

Constable Burton and Finghall Parish Council

The quarterly meeting of the Council held on 11th November 2024 at 7.00pm in The Queens Head, Finghall.

Present: Cllrs Smith, Hale, Gelder & Allinson, David Poole (Leyburn CAO), PCSO Diamond, Residents x 21

1. Welcome by the Chairman. Cllr Smith introduces the new clerk to residents attending.
2. Apologies: Cllr Dalton (work commitment)
3. To receive any declarations of interest. Cllr Smith – item 9.
4. To confirm the minutes of meeting held on 12th August 2024 as a true and accurate record. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
5. David Poole (Leyburn & District Community Anchor Organisation) attending to inform about their role in the Leyburn & District Area. David introduces himself and gives some history of the development of the organisation. 23 PC's and support groups in the area, and it is recommended for PCs to have a Community Emergency Plan, although there is no funding to assist presently. Our contact for the CAO is Marje Blake. The CAO provides support in both emergency and non-emergency situations and are contactable 24/7, the hub is within Leyburn Arts Centre. The CAO have working links with specialist support providers. Mr Poole gives a detailed explanation about what happens should an emergency situation be declared in the area. Many questions from residents & Cllrs. Clerk to agenda for February meeting.
6. Crime report. PCSO Diamond attending, she leaves her contact cards for residents to contact as required. Crime report received for August, September & October, reports forwarded to Cllrs.
7. Matters raised by members of the public. None at this time.
8. Clerk report. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary.
 - Defibrillator for Hauxwell, electricity supply and installation. Funding received from London Hearts, cost to PC £750, now received and waiting for electrician to complete the necessary work. Deadline from funding agency is 12/12, as PC asked for an extension.
 - To discuss Highway's response re: the average speeds along A684, review quotes for the Vehicle Activated sign at Constable Burton, change of location and Locality funding offer. Highways replied to our concerns about the recent speed survey, they feel the average speeds are fine for the location: 40.5mph eastbound, 36.5 westbound. Three quotes received for Vehicle activated sign: Westcotec £4136, data collection £379, 6 year warranty. Swarco £3952, data collection included, 5 year warranty. TWM £4576.02, data collection included, 5 year warranty + £500 for the post and installation from NYC. It was resolved to order from Swarco, the location has been amended to be nearer to the village centre and also allows for a solar powered VAS to be used. North Yorkshire Cllr Jones has offered £2000 towards this project from his Locality funding, it was resolved to accept this funding.
 - Highways updates. Response from Highways about the problems with parking at the Hargill Lane junction, Finghall. Highways offer to forward a letter to households adjacent to that junction highlighting the "Highway Code". Response about the request for "no footpath sign" at Barden, unable to provide at that location but happy to supply a quote for a nameplate "BARDEN Please drive carefully", clerk to request a quote.
 - Resident concerns. Grumpy ram at St Andrews Church, PC asked for a sign to warn walkers.
 - NYC Highways meeting for Clerks. Highlighted our ageing population in NY, road safety inspections carried out dependant on usage. Last year's wet winter caused many problems with road surfaces and thus Highways may overspend this year. Drains should only be reported if risk of life or property. Highways request that if any vulnerable areas require a grit bin, then this can be arranged.

9. Planning Applications.

- Full planning permission for a new three bedroom workers dwelling to support the farming enterprise at Friar Ings, Barden Lane, Barden. Comments raised: Traffic. All the roads into Barden are very narrow and Councillors raise concerns about the extra traffic this development will produce, both during the construction and following. Changing of the landscape. Concerns about this dwelling being used solely for farm workers. Two dwellings are currently at this location; is there need for a further farm workers dwelling?
- Full planning permission for replacement of existing dwelling and construction of ancillary cottage and outbuildings at Southwick Grange, Hargill Lane, Finghall. Key concerns which Cllrs would like addressing please: Increased height & size of the proposed building. As this development is outside the village, concerns were raised about the visual impact of this new building. Parking. Councillors are concerned about parking issues during the development and after its completion. They are requesting that all vehicles involved in the construction, as well as those associated with the final building refrain from blocking the road and bridleway.
- Listed building consent for alteration and extension of the guest house at the rear for use as ancillary living accommodation associated with the Public House and Guest House, Queens Head, Finghall. No objections.
- Full planning permission for the construction of a detached garage (amendment) at The Barn, Constable Burton. No objections.
- Discharge of conditions 4,6,7,8,9&10 in relation to application 20/00458/FULL at Akebar Park. No objections.
- Outline planning permission with all matter reserved for residential development for 10 dwellings at land at Blewhouse Lane, Finghall. Twenty one residents attending to discuss this application, Cllr Smith asks residents to give their comments: inaccuracies in the application, Blewhouse Lane (narrow, safety of road users, no passing places, no lighting), additionally Highways didn't send representation for the last application at this site, drainage/flooding risk, no planning announcement notices around the site, Local Plan for area already exceeded, amenities limited, reduction of privacy, suggestion of bungalows, footpath change – has landowner been consulted? Questions about planning committee meeting, concerns about the application being outline and no specifics about design, is there a need for new houses in Finghall? Developers should provide Section 106 payment towards community amenities.
Cllr Gelder suggests that all residents should write to the planning department with their concerns. Clerk to email Highways to highlight that Highways didn't respond to the consultation in 2023 and ask for site meeting, also email North Yorkshire Cllr Jones to ensure this application will go to planning committee meeting. It was resolved to send the 2023 application PC representation.
- Full planning permission for extension of existing agricultural building to provide a new muck store with concrete yard area to front at Spruce Gill Farm, Finghall. Cllr Smith declares an interest. No objections.
- Appeal notice: Outline planning permission for 1 dwelling at Chapel Lane Farm, Finghall. No comments.
- Granted: FPP for change of use of an existing double garage to form a one bedroom annex at Parklands, Chapel Lane, Finghall

10. Matters requested by Councillors.

Cllr Smith highlights that the water run off on Chapel Lane is not going down the drains, this is since the electricity works and some of the repairs have dropped. Clerk to report. Resident highlights the 'bend in road' signs near Church Lane junction do not include information that there is a junction also. Clerk to inform Highways.

11. To discuss Casual Parish Councillor vacancy. NY Electoral Services has confirmed that the vacancy at Hauxwell can now be filled by co-option. It was resolved to advertise this vacancy and decide at the February meeting.

12. To discuss Standing Orders in relation to recent YLCA advice. Advice from YLCA is that the NALC Model Standing Orders should be adopted in full. It was resolved to keep the original standing orders.

13. Financial matters. Balance at 11/11/24 £8773.75 (all Cllrs present viewed the internal financial controls)
- Incoming
- NYC (Precept 2nd payment) £5000.00
 - Dawn Gelder (Donation from Christmas Wreaths 2023) £600.00
 - HMRC (VAT reimbursement) £53.00
- Outgoing
- London Hearts (Match funding for defib) £750.00
 - HMRC (PAYE) £48.44
 - Vicki Raven (August, September, October wages) £1092.90
 - Zurich (Insurance) £375.43 (due for review and may change with new defib & VAS)
 - VCS Websites (Hosting/domain name) £124.00
- NALC – Local Government Pay agreement & review of hours. Clerk at Scale 17 since May 24, it was resolved to increase as NALC agreement from £14.95/hour to £15.58/hour from May 24 onwards. April 24, increase from £14.21 to £14.84/hour. Clerk keeps spreadsheet of hours worked for the six months to end October this equalled 6.8/hours per week. Resolved to keep the current hours to 6/week. Forecast 25/26 & Precept setting. Cllr Hale explains the financial review 2023, and that it was decided then to hold the precept at £10,000 for the next 3 years; this was to increase the contribution the PC can offer to benefit the community and to access grant funding as the PC is often required to contribute or match fund. Full budget meeting for AGM and it was resolved to set the precept at £10,000, this will equate to an approximate reduction of 5.02% of the PC precept payment by residents (Band D property).
14. Safety Review. Constable Burton park inspections 13/9 & 10/10, no new items. Slight play in all the swing bushes, and Cllr Hale has spoken with the Park Inspector who suggested it would be pertinent to fix these, not urgent. Clerk to put on forward planner for April.
15. To consider the following new correspondence received and decide action where necessary:
- North Yorkshire Council – Parish Portal update & Parish Liaison Panel. Parish Portal ends in December but PC's will be able to use the customer portal. Clerk joined Parish Liaison Consultation Panel, and attended feedback meeting 6/11 – she highlighted that Leyburn/Bedale wasn't an option for these meetings, Liaison group couldn't attend all market towns this time but will hope to attend Leyburn or Bedale next time. Also discussed the problems with communication from the NYC planning department, the parish liaison group has already targeted this and hope to see improvements in the next few months.
- Boundary Commission – Consultation. North Yorkshire Cllr boundary area, discussed our current area. Cllrs could see no reason to alter. Clerk to reply and Cllrs can reply individually as Cllrs.
- North Yorkshire Citizens Advice & Law Centre – information about residents uses of the service and donation request. Two clients were helped with 4 issues, it was resolved not to donate this time.
- VCS Websites – update. Cllr Hale reviewed information, nothing of concern.
- Resident/member of Chapel group – Request for support from the Parish Council for the Finghall Chapel village hall proposal. Resident/member of Chapel group informs about their recent meeting. Methodists happy to rent chapel for use as a village hall. Cllr Hale queries if the need has been assessed, additionally this would need to be self sufficient and a business plan would be required to confirm viability. Cllr Gelder supports but this needs to be self sufficient and a community asset. Another Chapel meeting will be held after Christmas.
- NYC – Wensleydale Sixth form consultation. Ceasing to provide sixth form provision from 2025. Clerk to forward email to Cllrs.
- Resident – suggestion for an anchored bench on the corner green in Constable Burton, along with some planters. Cllrs agreed to spend £600 (earmarked for projects such as this) and would like a plastic, recycled bench for ease of maintenance. Quotes required. Resident also sends thanks for reporting the pavement problems & pot holes in Mill Lane.
16. Date of next meeting. 10th February, 7pm – Constable Burton Reading Room
Meeting closed: 9.38pm