

MUKER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AT 7.30PM THURSDAY 8th August
2024 MUKER VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council meeting was held on the 8th August 2024.

Councillors: Cllr Reynoldson, Cllr Rukin, Cllr Metcalfe, Cllr Porter, Cllr Peacock and Cllr Calvert
Chair presiding. Two interested parents attended the meeting for the schools item.

The Clerk was Mr Michael Cleminson.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Reynoldson.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** None.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th June 2024 have been circulated. The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record. Proposed By Cllr Rukin and Seconded by: Cllr Metcalfe.

4. Matters Arising

a. Relocation of recycling bins from Keld Lodge. Cllr Rukin, said that the residents of Keld had decided that the recycling bins were unnecessary and were happy for them to be removed permanently. Clerk to inform NYC.

b. NYC school proposals. The Executive meeting took place on 16th July 2024, when the proposal was unanimously agreed and forwarded to the full Council meeting on 24 July 2024. The proposal was approved by 48 Votes for and 36 against. Cllr Peacock said that all comments had been read and considered by Cllr Annabel Wilkinson and that all routes for Upper Swaledale and Arkengarthdale will be risk assessed by NYC, instead of the transport providers. At some point in the future 50-seater buses may be required, which are totally unsuitable for the proposed routes. Cllrs and parents pointed out that the three routes are single track ungritted routes used by HGV's. The routes are in a poor state of repair with limited or any suitable passing places, meaning the school buses may be required to reverse, probably requiring someone to assist and guide reversing. Cllr Peacock said current NYC policy is not to grit school routes. A parent reported that they had contacted a potential transport provider who said, in poor weather they would not attempt travel to Kirkby Stephen, which will result in lost school days. Cllrs and parents were concerned that children could not be safely transported to school in the morning, but sudden Winter weather including fog would render the return journey impossible even utilising other routes, with potential for accommodation and supervision of children required.

Parents are soon required to make choices about school attendance, this is difficult and complicated without knowing how transport will safely be provided. Even if parents agree to pay for transport to their preferred school, there is no guarantee of a place on the bus for their years of attendance at a school. This leads to the perverse situation where a child could attend different schools, this was considered to be grossly unfair and a significant disruption to a child and their education and well-being. Cllr Peacock said it is unclear at this time who and how will the risk

assessments will be conducted on the three routes. Cllrs and parents have concerns about the safety of children and should an accident occur where the liability rests, given all of the warnings and concerns raised about these three routes. Cllr Peacock and parents pointed out that a working Group should be as of now in place to assess and make decisions on the proposals, Cllr Peacock was not sure if any work had commenced or reports prepared. It is understood that the group should report before the end of August, It was agreed that the Clerk correspond with Rishi Sunak MP and Cllrs Wilkinson, Newbold and Keane identifying our concerns and points raised in this meeting.

c. Car parking Muker. Highways initially offered two options, it was agreed that signs will have to be installed. Cllrs said it must be agreed that the land is Common land. It was noted that a member of the community had viewed a copy of a map and that the Parish Council can be provided with a copy free of charge. Clerk to update relevant authorities of Council decision and obtain copy of a map.

d. Website and Transparency Code. The Clerk said he had been contacted by a second company who provided a quote for preparing a website that would ensure compliance with the code. The Clerk said that although set up was free but future monthly costs would be between £400 and £500 per year. However, a company identified by Yorkshire Local Councils Association offered a £200 discount on set up costs if a member of YLCA, which we are, with a lower annual charge of £199 per year. Cllr Peacock said that many smaller parish Councils face the same dilemma and an increase in the precept maybe required to fund the additional expense. The £100 grant for a gov.uk is now available. Cllr's agreed a website would be required but to minimise cost it should be delayed as far as possible but before April 2025

e. Coast 2 coast consultation regarding a minor diversion to a footpath near Rampsholme, Muker. Cllrs agreed that this was an insignificant change and that the Clerk inform the authorities that there are no objections.

Finance Nothing To Report.

5. **Highways.** The Clerk reported that no replies had been received to enquiries about the time being taken to commence bridge repairs at Usha gap and Scarr House. Cllr Metcalfe said he had put the barriers and tied back the barriers on occasions but the barriers are not suitable or effective Cllr Peacock said she would raise this with Highways saying the Bridge team are very busy in particular in Arkengarthdale and that her areas has more bridges than any other in the County, Cllr Peacock also informed the meeting that works will soon be commencing on the B6270 between Keld West Stonesdale and further along he B6270 to repair potholes and other patching. Cllr Rukin said that Highways had measured for repairs to a cattle grid in West Stonesdale.

Cllrs raised the issue of grass cutting and hedge trimming in the dale. Only one grass cut has taken place this year which is what the council requested, but no hedge trimming yet! Clerk to contact Highways to request hedge trimming between Thwaite and Gunnerside Bridge to improve road safety

6. **NYC – NTR.**

7. NALC – NTR

8. YDNPA Listed building consent for replacement of 6, single glazed timber windows with 6 . Heritage double-glazed timber windows to match existing at Greenses Farm, Angram Lane, Keld, DL11 6DY - R/06/134G/LB. supported response from Cllrs by e-mail.

9. YLCA – Nothing to report.

10. Correspondence/AOB: The Clerk on behalf of Cllr Reynoldson said that car parking at the bottom of Thwaite had reoccurred resulting in tractors and farm machinery being unable to use the Highway because of obstructions caused by a member of the community. This escalated on Sunday 28th July resulting in the wrong conclusion being made by the person causing the obstruction. Which caused consternation in the village. Cllrs agreed that polite letter be sent to the person causing the obstruction, that parking should be within the curtilage of their land and not obstructing the Highway, and to be provide with a copy of Tile deeds showing the curtilage of their property which does not extend to Common land or the Pennine Way the responsibility of YDNPA.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday 17 September 2024 at Muker Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.