

**Minutes of the Meeting of Bowes Parish Council
held at Bowes School Wednesday 8th February 2017**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Carlisle, Cllr Brown, Cllr White, Cllr Redfearn, Cllr Wake, Cllr Hughes and Mrs H Overfield

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes** of the Meeting held Wednesday 11th January 2017 agreed to be a true record, approved by Cllr Wake & seconded by Cllr Brown.

3. **Matters arising** (unless dealt with later in the agenda)

Cllr Brown has kindly repaired the notice board.

We have received a reply from English Heritage regarding the ramp and the signage as follows:- Several members of our staff, including our health and safety manager, have visited the site since the new ramp was installed and the consensus opinion seems to be that, whilst we appreciate your concerns, the ramp does not present sufficient risk to require a hand rail. I know we are currently looking at improving our signage at a number of free sites, including Bowes. It may be that proposed new signage would incorporate a notice to dog walkers to pick up after their pets. I can look into that. If it does not, we can order a small sign. I will need to investigate if it will be possible to affix it to the new gate.

4. **Finance & Accounts – See summary below**

Receipts since last meeting £0.11 interest £325.50 Blenkiron £148.20 DCC grant for the trees

Expenses since last meeting ~None

Budget		Summary Bowes Parish Accounts & Balance sheet		As at 31st January 2017	
		Year to 31st March 2017			
Income	Income			Cumulative Total	
108.00	Allotments	99.00		Bank as at 31st March 2016	£10,766.73
6.00	Bank Interest	4.77		Income y/e 31st March 2017	£7,638.64
600.00	Cemetery & Village	1527.50		Expenses y/e 31st March 2017	-£5,554.48
708.00	Footpaths	0.00		Total	£12,850.89
4070.00	General Income	0.00		Represented by	
596.87	Grants	1148.86		Nat West a/c - 21543798	£12,542.39
170.00	Precept D.C.C.	4070.00		Nat West a/c - 015102553	£200.00
6258.87	Playground	0.00		Uncleared movements	£108.50
	Publications	0.00		Total	£12,850.89
	Vat Refund	618.51			
	West Clint Field	170.00		Petty Cash	106.36
	Total Income	7638.64		Total	12957.25
Expenses	Expenses				
250.00	Allotments	200.00			
1000.00	Grant Exp	584.86			
300.00	Cemetery & Village	885.50			
250.00	Footpaths	0.00			
960.00	General Expenses	329.10			
650.00	Grass Cutting	800.00			
1660.00	Insurance	511.15			
415.00	Clerks salary	1353.30			
200.00	PAYE	338.20			
5685.00	Playground	195.00			
	VAT	357.37			
	Total Expenses	5554.48			
573.87					

Finance approved by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Wake.

5. **Planning**

Mr & Mrs Foster – Leighton Cottage – Replace windows to front elevation – no observations

Mr James Harder – Former Department of Transport Storage Depot – Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 9 dwellings with associated ancillary development. – Houses 1-4 and 7& 8 have chimneys but the other 2 houses don't, this will have an aesthetic impact. These properties are in a rural area with no mains gas therefore we feel that a provision for wood/solid fuel should be given serious consideration.

Clerk has contact DCC with reference to the name on the planning portal and she is awaiting a reply from Planning System Support who should be able to change it to represent Bowes Parish Council.

Cllr Brown declared an interest in the above application and took no further part in the decision.

6. **Correspondence**

DCC are running training sessions on Purdah at Shildon's Civic Centre.

We have received information from Mr Lee Brownson regarding the 70 million pounds which is being spent in and around Bishop Auckland. He has offered to do a talk about the on-going restoration work. It was felt that this may be of interest to the whole village. We have also received information regarding films that can be rented to village halls at a cost of only £30.00. It was agreed that BPC offer to pay the hire for the village hall and that the clerk send the information to Mike Bettison at the Village Hall Committee to see if they would like to organise a double event in March or April for Bowes Parishioners.

Clerk to check the election timetable and forward to all councillors

7. **Cemetery & Village maintenance**

Costs have come in from Stuart Priestley for sowing the wild seeds @ £3.20 per m2. DCC are up to capacity for 2017, but we can add our name to the list for 2018. Cllr Hughes to meet with Stuart to discuss areas to sow, and to ask to be placed on 2018's schedule of work.

8 **Allotments**

Nothing to report

9 **Play Park**

We have received the Inspection Check list from Barry Alderson. Clerk to contact him to request DCC's services for our playground checks. Cllrs Redfern and Carlisle to meet Mr Alderson on site at first inspection to discussion regularity of playground checks to be completed by Cllr Redfern

10 **Parish Paths**

Cllr White to complete another grant application for 2 strimms at bull banks this year.

11 **AOB**

Clerk to write to Andrew Blanckley at DCC regarding the roads through the Stang as follows:-

We would like to report that the contractors are currently not fulfilling their role correctly on the Stang road. Although some salt piles have been renewed several times in some areas, this has not been the case on the bends where it is required most.

We feel that this route needs to be moved to a Priority 1 route. This year alone there has been more than 4 accidents on this route where recovery vehicles have been required, two of which they couldn't reach the stranded vehicle.

There are a greater number of people using this route now and when Glaxo complete their expansion this will increase. People start off on a well salted route in North Yorkshire to come to grief on the Durham side on the bends in Stang Forest.

Additionally can you please let us know what proposed safety improvements are to be carried out on the A67 Bowes to Barnard Castle.

Meeting closed at 8.50

Section 17 Law & Disorder Act. It was felt the above would have a positive effect.