

MUKER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM 16 MARCH 2023 AT THE
MUKER VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council meeting was held on the 16 March 2023.

Councillors: Cllr Metcalfe, Cllr Calvert, Cllr Reynoldson, Cllr Peacock and Cllr Whitehead presiding.

The Clerk was Mr Michael Cleminson.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Jill McMullon, Cllr Porter.
- 2. Declaration of Interests:** None
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 26 January 2023 have been circulated. The Minutes were approved as a correct record. Proposed by: Cllr Metcalf and Seconded by: Cllr Whitehead.
- 4. Matters Arising:**
 - a. The King's Coronation – 6th May 2023. Cllr. Whitehead outlined that the celebrations would be similar to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee of last year. Proceedings will commence at 2.00pm at Muker Village Hall, there will be a bouncy castle, treasure hunt and a quiz. Refreshments will be available in the Village Hall. Cllr. Whitehead proposed that the sum of £400.00 should be given to support the project. This was unanimously agreed.
 - b. Grass-cutting – previously the Council had requested Highways to reduce the number of cuts per year. A response was received from Highways, stating that 2 cuts per year were the norm for Swaledale, which will be in place for this year. However, Highways are looking at bio-diversity and may reduce cuts in the future. It was noted that Cllr. Metcalfe proposed that the Parish Council send a positive communication of thanks to Highways. Clerk to contact Highways.
 - c. Swaledale Memorial Woodland, off Buttertubs Road. The email and proposal by Neil Clarkson was considered. The Councillors considered that trees on the site would alter the look of the landscape, it was also doubted whether the land would sustain the growth of trees. It was considered that a few trees would be acceptable provided that they were maintained and height kept to a minimum. The Clerk to contact Mr. Clarkson.
 - d. Woodland Creation Grants – similar to item C above, the Councillors thought that adding trees and woodland to Swaledale would be unnatural, and that once planted would reduce land and meadows. The Councillors did not support the proposals and know of no owners who would wish to participate, but will inform other landowners in the parish.
 - e. Emergency Plan – The Clerk reported that he was unable to locate an Emergency Plan. Cllr. Whitehead believed that one had been in existence in the early 1980's. It was agreed that the Parish should have at least, a basic emergency plan. Cllr. Peacock reported that NYCC do have a template for an emergency plan and suggested the we obtain a copy and utilise it. The Clerk to contact NYCC.
 - f. UK shared Prosperity Fund – Cllr Whitehead outlined the fund and its objectives. Cllr. Peacock reported that the fund is very much in its infancy and she is attending a meeting on 22nd March, when hopefully she will have a better understanding of the fund and what it is intended for. It may not be appropriate for small Parish

Councils. She did confirm that the fund is spread over 3 years commencing 2024 and would be targeting rural areas and settlements.

5. Finance:

Cllr. Calvert reported that the move to electronic banking was proving difficult with Barclays Bank, being passed from department to department, and no-one offered any simple solution to moving this forward. Barclays were overly focussed on proof of identification etc., which was considered ridiculous given that the current signatories have been in place for some time. Cllr. Calvert will persevere to move the Parish Council to a simpler banking method. See below a Councillor resignation will need to be taken into consideration.

Orders to pay were raised for the following:-

Zurich Insurance Annual Renewal

Clerk's Salary & HMRC

Keld Village Hall – Contribution for King's Coronation

The Clerk reported that the precept from 1st April from NYC will be paid in 2 instalments, one in April and then one in October.

6. Highways:

The Clerk reported that since Ian Beighton had moved to another area, no responses had been received to all outstanding matters since December 2022. We are still awaiting an invoice for the signs at Keld. Cllr. Peacock reported that she had been in touch with Highways and Ian Beighton had agreed to update us. Cllr. Metcalfe reported erosion caused by the beck passed Ducking Dub bridge to Usha Gap bridge. Cllr. Metcalfe had taken a photo of the erosion which in time may in time undermine the road and cause damage. The Clerk to report to Highways.

Cllr Whitehead raised the ridiculous situation regarding the recent on off roadworks at Healeagh with what can only be described as appalling information and directions. Cllr Whitehead produced a photograph of the sign placed at the bottom of the Buttertubs, Thwaite which was showing the wrong direction trying to send traffic over Kisdon to Gunnerside where there is no road. As of today's meeting, the signs are still in place showing the February road close dates. These signs have not updated with the additional closures no information was supplied to show the additional closures. Cllr Peacock this was a persistent problem and took the photograph from Councillor Whitehead to show to Highways and seek updates for outstanding matters.

7. Richmondshire D.C

From April 2023 Richmondshire District Council will become part of NYCC

8. NYCC

As stated above, all districts in North Yorkshire will merge into NYC. The Clerk has received correspondence from NYCC indicating that they may introduce "20's Plenty" across the county, to reduce all 30mph limits to 20mph. Councillors are requested to vote on support of this proposal. Unanimously the proposal is not supported by Muker Parish Council, it is not considered appropriate within the Parish, as in most 30mph zones 30mph is not achievable. Cllr. Peacock reported that she was aware of this and knew of no local parish councils who supported this proposal.

NYCC now has a Corona Virus information and advice page on their website.

9. YDNPA

Pre-planning consultation followed by the full Planning application R/06/270, regarding a proposed installation of a new mobile telephone mast at Satron. Full planning permission has since been submitted.

Councillors were of the opinion that it was unclear from the applications how this linked with current masts and what areas the signal provided by this mast will be serviceable. In principle the Council supports the application as any improvement to communications is seen as positive, for the community, safety and the local economy. Clerk to submit comments to planning

Planning Ref R/06/269 – Permission for an extension of existing dwelling into adjoining former barn, to provide additional living accommodation at Kisdon Lodge, Kisdon Side Road, Keld. The application is supported by the Parish Council this development ensures that the traditional buildings at this site are preserved and maintained for the future. Clerk to submit comments to planning

The proposed Weather Station with camera at the Buttertubs, near the Millennium Cairn. The councillors welcome the introduction of a weather station, although they thought it unclear as to the precise location and size of the structure to be installed. This location is frequently used for photography etc, concerns that the structure may obstruct the lay-by and whether it would be visible in deep snow, or a position where it could easily be damaged. Clerk to submit PC comments YDNPA.

10. YLCA:- Nothing to report

11. Correspondence/AOB:

Cllr. Metcalfe raised concerns about 2 barns on the left as you approach Angram from Thwaite. He said paths had been installed and extensions attached to the buildings. It was agreed that contact should be made with YDNPA to ensure that all developments complied with planning permissions. The Clerk to contact YDNPA.

The Chair, Cllr. Whitehead formally tendered his resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect, after having served on the Parish Council for 50 years and as Chair for 35 years. The Councillors regretted the leaving of Cllr. Whitehead and acknowledged his dedication, service and commitment to Muker Parish over the years and wished him well for the future. The Deputy Chair Cllr. Calvert will assume the role of Temporary Chair in the interim period. The Clerk to advertise the vacancy to seek expressions of interest for the vacant post, and to inform Richmondshire District Council.

Date and Time of Next and Annual PC Meeting : 7.30pm Wednesday 3rd May 2023 Muker Village Hall.

The meeting closed at. 9.00pm