

# Minutes of the Meeting of Bowes Parish Council held at Bowes School on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

## Present

Cllr Carlisle, Cllr Redfern, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Tipping, and Mrs H Overfield.

### 1. Apologies

Cllr White

### 2. Minutes of the Meeting

held Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November agreed to be a true record, approved by Cllr Tipping, seconded by Cllr Hughes.

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

Clerk has requested suitable days for Steven Bennett from DCC to meet with a Councillor to discuss the grass cutting and the care of the play park.

Flower garden – I am still waiting a reply from Mr Stamp regarding the flower bed. I have requested a credit note so that I can pay the grass cutting element of the invoice

Clerk e-mailed Tim Wright asking for the next £20.00 which will cover December 2018 to November 2028 for the Kipling Charity, as yet, he hasn't replied. I will try again after Christmas.

Dog bin request at Keepers Cottage – case reference FS-Case-382573819 – still waiting a reply.

Beacons for the Platinum Jubilee

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

Receipts since last meeting £0.12 interest £54.00 Allotment rent

Expenses since last meeting £425.30 – Clerks Wages £106.20 HMRC

Summary Bowes Parish Accounts & Balance sheet			As at 28/11/2021	
Year to 31st March 2022				
<b>Budget</b>	<b>Income</b>		<b>Cumulative Total</b>	
108.00	Allotments	224.00	Bank as at 31st March 2021	£11,370.04
1.00	Bank Interest	0.92	Income y/e 31st March 2022	£6,951.86
350.00	Cemetery & Village	505.00	Expenses y/e 31st March 2022	–£3,645.42
0.00	Footpaths	0.00	Total	£14,676.48
0.00	General Income	1.82	Represented by	
200.00	Grants	177.00	Nat West a/c - 21543798	£14,476.48
5310.30	Precept D.C.C.	5382.30	Nat West a/c - 015102553	£200.00
0.00	Playground	0.00	Uncleared movements	
0.00	Publications	0.00	Total	£14,676.48
600.00	Vat Refund	660.82		
170.00	West Clint Field	0.00		
<b>6739.30</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6951.86</b>		
	<b>Expenses</b>			
400.00	Allotments	350.00	Petty Cash	£0.00
1200.00	Grant Exp	0.00	Total	£14,676.48
0.00	Cemetery & Village	107.50		
250.00	Footpaths	47.04		
1350.00	General Expenses	261.05		
550.00	Grass Cutting	1050.00		
1600.00	Insurance	542.33		
400.00	Clerks salary	848.50		
200.00	PAYE	212.00		
600.00	Playground	0.00		
200.00	VAT	227.00		
<b>6750.00</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>3645.42</b>		
-10.70	Actual Surplus/Deficiet	3306.44		

Finances approved by Cllr Carlisle seconded by Cllr Redfern.

## 5 **Planning**

DM/21/03688/FPA – Bowfield Farm Boldron - Change of use of land for the siting of 15 caravans.  
Clerk to comment - We feel that the access should be improved. The gateway should be widened to facilitate turning traffic with the proposed increased usage.

Further to my meeting with Highways England and Chris Tipping on 17<sup>th</sup> November, I email to confirm points that were raised which were as follows:

1. Chris quite rightly raised concerns over whether the land being used for the proposed pond at the west of Bowes Village is suitable. There were questions over the suitability of the levels of the site, and also whether the pond could be dug deep enough bearing in mind there is limited soil depth over the bedrock. I asked the question as to what physical investigations have actually taken place on the site proposed for the pond. Highways are going to look into this and come back to me with further information.
2. I raised the question as to whether Highways England would purchase the land from Bowes Parish Council where the proposed access road is to be constructed, or whether this could be done via a Deed of Easement of access. Highways confirmed that they would be looking to purchase the land by compulsory powers.
3. Chris asked the question as to whether the access road could be realigned so that it does not split the land in half. Highways England are going to look at whether the proposed route of the access could be redesigned, and what options are available and will send these across to me.
4. Chris suggested that any land that is not purchased should be improved by Highways with trees etc. and again, I can liaise with Highways in this regard.
5. In relation to Clint Lane Bridge, the current proposal is to replace the bridge like for like rather than taking it away, although as you will appreciate, no final design scheme has yet been agreed.
6. In relation to the Stone Bridge access on and off the A66, Highways confirmed that the current proposal is to completely stop this up. The reason being is that it would not be possible for safety reasons to have two exits off the A66 at Stone Bridge and then at the new Bowes Junction. It will need to be one or the other. Highways believe that it would be safer to have the westbound exit at the proposed new junction, and also this would minimise traffic coming along the street and up to Bowes and onto the new junction; if for example, any traffic was travelling towards Barnard Castle or carrying out a U-turn to go eastbound. In addition, there is also a proposal to move the snow gates further east, so that when the snow gates are closed, any diverted westbound traffic will come off at the new Bowes junction, and U-turn to go eastbound. It appears to me that given there can only be one westbound exit from the A66, it would be better to have this on the new proposed junction rather than the existing exit at Stone Bridge.

I will come back to you once I hear further from Highways England in relation to the pond and land take on the land to the west of Bowes Village, and if you require me to undertake any further representation in relation to Clint Lane Bridge or the Stone Bridge junction, please let me know.

Helen Pressley from Jonathan Wallis CS Limited

## 6. **Correspondence**

Tree grants are now open for a maximum of £250.00. Closing date is February 22, but the funded is given out on a first come first served basis. It was decided not to apply until we know what is happening with the A66, trees will be planted with the project, land may also change hands.

We received an e-mail from a parishioner asking about the proposed demolition of the Clint bridge, and the involvement of Bowes Parish Council over the plans regarding the A66. Bowes Parish Councillors have been heavily involved with both National Highways and the NTP consultations and have been assured that Clint bridge will be replaced like for like.

We have engaged a Land Agent, at the expense of National Highways to work on our behalf.

We are as puzzled as you with Barnard Castle Town Councillors' involvement, none of us have spoken to them.

## 7. **Cemetery & Village maintenance**

Application to erect a new memorial for Mr Kenneth Brown by Bambridge Brothers - approved.

## 8 **Allotments –**

Storm Arwin has damaged the hinges on the gate into the allotments, Councillor Tipping will inspect it and report back to the Parish Council.

No progress has been made on the stile replacement.

## 9 **Play Park**

No issues to report

## 10 **Parish Paths**

Mike Murden from DCC replied regarding the footpath sign near Clint farm on the north side of the road has fallen over, DL12 9JL. He said he would have a quick check to verify the location and then get their contractor to replace. This has still not been repaired, we feel that this may be low down on the priority list since storm Arwin.

Bull Banks has been trimmed and looks good.

## 11 **AOB**

Disaster plan –

Clerk to contact Northern Power Grid and DCC regarding the response to storm Arwin. We will be requesting a meeting with representatives from the companies in question.

Many properties in the locality were without power for up to 10 days. The village water reservoir could not be filled, the snow gates could not be operated, and several vulnerable people suffered in various ways. Nobody canvassed the needs of the local people which would have indicated a need for an alternative power supply.

The parking on the paths in the village in and around the school is getting ridiculous. Clerk to contact highways – can they review the parking situation particularly around the school.

Meeting closed at 8.55

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