



Bewerley Parish Council
Website: www.bewerleyparishcouncil.gov.uk
Parish Clerk: William Hickson
Swiss Cottage, Bewerley Harrogate HG3 5HS
Tel: 07713673794
Email: clerk@bewerleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

MINUTES OF BEWERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.
Monday 9th September 2024 at Colbeck House, Church St, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LB

Present: Cllr. G. Spooner (Chair) Cllr. D. Marshall (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. E. Hancock NYC & Parish Cllr. A. Murday
Cllr M. Dawson W Hickson (Clerk)
Cllr. R. Dutton

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| 1. | The meeting opened at 7pm No apologies were received. |
| 2 | No Declarations of Interest received. |
| 3 | <p>One parishioner was present.</p> <p>Teresa Thorp, head of outdoor education at North Yorkshire Council, was present to give an update about Bewerley Park outdoor education centre:</p> <p>NYC have two outdoor education centres, at Bewerley and East Barnby. The authority has a strong commitment to young people and Bewerley Park provides a range of activities, Monday to Friday, which teach teamwork, resilience and life skills, adding to the curriculum taught in schools.</p> <p>NYC secured government funding this year to provide activity days during the school holidays for children on free school meals. Activity days were provided for 232 children last summer free of charge. The centre also provided childcare for working parents during the summer holidays in the form of an Adventure Club for children.</p> <p>A core purpose of the centres is to be self-supporting with regard to funding. They are not financially supported by NYC. To this end Bewerley Park provides team building events to corporate groups. In addition they are planning to offer family days.</p> <p>Bewerley Park has two phases of building works planned. Phase one (of two) was approved in November 2023 and consists of a new accommodation block for 96 people. The new buildings will be built on the site of some old classrooms and will be of a similar appearance. They have been designed to meet present day needs of children and teachers and will be fully accessible for disabled people. The new accommodation will include 14 <i>en suite</i> dormitories, drying room, break out room, and staff accommodation. An application for funding for phase two will be made to the authority's executive in two years.</p> <p>The company doing the building is Walter Thompson Contractors Ltd and works are due to start on 2nd October 2024 and to finish by 9th June 2025. Where possible materials from the demolished classrooms will be re-used. During the period of building the centre will remain open and will continue to provide services for schools.</p> |

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| | <p>Cllr Dutton asked about access for contractors during the works. Access will not be via Glasshouses and there will be on site storage of equipment. There will be communication with the community about access and it will be managed with input from NY Highways department.</p> <p>The member of public present asked if there is any truth in rumours circulating locally that the centre is being used to house immigrants. Ms Thorp responded by saying that the centre is entirely for providing services for schools, which will include visitors from schools with pupils from a diverse range of backgrounds.</p> <p>NYC are planning open events for the community and are happy to receive visitors during the works. These will necessarily have to be managed so NYC should be contacted in advance.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Minutes of meeting held on 15th July 2024.</p> <p>Cllr Murday should have been recorded as seconding approval of the minutes from the June 17th meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: clerk to amend the 15th July minutes.</p> <p>Cllr Murday proposed the minutes (amended to take account of the above) of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th July 2024 be accepted as a true record, Cllr Dawson seconded, CARRIED.</p> |
| 5 | <p>Clerk's report to Bewerley Parish Council</p> <p>1. Grass cutting and dog fouling; Bewerley Green.</p> <p>At the end of July a parishioner complained that the grass on the green had been allowed to grow too long with consequences that a) the cut grass when left to lie would be unsightly and b) dog mess was concealed. Another parishioner had observed that although dog walkers 'pick-up', never the less the green seems to be used as a place for dogs to 'poo' when it is also a place where children play.</p> <p><i>Cllr Spooner stated he had spoken to the caretaker about not cutting the grass; there had been weather related reasons for the delay in cutting it. The caretaker is not required to collect cut grass and councillors are happy that it can be left lying.</i></p> <p><i>Councillors discussed the concerns about dog poo and recognised it is a problem.</i></p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to identify suitable signs to discourage dog owners from allowing their dogs to 'poo' on the green.</p> <p>2. Litter and fly tipping at Toft Gate car park</p> <p>A parishioner reported that a large amount of rubbish, including a mattress had been dumped at Toft Gate car park, sometime before 20th August. The caretaker dealt with the rubbish. He observed that "most of the rubbish was toilet paper and human body waste" and the corner opposite the seating area was like an "open toilet". He attributed the problem to people staying at the car park overnight.</p> <p>The clerk has spoken to the local police officer. The car park is private land and the police have no powers to deal with overnight parking. The clerk also tried to report the fly-tipping to North Yorkshire Council using their on-line portal but NYC do not investigate fly-tipping on private land.</p> <p><i>Cllr Murday stated he would check this policy.</i></p> <p><i>Cllrs agreed that this is not the first time they have considered how to address this problem and noted the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In the past litter bins and signs and barriers intended to deter overnight camping, have been vandalised or stolen.</i> |

- *It is not reasonable to expect the caretaker to clear up human excrement.*
- *Spending more time and money on regular maintenance to keep the car park looking neat and tidy may deter littering.*
- *The car park is advertised for visitors to Coldstones Cut monument which is owned by Greenhow Quarry. Quarry staff have previously helped with car park maintenance*

RESOLVED:

- Cllr Hancock to seek advice on procedures for safely dealing with excrement.*
- Cllrs Spooner and Hancock to inspect the car park and make suggestions for improving general maintenance.*
- Clerk to contact management at the quarry to find out if they could help address the problem.*

3. The NYC litter bins outside the Recreation Ground are often full to over-flowing on a Monday morning.

Cllr Murday advised that if this is reported using the NYC on-line portal NYC will deal with it. They monitor reports and may adjust collections to address any recurring problem.

4. Damaged NYC bench and tree at the Recreation Ground.

The chairman alerted the clerk to a damaged bench on the embankment and a fallen sapling at the caravan park end of the recreation ground. The clerk has reported both to NYC and received an acknowledgment and assurance that the report has been forwarded to the relevant team.

Noted

5. Noticeboard and sandbag shed, Bewerley Green.

The caretaker has completed refurbishment and moving the parish noticeboard.

A new steel sandbag shed has been delivered and the caretaker has prepared foundations. The caretaker will assemble the shed.

Noted

6. Enquiry about hiring Toft Gate car park for cycling event.

Red Bull have decided not to proceed with the event in 2024. It may happen next year. The organiser asked the clerk what the council meant by a "substantial donation".

RESOLVED: *If the enquiry is made next year the clerk should start negotiations at £2000. Hirer should also be required to leave car park clean and tidy.*

7. Annual Governance and Accountability Review

The external auditor for the AGAR has acknowledged receipt of the review documents and the parish's exempt status.

Noted

8. Local Government Boundary Commission for England, review of NYC

The LGBCE is starting an electoral review of NYC; a consequence of the change to a unitary authority for North Yorkshire. This will include looking at divisional boundaries and the number of councillors. A briefing for parishes was held on 29th August. Unfortunately, problems with Microsoft Teams prevented my attendance. I have a Powerpoint briefing and a recording of the briefing will be made available in the near future on the LGBCE's website. Stakeholders will be consulted widely during two periods of consultation; 01/10/24-09/12/24 and 01/04/25-09/06/25. The

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| | <p>commission's recommendations will be put before parliament which can accept or reject them. If accepted they will be in place for the 2027 local elections.</p> <p><i>Cllr Murday stated that the intention is to ensure electoral divisions have a similar number of electors. Parishes will not be divided. Pateley Bridge and Nidderdale Moors ward has a relatively small electorate so may be enlarged.</i></p> |
| <p>6</p> | <p>North Yorkshire Council</p> <p>Cllr Murday submitted the following report:</p> <p><u>Home-to-school transport</u></p> <p>From September onwards, NYC will only provide home-to-school transport to the nearest school (rather than any school within the catchment). The executive believes this will reduce costs, this is disputed. In addition, it will reduce the roll at some schools reducing budgets at those institutions, as well as increasing use of private cars increasing the carbon footprint.</p> <p><u>Boundary review</u></p> <p>The Boundary Commission are undertaking a review and revision of the NYC divisional boundaries. NYC are submitting an opinion that there should be 89 councillors (there are currently 90). Other groups have put forward differing views. After the Boundary Commission decides on the number of councillors, the divisional boundaries will be revised, with the main aim being to equalise the electorate of each division as far as possible.</p> <p><u>NYC/Parish Council liaison</u></p> <p>The first of a regular liaison email from NYC to parish councils has been published. Perhaps this will be a regular item on the council's agenda.</p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> |
| <p>7</p> | <p>No new planning applications were received for this meeting.</p> <p>The Council noted the following planning decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Notice of decision on planning application ZC24/01954/FUL: Alterations to roofs & Change of roofing material, Formation of covered canopy to vets at Old School House, Bridgehouse Gate. Planning permission granted subject to conditions b) Notice of decision on planning application ZC24/02233/FUL: Erection of Detached Garage & Store at 'Rustlewood', Beverley. Planning permission granted, subject to conditions. c) Notice of decision on planning application ZC24/02400/FUL: Oak frame detached garage and gravel hardstanding at 'Charinya House', Low Wath Road Pateley Bridge. Planning permission granted subject to conditions. d) Notice of decision on planning application ZC24/00576/FUL: Conversion of barn to form extension and residential annex to existing dwelling. New porch and alterations to roof and fenestrations at Moorview Farm, Beverley. Planning permission granted subject to conditions. e) Notice of decision on planning application ZC24/01470/FUL. Erection of 1 Self Build Dwelling at Riggs Cottage Beverley Harrogate North Yorkshire HG3 5BQ. Planning permission granted subject to conditions <p>7.1 Councillors considered a letter received from parishioner detailing concerns about Central Garage development (planning ref ZC24/01723/FULMAJ)</p> <p>Cllr Murday has been to see the parishioner and discussed the concerns expressed in the letter. The deadline for submissions regarding this application was 2nd August 2024.</p> |
| <p>8</p> | <p>The Council received updates and reports on Council Business and correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Caretaker tasks. |

Cllr Spooner reported that the owner of the land above the junction of Rash Dyke lane and the B6265 had asked if the caretaker could trim the undergrowth which obstructs the view of motorists waiting to turn out of the junction. The owner was unable to do so due to illness. The caretaker has done the work and invoiced the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: This is a one off. Council will not pay for this work on a regular basis. (Invoice will be on agenda at the next meeting).

Cllr Spooner also reported that undergrowth from a property further up Rash Dyke lane towards Bewerley was hanging over into the carriageway. Dealing with overgrown highway boundaries is not within the parish council's powers, however an informal word with the owner is probably the fastest way to resolve the matter.

RESOLVED: Clerk to speak to owner of land in question.

b) Swings at Bewerley village green.

At the last meeting an enquiry about restoring the swings was considered by the council and it resolved that to do so would be too expensive. The clerk updated the enquirer and subsequently received eight expressions of support for restoring the swings. One anonymous letter was also received opposing introducing new play equipment.

RESOLVED: clerk to conduct a survey of residents to assess demand for restoring the swings.

c) Annual safety inspection of play areas.

North Yorkshire Council have asked if the council would like Bewerley and Greenhow play areas to be included in their annual round of inspection.

Cllr Dutton **proposed** to ask NYC to do the inspections. Seconded by Cllr Dawson.

CARRIED.

d) Sale of cemetery field.

The solicitor dealing with the sale of the cemetery field has advised that the planning application to extend the cemetery will be considered by the planning committee on 30th September.

Noted

e) Joint Liaison Committee meeting, 02/09/2024.

Cllr Dawson gave an update. Minutes will be circulated in due course.

f) JLC and Emergency Committee terms of reference.

These were discussed at the JLC on 2nd September and recommendations will be circulated in the minutes of that meeting

g) Bench policy.

Benches in the Recreation Ground were also discussed at the JLC. Cllr Dawson reported that there are no jointly owned benches.

The council considered the updated policy circulated by the clerk.

RESOLVED: The council adopted the updated policy.

In relation to ring-fencing money for maintenance of sponsored benches Cllr Dawson advised that in future maintenance money can be identified in the balance sheet as a "non-current asset".

h) Ice cream concession money

Cllrs noted that NYC have not responded to request to confirm that the payment received in May represents the 2023 concession and the 2024 concession is yet to be paid.

i) Wildflower project

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| | <p>Cllr Hancock updated that the planned workday in July was postponed. The area for laying the preseeded mats will be marked out in the next couple of weeks. The turf will then be removed and the mats laid.</p> <p>j) Commemorative plaque for Hull wartime evacuees.</p> <p>Cllr Hancock reported that cleaning is underway. She will also lacquer it before returning to the clerk for refitting in the Recreation Ground.</p> <p>k) Electronic payment at Toft Gate honesty box using PayPal</p> <p>Cllr Dawson reported no progress with the feasibility study.</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | <p>Finance</p> <p>9.1 Cllr Hancock proposed the Council approve the following accounts for payment, seconded by Cllr Marshall.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <table> <tr> <td>9.1.1</td> <td>R Langley invoice A2190</td> <td>£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.1.2</td> <td>R Langley invoice A2193</td> <td>£200.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9.1.3</td> <td>Clerk's expenses</td> <td>£20.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>9.2 The Council noted the clerk's salary and additional hours 1-31 July and salary 1-31 August.</p> <p>9.3 The Council received a bank reconciliation to 31st August 2024</p> <p>9.4 Cllr Hancock reconciled the receipts/payments with bank statement</p> | 9.1.1 | R Langley invoice A2190 | £180.00 | 9.1.2 | R Langley invoice A2193 | £200.00 | 9.1.3 | Clerk's expenses | £20.00 |
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| 9.1.2 | R Langley invoice A2193 | £200.00 | | | | | | | | |
| 9.1.3 | Clerk's expenses | £20.00 | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | <p>10.1 The Council received the following new correspondence:</p> <p>10.1.1 Letter from NYC about Parish precept arrangements</p> <p>Noted. The finance committee will consider a draft budget prior to the November full council meeting.</p> <p>10.1.2 Invitation from PBTC inviting chair to a civic service.</p> <p>The chairman has accepted the invitation.</p> <p>The following was received after publication of the agenda:</p> <p>10.1.3 Letter from North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre</p> <p>Includes request for donation. As not on published agenda this will be considered at the next meeting.</p> <p>10.2 There was no new information to exchange</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | <p>Items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting</p> <p>See 10.1.3 above</p> | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | <p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Several councillors will be unavailable on 21st October.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The next meeting will be held on Monday 14th October at 7 p.m. a Colbeck House</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 8.55 pm.</p> | | | | | | | | | |