

Leavening Parish Council

Website: <http://www.leavening.online> Email: clerk@leavening.online

Minutes of Meeting

The regular meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.00pm** at the **Venerable Bede Church**, Leavening. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting.

1. To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence

No apologies were received

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllrs McDermot and Hampson registered their involvement in the Leavening Community Allotments group.

3. Minutes from the previous meeting & and matters arising

1. The chair recorded an amendment to the correct surname for Leavening School Headteacher.
2. Traffic/Speeding – the Chair informed the group that any ongoing dialogue with NY Highways continued and contact had been made with NY Police to discuss requesting an updated speed monitoring service and investigation for establishing a Community Speed Watch. A volunteer resident to take this forward had been identified.
3. Play Area funding – to be covered in Item 6 & 7
4. Power cuts – Westow PC has been contacted to receive an update on an enquiry on power cuts in the area with Northern Power Grid.
5. Cllr McDermot had tabled a draft note to Yorkshire Water to official table register concerns relating to the Water Treatment Plant in the Village. Cllrs were asked to register any comments regarding the draft and all councillors agreed this was an important first step in registering a complaint on behalf of the Parish Council.

4 Public Session

1. The issue of faded 30mph road signs on the entrance to the village and a request for an additional dog waste bin on Leppington Lane was raised for a third time.
2. Community Allotments – a discussion was taken forward under the public session regarding the successful planning consent on ongoing work relating to the Community Allotments Project at Boundales.

Cllr Hampson and Cllr Johnston recording that prior to the ordinary meeting of the PC, an informal meeting was taken forward with Guy Holtby on behalf of a small group of residents on Wold View. This identified unresolved issues in relation to the track behind Wold View from the perspective of Guy Holtby. All parties agreed and that this particular issue would be put to solicitors for resolution as this was related to property law. Further issues raised by a small group of residents on Wold View would be discussed further by Cllr. Hampson separately (a further initial discussion was had outside, informally, of the meeting with various parties prior to the commencement of this Ordinary Meeting)

The Council called on Karen McDermot to provide an update on the project. It was reported that 12 allotment plots had now been taken and that work had been taken forward to enable access to the area via the track behind Wold View. A great deal of landscaping had commenced with mitigations put in place to ensure the views of Wold View residents had been taken into consideration. It was made clear at this meeting that the Planning Consent had been given on the base of various

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amendments to the plans following the feedback from some residents. But Mrs McDermot acknowledged the importance of an ongoing dialogue with residents as the site developed.

North Yorkshire Council recommended that planning should be approved on the basis that there was no sound or lawful reason given, in full evidence, at the time that the track should not be used. North Yorkshire Council recorded that they were happy that the applicants had followed all the necessary procedures to locate an owner. The Parish Council records this position and encourages both parties, in relation to access and usages of the track to the rear of Wold View to cooperate via the proper legal route to confirm the status. We were agreed that this is imperative and encourage all parties to comply. Local parties should now work together to move the development of the site forward and the Councillors agreed that this was the most logical and practical way forward. It was reiterated by the Chair that working together to resolve disputes and disagreements was imperative and strongly encouraged.

Action: Parish Council to continue monitoring the situation and liaising with parties. Cllr Hampson agreed to act as the main contact point for residents wishing to discuss the project.

5. Planning Consultations

The Council recognised the recent applications which had successfully received consent for planning or action in the village:

- Certificate of Lawfulness for situation of static unit at Rosedale Cottage
- Change of Land use for Community Allotments

Councillors and residents were asked to investigate further a further application for the development of three dwellings at High Penhow from G.Benson.

6 Finance & Budgets

- To receive financial statements of accounts since the last meeting and review expenditures for the next Financial Year.

Accounts as of 06 April 2024 were £1,030.17.

- Year End Accounts 31 March 2023 and AGAR 23/24

A full summary of accounts was provided which outlined the recent transfer of the Residue of Leavening Play Area Committee funds to Leavening Community Sport alongside a further contribution of £5,000 from the Parish Council for the Play Area refurbishment. Cllr Audsley noted that this transfer had happened outside of the accounting year.

- Updates on committee expenditure

Cllr Audsley reported that following a discussion with the Play Area Committee, the bank account had been closed with funds sent to the PC main bank account. The recommendation was that this residue (£1,261.32) should be ringfenced for the play area on the agreement of the former Play Area committee. It was reported that new governance was now in place with the Leavening Community Sport group (who are responsible for the

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MUGA) so Cllr Johnston had been co-opted onto this group to represent the new Play Area interests. Councillors agreed on a match funding transfer of £5000 alongside the residue from the Play Area Committee to Leavening Community Sport account. The PC notes that this is managed as a separate charity outside of the Parish Council's accounting remit.

A further update had been requested ahead of the completion of the AGAR from the Events Committee Chair, Miles Jackson. This included a request for repayment of contributions to the PC insurance (£700). The Chair urged urgency on resolution and a request to review the current support for the Events Committee to ensure good governance on accounts moving forward.

Action: Cllr McDermot agreed to work with Cllr Audsley on actioning this with the Events Committee ahead of their next meeting 10th May.

7. Leavening Play Area

Cllr Johnston updated on the status of the Community Lottery funding application and recorded that the Parish Council was due to hear the outcome of the submission of a bid for £19,965 in the next few weeks. If successful, this would ensure the refurbishment could commence with the replacement of the tower equipment and swing. The project had been designed by Image Playgrounds based in Sheriff Hutton who had a strong track record of developing play area spaces in the area as well as nationally. The units identified were part of a new range of sustainable play equipment they had introduced to ensure play equipment was more accessible. A further quote had also been received but this was believed to be the best value option moving forward.

The Primary School had been consulted with opportunities to engage with schoolchildren in the coming months. The project, if funding is secured, will need to be completed over the summer months. Cllr Johnston will oversee this for the Parish Council.

New governance arrangements for the play area were recorded above under Item 6.

8. Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Councillors received a proposal from Cllr Audsley to adopt the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) in the village as an asset to cover insurance fees. It was felt that it was practical for the Parish Council to accept the liability for this area under the wider insurance to ensure that Leavening Community Sport falls in line with liability for other sites including the Play Area. Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt this proposal.

9. Biodiversity - Obligations as a Parish Council

Cllr Hampson reported on a recent YCLA training session which outlined how local councils are responsible for biodiversity in their districts and new legal obligations which were now coming into force which would mean Parish Councils have a legal requirement to cover biodiversity issues in their remit.

This includes adopting a standing item of "biodiversity" on the agenda of the PC, bio-impact assessments aligned with government net-zero targets and enhancing biodiversity assets as a priority in the parish.

Action: Cllr Hampson to circulate the slides for further discussion outside the meeting.

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Clerk to record Biodiversity as a standing order on the agenda for ordinary meetings moving forward.

10. Community Issues Raised

- Parking along the crossroads/main street
Action – Cllr Johnston to raise with the Jolly Farmers for further discussion and raise with NY Highways. The Council acknowledges this is difficult to police and requires sensible parking/drivers.
- Fly Tipping on Leppington Lane
Action – Parish Councillors as well as residents to monitor. It is believed this may be soil dumped from digging out of badger sets locally. Local Police should be notified at the earliest convenience.

11 Leavening Events Committee

- Councillors agreed with the Chair to review terms of reference to ensure the Events Committee was effectively supported on governance and membership moving forward.
Action: To bring to a future meeting for sign off.
- Update on Activities – information on summer events would be circulated shortly. These included:
 - D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon Lighting (6th June, 9:15pm)
 - Village BBQ (6th July, 6pm)
 - Village Fete (7th July, 2pm)

12. Parish Council Communications (noticeboard, Facebook, website)

- Agreed to move a government request to move to .gov domain on our website to a future meeting.
- A further PC newsletter was due in May 24.

13. Any Other Business/Questions to the Chair

No further issues were raised (which had not been raised already)

14. Dates of Next Meetings

- Wednesday 22nd May 2024, 7pm – for the Annual Meeting of the Village and Meeting of Electors
- Monday 10th June 2024, 7pm
- Monday 9th September 2024, 7pm