

Minutes of the Meeting of Bowes Parish Council held at Bowes School on 7th February 2023

The meeting commenced at 7.30

Present

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Redfern.

2.

Minutes of the Meeting

held Tuesday 10th January 2023 agreed to be a true record, approved by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr White.

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

A parishioner has asked if we have had any work completed by Durham County Council on the roadside kerbs on the road outside of the allotments? They have been trying since the beginning of November with no joy. Clerk registered it with “Do it online” case FS-484087756 using what 3 words. briefing.obstinate.retail.

There is an accumulation of leaves, debris and rotting vegetation at each side of the roadside leading down to the cut that are encroaching into the road by approximately 1 meter on each side. This will of course lead to blocked drains causing the bridge to flood. Cllr Hughes logged this issue with “Do it online”, the case reference is FS-Case -468104434. Although the Council have been up with the sweeper, it hasn’t improved the situation. Clerk to update “ The drain is still overflowing on the west side and the water is running across the road making the conditions dangerous”. **FS-Case-474626791**. Aiden McCabe replied 25th January saying that he will get onto the clean up ASAP. The Councillors confirmed that the leaves have been cleaned up, we will wait to see how effective this has been when it rains next.

Cllr White reported an issue on the bridge on footpath number 9, East & West low field. Cllr Hughes logged it on “Do it online” FS -468104156 Highways reference for the repairs to the bridge. Have received a response from Durham County Council saying that they will send out a different team.

Mike Murden replied stating that “ Our bridges inspector has been on site and concluded that the whole structure could fail unexpectedly and is in need of replacement. As such, he’s requested that we close the footpath until that is done, which I’ve put into motion. We’ll get signs up to advise it’s closed.”

Cllr Carlisle has spoken to Mr M Bettison regarding the generator jack in the village hall. He will take it to the committee.

The Parish Council isn’t intending to do organise an event for the Kings Coronation but is prepared to put some funding towards a group willing to take on the responsibility of providing celebrations.

4. Finance & Accounts – See summary below

Receipts since last meeting £9.48 interest

Expenses since last meeting £1,500.00 P & E J Simpsons – phase 3 in the cemetery

Summary Bowes Parish Accounts & Balance sheet				As at 06/02/2023	
Year to 31st March 2023					
Budget	Income			Cumulative Total	
108.00	Allotments	245.00		Bank as at 31st March 2022	£12,218.15
1.00	Bank Interest	41.78			
450.00	Cemetery & Village	690.04		Income y/e 31st March 2023	£7,079.86
0.00	Footpaths	0.00		Expenses y/e 31st March 2023	-£7,264.32
0.00	General Income	50.00		Total	£12,033.69
200.00	Grants	0.00			
5611.20	Precept D.C.C.	5584.00		Represented by	
0.00	Playground	0.00		Nat West a/c - 21543798	£11,833.65
0.00	Publications	0.00		Nat West a/c - 015102553	£200.00
600.00	Vat Refund	469.04		Uncleared movements	
170.00	West Clint Field	0.00		Total	£12,033.65
7140.20	Total Income	7079.86			
	Expenses				
300.00	Allotments	350.00		Petty Cash	£0.00
1700.00	Cemetery & Village	1950.00		Total	£12,033.65
0.00	Footpaths	0.00			
250.00	General Expenses	1076.35			
1400.00	Grass Cutting	1255.00			
550.00	Insurance	546.60			
1600.00	Clerks salary	1593.00			
400.00	PAYE	398.25			
200.00	Playground	65.10			
600.00	VAT	30.02			
7000.00	Total Expenses	7264.32			
140.20	Actual Surplus/Deficiet	-184.46			

Finances approved by Cllr Carlisle, seconded by Cllr Tipping.

5 Planning

DM/22/03506/FPA – Roods House, Boldron, Replacement dwelling including garage, office and agricultural building – we are pleased to see it is being built to a high environmental standard.

6. Correspondence

We have received information from Highways regarding the A66 project, they are having a consultation to the end of February regarding alterations to the original plans. The nearest drop in event is Gilling West Village hall but the only alteration effecting Bowes is a minor realignment of a local access road closer to the new dual carriage way to the east of Bowes.

Jonathan Wallis has received an offer from Highways for an outright purchase of the land of £17,000.00 plus the additional 20% bringing it to a total of £21,000.00. He feels he may be able to get a better price given a little more time. The Council agreed to sell, 3 votes to 1. Cllr White was against selling, Cllrs Carlisle, Hughes and Tipping were fore. Clerk to contact Jonathan Wallis to accept the sale at the highest price he could get provided that we get a future development clause included. We also asked Jonathan for an ongoing contract to maintain/care for the land as a nature reserve if it remains partly or wholly unused.

Andy Brown has asked if he can have access to the minutes from 2000 to 2006 as he is researching the history of Moor Road to help determine the application to record the road as a public right of way. The individual councillors have long term knowledge of vehicular access if you would like to contact them through the clerk. The Parish Council supports the retention of a public right of way for vehicular, horse riders and pedestrian.

7 Cemetery & Village maintenance

Paul Simpson has suggested we cut last summer's growth on the yew trees down the avenue to create denser foliage.

Grass cutting contract – A Toward has agreed to continue at the same price as last year. All agreed to continue the contract for a further year. Clerk to let him know.

Flower bed – Cllr Hughes will put a request on social media for a volunteer to maintain the flower bed.

8 Allotments –

Amended rules were reviewed. Clerk to send a copy of the amended rules to all allotment holders for observations, which will need to be back to the clerk by 5th March in time for 7th March's meeting.

New rules will come into force on the 31st March.

9 Play Park

No issues

10 Parish Paths

Nothing to report.

11 AOB

The Church is looking into producing a publication of the history of Bowes to include the archaeology areas of interest such as the fort, the bath house and the general village history of Bowes and its surrounding area.

Meeting closed at 20.40

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