in Staveley. Noted.

14. To receive a report updating on the status of planning applications in the Parish.

Current Planning Applications were included in the Clerk Report received. The Chair gave a summary of the current status of the Abacus Planning applications.

Discussion was shared about the Minskip Road Planning Application for 73 houses, with comments from member of the public present.

It was agreed the SV2 group should be reconvened, however a new Chair is needed. It was considered essential to ascertain the views of the village, to ensure the PC can represent them without assumptions being made about the Application. A meeting would be the best way to ascertain opinions in the village regarding the development. Preparations for the meeting would require advertising, organisation, and planning. Cllr Bowland was nominated to consult with the SV1 group. Cllr Edwards and Cllr Whitworth agreed to support Cllr Bowland with planning immediate actions needed.

ACTION: Cllr Edwards to request a postponement of the consultation date for the Application. To allow the village time to gather information for their response, especially considering no PC consultation has been previously requested as per the Planning documentation published.

ACTION: To call a public meeting with residents to discuss the Planning Application as soon as possible.

15. To notify the Clerk of matters for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.

Copgrove Village Green

A vote of thanks was extended to the current Clerk who is leaving, for her support to the PC. This was gratefully received by the Clerk. A vacancy exists for the Clerk role from 8th March.

16. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting.

Date to be confirmed for April.

The meeting ended at 8.37pm.