

Minutes of the Meeting of Bowes Parish Council held at Prospect House Wednesday 8th November 2017

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Wake
2. **Minutes** of the Meeting held Wednesday 11th October 2017 agreed to be a true record, approved by Cllr Hughes & seconded by Cllr Brown.
3. **Matters arising** (unless dealt with later in the agenda)
Mr Tipping sent his cheque at the beginning of October, unfortunately it has been lost in the post. Mr Tipping will send another out shortly.
Mr Toward agreed to take on the gardening in and around Bowes alongside his grass cutting duties.
4. **Finance & Accounts – See summary below**
Receipts since last meeting ££63.00 in allotment rent
Expenses since last meeting £240.00 C Gibson £960.00 A Toward

Summary Bowes Parish Accounts & Balance sheet		As at 31st October 2017	
Year to 31st March 2018			
Budget			
Income	Income		Cumulative Total
108.00	Allotments 36.00	Bank as at 31st March 2017	£12,522.60
6.00	Bank Interest 0.93		
1000.00	Cemetery & Village 799.00	Income y/e 31st March 2018.	£5,248.93
	Footpaths 0.00	Expenses y/e 31st March 2018	-£2,535.22
	General Income 0.00	Total	£15,236.31
4070.00	Grants 144.00		
	Precept D.C.C. 4099.00	Represented by	
	Playground 0.00	Nat West a/c - 21543798	£15,036.31
400.00	Publications 0.00	Nat West a/c - 015102553	£200.00
170.00	Vat Refund 0.00	Uncleared movements	
5754.00	West Clint Field 170.00	Total	£15,236.31
	Total Income 5248.93		
Expenses	Expenses		
250.00	Allotments 225.00	Petty Cash	68.32
	Grant Exp 0.00	Total	15304.63
1000.00	Cemetery & Village 514.50		
300.00	Footpaths 0.00		
250.00	General Expenses 111.73		
960.00	Grass Cutting 0.00		
650.00	Insurance 526.49		
1660.00	Clerks salary 918.10		
415.00	PAYE 229.40		
	Playground 0.00		
200.00	VAT 10.00		
5685.00	Total Expenses 2535.22		
69.00	Actual Surplus/Deficit 2713.71		

£5.00 paid to Cllr Brown for the use of his home from Petty Cash.

Finance approved by Cllr Redfern, seconded by Cllr Redfern.

5 Planning

Aggregate Industries UK Ltd Hulands Quarry - Installation of a liquefied natural gas storage tank and ancillary operating equipment – No comment

The Ancient Unicorn - Internal alterations to create new hotel bedrooms, blocking up kitchen window and replacement office/store window – Clerk to update planning portal – These alterations do not meet the expected standard of accommodation to improve tourism in the Teesdale area. Specifically some bedrooms have no windows. There is an expectation that guests will share the general toilets because there is only one en-suite bedroom. In short we think this is a backward step in an established, historic, public house.

Mr G Guy – Whorlands Farm -Conversion of redundant farm building to two units of accommodation. Existing use – storage of cattle and sheep. Clerk to update planning portal – Objection – There is no established local need for such remote accommodation in or around Bowes. The change of use would preclude the use of the farm as an independent agricultural holding in the future. The proximity of the barn to the house would surely invade the privacy of the house owners as the bedroom windows over look the house, probably within 5m of the existing property. It is doubtful that the water supply could sustain 2 more homes as it is dubious at best now. (Cllr Brown declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.)

6. Correspondence

We have received an e-mail from Stuart Priestly offering funding to support wildflower seeding. Clerk to contact Stuart to accept this offer. Would DCC be able to complete the sowing for us? Cllr Hughes is still available to meet/talk to him. Clerk to send Cllr Hughes e-mail address. We have received a consultation document regarding the proposed removal of two street lights from Clint Bridge in Bowes. After discussions it was decided that this would not have any negative effect on the residents of Bowes. Clerk to reply.

7. Cemetery & Village maintenance

Cllr White is applying for the tree grant and will try and purchase another 28 trees with the £150.00 grant if we are successful. Of the 28 planted last year most are thriving and only 3 have died.

8 Allotments

Bills have gone out by e-mail. Clerk to chase outstanding amounts on the 24th November, the due date.

9 Play Park

Barrie Alderson from Durham County Council has completed the repairs to the wet pour under and around the swings. Clerk to contact Barrie to see if the inspection was completed at the same time. Paul Seedhouse has not completed the work yet, Cllr Hughes to chase. Work must be completed by spring.

10 Parish Paths

Two cuts have been completed at Bull banks.

11 AOB

One of the posts on the footbridge on the Greta, on the Gilmonby side as you climb up on the bridge, is loose. It needs re-concreting and fixing to the fence. The map reference is NY98451302. Clerk to contact highways to have it repaired, it is part of the Pennine Way.

The school was locked for the third time this year and we convened once again at Cllr Brown's residence. Clerk to write to the Headteacher and also Mr Andrew Bracewell, Chair of Trustees to Bowes Hutchinson School. The current system we have for allowing the Parish Council to use the school building is unsatisfactory. We have been unable to use the school on at least 3 separate occasions this year. As a public body we have a statutory right to hold meetings in a publicly funded Building. We need to have a reliable process to have access to the school. We understand the concerns you have against giving us a key but we feel we need to change the current system. We are open to suggestions and Cllr David Carlisle is happy to meet with you to discuss ideas to improve the situation going forward.

Meeting closed at 8.45

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