

RAVENSTONEDALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 16th February 2017

in Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre at 7.30pm

Present - Councillor Ernest Leach (Chairman) Cllrs. Helen Shields, Alison Morriss, Richard Hunter and James Richardson.
County Councillor Libby Bateman
Clerk, Chris Elphick

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Paul Capstick, and Hilary Law.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any item on this agenda.

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 12th January 2017 had been circulated and were signed by the chairman as a correct record.

Ravenstonedale Community & Heritage Centre

It was reported that the refurbishment of the Upper Room was nearing completion. Changes to the Business Rating valuations have made it necessary to re-apply for Small Business Rate Relief. No response has yet been received.

Highways – Gritting

Complaints had been received regarding the lack of highway gritting in Ravenstonedale and Newbiggin-on-Lune during recent icy weather conditions. A response had been received from Cumbria Highways as follows:

“In 2012, Cabinet reviewed the winter service and agreed to add scheduled bus routes on to the existing gritting service. The criteria for inclusion were 2 or more buses a day for 5 days or more per week.”

At the time, both Newbiggin and Ravenstonedale fulfilled the criteria, and were duly added onto our Kirkby Stephen gritting route. The bus service has since been withdrawn, but the gritting routes have not been reduced and therefore still cover both villages.

However, there is a regular problem with parked vehicles in both Newbiggin and Ravenstonedale which makes it extremely difficult, sometimes impossible, for the gritter to actually get through. The situation is particularly bad at night, when people are back home from work, are visiting the pub etc., but less of a problem during daytime. It is also much more difficult for our drivers when a plough blade is fitted to the gritter, and has generated a number of Near Miss reports in our Health and Safety systems. The main problem is the parking congestion (which of course could also affect the emergency services), and so the recommendation is that Highways should not carry out gritting through Newbiggin and Ravenstonedale villages at times when parking congestion occurs.

It was also stated that “Ravenstonedale & Newbiggin-on-Lune no longer fit the Cumbria CC criteria for gritting since the withdrawal of daily bus services. School buses do not count”

Councillor Morriss disputed that assertion as Cumbria Classic Coaches currently serve Ravenstonedale on four days a week and the Western Dales Bus operates on Fridays.

Other possible solutions to the problem are being sought, including self-help, employing a local contractor with a small machine to spread grit supplied by Highways and signage restricting parking at the north end of the village.

Elections May 2017

Councillors were reminded of restrictions on political activity at council meetings and on council premises during a six week period preceding the Local Council Elections scheduled for 5th May 2017. During this time, pre-election restrictions apply and parish councils are required to take particular care over publicity to ensure that communications are balanced and without bias and that there is no appearance of support for any particular party or individual seeking election. Detailed instructions had been provided by CALC.

YDNPA Parish Forums

Following consultation with parishes in the newly extended Yorkshire Dales National Park it is proposed to form a new "Western Dales Forum" to complement the North and South Forums which presently serve the former area of the YDNP. Details to be announced.

Planning

It was reported that Eden District Council had satisfactorily dealt with the complaint about unacceptable Noise Pollution at Gracete Moor.

No response had yet been received from YDNPA regarding complaints on the practice of providing only the Application Number of planning applications, leaving it to individual councils to download and transmit information to councillors. It was noted that Orton PC has also complained.

Garden Waste Skip Agreement

The clerk has submitted a request to EDC that Ravenstonedale be included in the scheme for 2017

The Yorkshire Dales Society

An invitation had been received for Ravenstonedale Parish Council to join the Yorkshire Dales Society now that the parish has been absorbed into the Yorkshire Dales. It was considered that membership of this society would not significantly benefit the Parish.

Food Safety Regulations

Forms for Self-Assessment of Food Safety Regulations for Village Halls have been received from EDC. Clerk to complete and ensure compliance.

Finance

A current Statement of Accounts had been received from Newbiggin-on-Lune Public Hall had been received as requested. Payment of £1,500 had been sent as authorised (minutes January 2017).

Accounts Paid prior to meeting

CBS Electrical Ltd	£ 340.39
M Sedgwick (Joinery)	£3,803.20
N-o-L Public Hall	£1,500.00
A R Mason (Electrical)	£ 724.04
Allan Stobart (Heating Oil)	£ 239.90
HandD Heating Ltd (Boiler service)	£ 105.60

Accounts for Payment

FoLD Membership Renewal	£ 30.00
Gary Sedgwick (Plumbing & Heating)	£4,432.76
C J Elphick (Month 11)	£ 586.60
HMRC (Month 11)	£ 27.80
C J Elphick (expenses to 16/02/17)	£ 194.40

Correspondence received

Community Heartbeat Trust - Public Access Defibrillator information
The Pensions Regulator – Further Declaration of no interest required
CALC Circular February 2017 (Circulated)
FoLD – Conserving Lakeland
Pre-Election advice for Local Councils – “Purdah”
YDNPA – Planning Surgeries timetable – Appointments necessary

Public Participation

There were no contributions from members of the public

Date of next meeting Thursday 9th March 2017

Signed

Chairman

Date 9th March 2017