

**MINUTES OF THE BYLAND WITH WASS AND OLDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD  
ON MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2019**

**1.ATTENDEES**

Cllr. Statham Chair, Cllr. Gibson, Cllr. Gilruth, Cllr. Metcalfe, Cllr. Bradley, Mrs. Clarke (clerk).

**2.PARISH PORTAL.**

All the councillors are now registered except Cllr. Metcalfe who will register this week.

**3.PARISH PRECEPT**

It was thought to be helpful to decide criteria that might be used by the PC in decisions taken about spending, given that the funding of all public services was under pressure. Following discussion, it was agreed that a set of criteria should be established to be used by councillors when considering expenditure from the limited precept funds. This would also have the benefit of enabling local residents to understand the rationale behind any decision making, making it a transparent process. The following two criteria were agreed:

1. Issues of Community Safety. The safety of the community and the public would be a paramount consideration in any future financial decision making.
2. Provision of important amenities. If in future, residents might need to replace an important amenity or in some circumstances acquire a new one, consideration would be given when no other source of funding was available.

**4.STATE OF THE VERGES BETWEEN BYLAND ABBEY AND OLDSTEAD**

Cllr. Gibson stated that the growth of bracken on the verges between Byland Abbey and Oldstead made this road unsafe, particularly in the summer when rain caused the bracken to obstruct the road.

In the past the verges have been cut by the Highways Department of North Yorkshire County Council, but funding is no longer available for this. Cllr. Gibson has asked the Highways Department how much they would charge to cut the verges along this road which

is 1.78 km long. The quote from David Younger of the Highways Department was £2,456.40 for a 1m. wide cut down one side. To cut both sides would be £4912.80.

In contrast and with the assistance of Cllr. Metcalfe, Cllr. Gibson has received a quote from Ben Rymer for cutting the verges. This was £250 for cutting both verges in June or July.

Whilst councillors believe that road safety is the responsibility of North Yorkshire County Council, it was clear that this local road was low priority and would not be cut by them. Therefore, it was agreed that Ben Rymer should cut the verges next summer to ensure the road is safe.

Further, County councillor Caroline Goodrick is to be contacted regarding this situation so that she is aware that the Highways Department are not able to fulfil its commitments to road safety in these times of austerity and also to enquire about the possibility of funding for cutting the verges from the County Councillor's own local fund.

A copy of the emails between Cllr. Gibson and the Highways Department is on file with minutes of this meeting.

## **5. REPAIRING AND REPLACING VILLAGE SIGNS**

5.1. OLDSTEAD. Cllr. Gibson circulated photographs of the roundels which hold Oldstead village signs. These roundels are currently in a state of poor repair and are to be refurbished by a conservation stone mason at a cost of £1656. The metal hoops will be replaced by MW Ironworks of Thirsk who will charge £300.

Cllr. Gibson has obtained funding for the refurbishment. Up to £500 will come from a Village Improvement Scheme set up by the National Park with a further £1500 coming from the Environmental Fund held by the County Councillor, Caroline Goodrick.

The rationale for this expenditure is that the roundels in Oldstead are archaeological artefacts of historical significance, having reputedly been made by French prisoners of war during the Napoleonic Wars, and this initiative will preserve them.

5.2. BYLAND ABBEY SIGNS Cllr. Statham referred to a paper which he had circulated in September outlining the many thefts of village signs in North Yorkshire. He informed the

meeting that the cost of replacing the two signs at Byland Abbey could be £750 - £1250, depending on the style and materials used.

Further investigations are to be made with regard to the options in replacing the signs. Funding might be available from the Village Improvement Fund and/or from grants made by the office of the County Councillor, Caroline Goodrick. It was also agreed to investigate the replacing of the signs through our insurance cover, provided by Zurich, though recognising that this may have implications for the premium paid. Obtaining the crime number from NY Police would be a pre-requisite of an insurance claim.

When a Wass sign was stolen some years ago an economic option was chosen, which was both effective and less attractive to thieves.

It was agreed that all options should be explored in obtaining replacement signs, and economics would be a deciding factor.

Cllr. Gilruth informed the meeting that, in the past, the North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority have been responsible for the signs, and their interest would be investigated too.

## **6.FINANCE.**

6.1. BALANCE. Mrs. Clarke informed the meeting that the balance was £5,418.14

6.2. PRECEPT. Mrs. Clarke informed the meeting that charges on the parish per year were: £257 for insurance: £58.38 electricity bill for the street light in Wass: £200 for the clerk's stipend: £8.09 for pooh bags for dogs.

The parish council agreed that the precept requested for next year should remain at £800.

## **7.PLANNING**

7.1. OLDSTEAD. The Stables. Single storey extension. No objections.

7.2. WASS. Orchard House. Dormer window. No objections.

## **8.ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Statham raised the matter of the road traffic signs in Oldstead. The sign out of Oldstead going towards Byland Abbey is not a 30 m.p.h. sign but an unrestricted speed sign. Cllr.

Statham suggested that this was an anomaly and might lead drivers to drive too fast on a narrow road with many bends.

**9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING.**

The next meeting will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Jenny Clark. Parish clerk.