

BURTON LEONARD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: David Taylor,
c/o Thornfield, 57 Whitcliffe Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire, HG4 2LB.
Email: clerkburtonleonardparishcouncil@outlook.com
Telephone: 01765 601693 (*answer machine*)
[www: burtonleonard.chessck.co.uk](http://www.burtonleonard.chessck.co.uk)

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 8th January 2024 at 7.00pm Held at St. Leonards Hall, Burton Leonard.

(2023-2024 – 090) Present were Cllr. Fiona Barwick, Cllr. Keith Townson, Cllr. Paul Bappoo, Cllr. Arthur Larry and Cllr. Cathy Kitchingman.

(2023-2024 – 091) Also present were David Taylor, Clerk. There was 1 member of the public plus the representatives from Harmony Energy who left after their presentation.

(2023-2024 – 092) No **apologies** were received.

(2023-2024 – 093) The meeting heard a presentation from Frances Nicholson, Development Director and Hannah Chapman, Development Manager from Harmony Energy. Harmony have a planning application in the system to construct a solar farm with battery storage at Wormold Green; some of the land forms part of the Burton Leonard Civil Parish area. The site is 66 hectares (160 acres).

They said that they have worked with various local residents in order to minimise the change in landscape views and the scheme has been reshaped in some instances accordingly.

They spoke at length about the benefits of solar energy to the UK economy as a whole and the environment.

They said that the generating capacity of a solar farm will determine which body decides the planning application. For example, in England solar farms with a generating capacity below 50 megawatts (MW) need planning permission from the local planning authority (in this case NYC) whereas solar farms with a generating capacity above 50 MW need development consent from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, because they are nationally significant infrastructure projects' (NSIPs). The proposed site at Wormold Green will have a 43MW capacity.

They pointed out that the land upon which the solar 'farm' was proposed was only grade 2 agricultural land and only produced crops for animal feed.

When asked about the failure to obtain planning permission for other schemes in Yorkshire, they felt that the tenure of the land holding was a very significant factor.

(2023-2024 – 094) It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2023 having been circulated for consideration beforehand were true and correct records. The Chair was authorised to sign them accordingly.

Reports:

(2023-2024 – 095) Cllr Robert Windass from North Yorkshire Council reported that;

Council Tax is likely to increase by the maximum allowed, 4.9%. An increase by this amount will mean that "only" £9m will have to be drawn down from reserves in order to balance the projected budget. If council tax were to rise by 3.9% then £13.5m would be required. Money from Central Government is not enough to cover anticipated expenditure.

Although many councils in the country are in severe financial difficulties and North Yorkshire Council does not wish to go the same way. Savings are being made. Since the creation of the new unitary authority reductions in scale; there is now only 1 Chief Executive rather than 7 under the old system. This has resulted in a £1.5m saving and a saving of £4.5m pounds in staff costs across the board. These savings are working through the system.

There will be further savings as the size of the property estate declines when duplicate offices and the like become vacant and leases are given up or property is sold.

Adult and young peoples care costs are rising. Home to school transport costs £42m per year; North Yorkshire is a very rural county and therefore needs vary greatly.

He reported that he has had a complaint regarding noise from the Royal Oak public house in Burton Leonard after 11.00pm. He has noted the details and passed the complaint over to Environmental Services and the Licensing Department.

Cllr. Windass was informed that Area 6, generally, do not reply to communications either at all or in a timely manner. He said that he would chase this up and find out more.

Cllr. Windass was informed that the Enforcement unit at the Harrogate planning department and in particular Chris Kettle, generally, do not reply to communications either at all or in a timely manner. He said that he would chase this up and find out more.

(2023-2024 – 096) In his report his Clerk told the meeting that he has over time built up a wide range of information or a knowledge of where to find information. This is a resource that may be useful to Councillors and they should feel free to ask.

He asked to be informed of any specific dates for grass cutting, ie village fairs etc.

He informed the meeting that he had tried to set the change of mandate process in motion but had been unsuccessful as he was not an official of the Parish Council, according to the bank. Cllr Barwick said she would take the matter forward.

He reported that work was progressing on the Parish Council Website and he was planning for it to be up and live prior to the next meeting in March.

(2023-2024 – 097) With regard to recent damage to the village green the meeting considered what was allowed to done, considering that Village Greens were protected from specific works by laws. Vehicles park on the grass – which according to the law is not allowed. This poaches the grass and leaves the grass in a churned up state. The questions facing the meeting were: does the Parish Council lay a plastic grass reinforcement mesh on the damaged areas and appear to allow parking on the green (contrary to the law) or does the Parish Council install solid barriers (some removeable/lockable) in order to prevent parking on the green at all. This would simply move the parking problem to another area and cause disquiet amongst residents.

Action points decided were that:-

1. Further progress should be made in the Registration of Village Greens <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/town-and-village-greens-how-to-register>. This was started by the previous Clerk.
2. Find out the exact present status of the Village Greens in Burton Leonard.
3. Cllr Kitchingman will draft a letter to residents in the village green area explaining what is and what is not permitted to be done on Village Greens.
4. In the meantime ask Farm & Land for a quotation to install some plastic grass reinforcement mesh in readiness.

Correspondence:

(2023-2024 – 098) The meeting heard that Peter Gravestock, a Parish Councillor and former Chairman has sadly passed away recently. The meeting remembered him with great respect and wished for this to be noted.

(2023-2024 – 099) Cllr Townson informed the meeting that the village hall committee had matter in hand regarding forthcoming D Day 80 commemorations.

(2023-2024 – 100) The meeting considered an email that had been received regarding possible works required to the Lime trees on the village green. It was heard that in the recent storms large pieces of branch wood are falling from the trees. The trees underwent crown reduction work in the 1970's and this seems to have been good for the trees in the intervening period.

The meeting resolved to do the following:-

1. Find out who owns the trees and therefore who is responsible for them?
2. When are they next scheduled to be surveyed?
3. Is there a rolling inspection routine in place?
4. What is the insurance position?
5. Make contact with Alan Gilleard, NYCs arboriculture manager for the Harrogate area and discuss the situation with him.

Financial Matters:

(2023-2024 – 101) the meeting could not settle the Precept Demand and annual budget for the year 2024 – 2025 due to a lack of information available to the Clerk. It was resolved to let the Clerk have last years budget and the Clerk would then work up a draft budget for approval by Councillors by email. Following this the Precept Demand could be sent to NYC.

(2023-2024 – 102) The accounts for payment as listed on "**Appendix A**", below, were approved for payment.

(2023-2024 – 103) There was no Bank Reconciliation / Income & expenditure report due to a continued lack of information.

(2023-2024 – 104) There was no Spending v Budget report due to a continued lack of information.

Planning Matters:

(2023-2024 – 105) With regard to the Chatford development in Burton Leonard where it is believed that there is a Breach of planning conditions in respect of planting scheme completion; Cllr Bappoo informed the meeting that he wrote to he NYC planning authority but is yet to receive a reply.

(2023-2024 – 106) There was general astonishment in the meeting to learn that the Hymas Court, Burton Leonard development was the subject of a "Proposed Parking & Waiting Amendment Order" issued by Area 6. This order appears to have been drafted and issued in a relatively timely manner in comparison to the application to put yellow lines in other parts of the village which have been in the system for 10 years or more.

Planning Decision Notices:

(2023-2024 – 107) Planning decision notice No ZC23-03034-FUL. Erection of 1no. two storey extension to the east elevation, etc. Scarah Mill Barn, Scarah Lane Burton Leonard, HG3 3RS. Mr & Mrs J & L Heptonstall. Permission Granted, Subject to Conditions.

BURTON LEONARD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes – 8th January 2024

(2023-2024 – 108) Planning Decision Notice No ZC23/03684/FUL. Erection of a single storey rear extension. 5 Sunnyside Gardens Burton Leonard HG3 3RY. Mr And Mrs Hartley. Permission Granted, Subject to Conditions.

Planning applications:

(2023-2024 – 109) Planning Application Notification ZC23-04361-EIAMAJ.

Erection of ground mounted solar farm (up to 43MW) and etc. Land Comprising Field At 431559 465375 Wormald Green North Yorkshire. Harmony WG Solar Limited. After consideration the meeting resolved by a split vote to Return "Option C" (The Parish Council does not object to or support the application but wishes to make comments or seek safeguards set out overleaf.) with the following comments: The Parish Council is keen to draw attention to the comments submitted in the previous application at this site. Furthermore, it urges the planning authority to put in place mechanisms that will monitor the site post construction to ensure continued compliance with planning conditions imposed. The Parish Council refers to the comments it made in the application **21/01249/SCREEN.**

***NB- Planning applications.** All Comments and returns from the Parish Council can be seen on the NYC planning portal. Please see the note below for the meaning of Return Options.*

(2023-2024 – 110) It was confirmed that the next Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council would be an ordinary meeting on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm.

(2023-2024 – 111) A schedule of meetings appears at "**Appendix B**", below.

(2023-2024 – 112) The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by the Clerk to the Burton Leonard Parish Council, David Taylor.

Signed as a true record by Cllr. Fiona Barwick, Chair.

Date:

At the Ordinary Meeting of the Burton Leonard Parish Council held on **4th March 2024** it was resolved by unanimous vote to approve these Minutes, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, as a true and correct record. These Minutes were then signed by the Chairman accordingly.

The signed Minutes are held in the Parish Council minute book at the Clerk's address, below, and can be viewed by prior appointment.

Clerk : David Taylor. Thornfield, 57 Whitcliffe Lane, Ripon, HG4 2LB. 01765 601693

When returning a standard form Parish Council Notification consultation decision there are four options that the Council can return. These are:-

Option A – The Parish Council has no objections.

Option B – The Parish Council objects on the planning grounds set out overleaf.

Option C – The Parish Council does not object to or support the application but wishes to make comments or seek safeguards set out overleaf.

Option D - The Parish Council supports the application.

Appendix "A" – Schedule of accounts approved for payment.

- a. Clerks Salary
- b. PAYE - Clerk
- c. Standing Office Expenses
- d. Chess ICT

Appendix "B" – Schedule of Forthcoming Meetings of Burton Leonard Parish Council:

Schedule of Meetings 2024-2025

Monday 8 th January 2024	Ordinary Meeting. St Leonard's Hall, Burton Leonard.
Monday 4 th March 2024	Ordinary Meeting. St Leonard's Hall, Burton Leonard.
Tuesday 28 th May 2024	Ordinary Meeting, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Village Meeting of Burton Leonard. St Leonard's Hall, Burton Leonard.
Monday 1 st July 2024	Ordinary Meeting. St Leonard's Hall, Burton Leonard.
Monday 2 nd September 2024 Leonard.	Ordinary Meeting. St Leonard's Hall, Burton Leonard.
Monday 4 th November 2024	Ordinary Meeting. St Leonard's Hall, Burton Leonard.
Monday 6 th January 2025	Ordinary Meeting. St Leonard's Hall, Burton Leonard.

- **All** meetings that are held on the 1st Monday of the month unless otherwise stated at St Leonard's Hall, Burton Leonard.
- **All** meetings start at 7.00pm unless otherwise advised. There will be a public participation session lasting 15 minutes prior to the start of each meeting.
- **Ordinary** Meetings will be held every other month. Extra Planning Meetings will be held where necessary.
- **Annual** Village Meetings will be held in succession before the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.
- **There** will be six meetings per year unless more are required when extraordinary meetings may be called. These will be publicised on the Parish Council Website and the usual local noticeboards.
- **Please** check notice boards and the Parish Council website for changes to dates, times & venue.