

WILBERFOSS PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Sarah Wills 2 Paddock Close Wilberfoss YORK YO41 5LX.

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MINUTES

16th November 2023

Present: Chair Richard Rains, Vice Chair Lynda Hoyle and Cllrs David Barnett, Colin Veitch, Karen Innis, Alan Mercer and Stuart Savage, together with one member of the public and Ward Councillor Andrew Cousins.

During the 15-minute public question time Rosemary Beyer sought clarification of the impending drainage work on Beckside. Cllr Veitch advised that a drain line will be installed, along with an outfall head next to the footbridge. Surface water will be stored and discharged at intervals, according to the water pressure in the holding tank. It is understood that this will offer better protection from flooding in the future. A further query was raised about the daffodil planting scheme on Beckside. Cllr Innis confirmed that Wilberfoss in Bloom are in consultation and replacement bulbs will be provided and planted by the contractor. Rosemary advised the Council to be aware that previous works to Beckside left the bank compacted which posed an issue when planting bulbs. This information was appreciated and noted.

1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Dominic Johnson and Michelle Wallis
2. As a member of Wilberfoss in Bloom, Cllr Innis declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.2 when Cllrs would consider a request for financial assistance from Wilberfoss in Bloom.
3. The Minutes of the Meeting of the 19th October 2023 were signed as a true record.

4. **Planning Matters**

4.1 Councillors were notified that Planning Application 23/02622/PLF | 32 Park Lane, Wilberfoss had been **granted permission**.

5. Ward Cllr Andrew Cousins was pleased to confirm that the parameters around commuted sums have been lowered since the last housing development was built in Wilberfoss and there is a likelihood that the proposed development of 69 properties off Main Street, Wilberfoss will qualify. He notified the Council that the Devolution, which will offer funding decisions at a more local level, might feature in the Chancellor's Autumn statement, although no information has yet been shared.

Cllr Barnett enquired about the decision of East Riding of Yorkshire Council not to consider the Parish Council's request for a parish boundary amendment and Cllr Cousins offered to follow this up on the Council's behalf.

6. There were no urgent decisions taken since the last meeting.

7. **Progress Reports and to address any issues outstanding from previous meetings.**

- 7.1 The Chairman advised that the sound quality of the PA system on Remembrance Sunday was excellent. The Clerk continues to gather evidence of use in order to secure the second instalment of the DIFEY funds. A request to install a gate in the rear hedge of the war memorial (to offer easier access when setting up the equipment for Remembrance Sunday) will be considered at January's Parish Council meeting.
- 7.2 The Clerk was delighted to advised that the 2023 allocation from the Quarry Fund of £3,043.85 has been credited to the Parish Council's account.
- 7.3 A discussion took place regarding the provision of speed activation signage. Following statistical evidence from Fleetham Parish Council, who had seen a positive impact following installation of such signage, it was agreed unanimously that entering the parish boundary on Ling Lane should be the first location, with a plan for Main Street in due course. Ward Cllr Cousins suggested the Clerk speak to Kier Group Plc who are the contractors for Millsike Prison, as he was under the impression that they had funded projects for neighbouring Parish Councils. Beyond that, the Clerk was tasked with following up contractor leads offered by Fleetham Parish Council and to talk to East Riding of Yorkshire Council highways and planning officers.

- 7.4 A lengthy discussion took place regarding the legalities of fixing posters/postcards to offending vehicles to discourage parking on pavements. It was acknowledged that any significant campaign should be delayed until Openreach have completed the FTTP broadband scheme, as there has been an increase in the need to park on pavements whilst their vans are on site. Posters will still be added to notice boards and a 3-month campaign in the Newsletter was proposed. It was acknowledged that in limited cases, where village streets are very narrow and access is needed by farm machinery, parking on pavements may be necessary from time to time.
- 7.5 The Clerk advised that Grimston Landscapes have been contracted to carry out maintenance to the fence at the Brownie Garden on amenity land off Storking Lane. Paint has been purchased and passed to the volunteer who will carry on making improvements to the site.

8. **Environment & Community Matters (to include Highways & Footways, Health, Education, Policing, Street Lighting and Community Groups)**

- 8.1 A lengthy discussion took place regarding recent flooding to Becksid and Storking Lane. It is understood this was caused by 40 mm of rainfall within hours, following a period of heavy rain that had already saturated land. The Clerk advised that she had been approached by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to provide photo/video/descriptive evidence that will be used in a report to be compiled by ERYC. She has shared this request with the community through the Newsletter. The Clerk further advised that contact with East Riding revealed that as a Council they no longer provide sandbags to individual homeowners. This information will be shared with the community, along with details of the Environment Agency's flood map for Wilberfoss. Cllr Savage enquired whether the Parish Council could consider having a store of sandbags, but it was agreed that logistically this would be impossible. It was further acknowledged that the pump that Wilberfoss Parish Council was gifted is not adequate to mitigate flooding and at best could only be suitable for removing floodwater from affected properties. The Clerk was asked to contact the Internal Drainage Board for any report on the incident affecting Wilberfoss.
- 8.2 Cllrs were presented with a formal request from Wilberfoss in Bloom for financial assistance to contribute towards the cost of planting perennial plants. Moving away from bedding plants will mean less watering is necessary in an ever-changing climate. Cllrs unanimously agreed to contribute £288 towards the project. It was anticipated that funds would be required in March 2024. A further request is anticipated in January and will be assessed in time to set the Precept for 2024/2025.

9. **Councillors' Reports for future Agendas**

- 9.1 Cllr Savage advised that it is proving impossible to get an updated schedule from Openreach for the FTTP scheme. He will, however, put a note in the Newsletter to encourage homeowners to consider where they may want cabling to enter their properties, in anticipation of the engineers' visit.
- 9.2 The Clerk reported that Cllr Wallis will produce an extended edition of the Newsletter in December to compensate for the lack of Newsletter in January, when the printer closes for an extended period over Christmas. The extra expense in December will be £100. The saving in January will be £300.

10. **Administration Matters**

- 10.1 A lengthy discussion took place regarding the budget and Precept for 2024/2025. The Clerk will circulate a link to the Parish Council's Action Plan and results of the recent online Parish Plan so that Cllrs can understand the needs and wants of Wilberfoss electors. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council's reserve was there in part due to anticipated spend being funded externally.
- 10.2 December's meeting will take place at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 14th December, a week earlier than planned. It will only cover planning applications, any urgent decisions and finances and is anticipated to last no longer than 30 minutes.
- 10.3 The Clerk agreed to circulate details of the Western Area Parish Liaison Meeting, taking place on Tuesday 21st November in Pocklington. Several Cllrs have prior engagements and will not be available to attend.
- 10.4 Cllr Barnett proposed that a decision on the adoption of a Social Media Policy be delayed until January's meeting. Cllrs were in agreement with his request.

11. **Finance** (in accordance with *The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, Part 4(19)*) members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting before details of the employees' salaries are revealed but will be permitted to stay for all other payment details. Copies of the Parish Council Minutes are displayed on the two Parish Council village notice boards on Main Street and Willow Park Road and on the parish website (www.wilberfossparish.org.uk).

11.1 The Clerk sought approval of the following payments:-

Wilberfoss Community Centre (hire charges)	£16.50
James Horsley Limited (grounds maintenance)	£661.07 (to include tree maintenance)
Poste Haste (Newsletter production)	£300.00
Clerk's expenses (paint for Brownie Garden)	£19.77
East Riding of Yorkshire Council (ID badges)	£46.44
Combined staff wages	£1101.06
IONOS Cloud Limited (website hosting)	£15.00
Information Commissioner (GDPR Renewal)	£35.00

11.2 Cllrs approved an increase in the Clerk's salary, in line with the Local Government Services Pay Agreement. The salary this month includes an element of backpay and a one-off payment of Employer's National Insurance.

11.3 The Clerk confirmed that, when it renews in January 2024, the Parish Council's insurance cover premium will be £372.71.

Meeting closed:- 21.15

The next meeting of Wilberfoss Parish Council will take place on Thursday 14th December 2023 from 7.00 pm – 7.30 pm.

Chair Clerk