

## **Bilsdale Midcable Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Chop Gate Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs M Bowes, D Hollingworth, I Brass and J Smith

In attendance: County Cllr B Griffiths, District Cllr R Kirk, Mrs B Heley, Clerk R Chapman

1. Apologies for absence received from Cllr C Devlin
2. Cllr Smith declared a personal interest in a planning item
3. Minutes of BMPC meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Agreed.
4. Matters arising from minutes:
  - a. No need to seek contractor for maintenance of the notice boards at this stage. Clerk will monitor the condition of the boards and take DIY action as necessary.
5. Planning.
  - a. NYM/2018/0448/FL Chop Gate Methodist Chapel. Councillors noted the revised parking plan to permit luggage drop off only in the green lane and all parking to be at The Buck. Councillors expressed some residual concern over whether the parking arrangement with The Buck was sustainable or would be understood / adhered to by visitors. Councillors noted that the concerns about water and sewerage services have been taken on board by Building Control.
  - b. NYM/2018/0800/FL Clay House, Chop Gate. This application had been received immediately following the last meeting of BMPC so had been considered by correspondence. Councillors had no overall objection but expressed some concern about the height of the structure at the south end in comparison with the neighbouring land and the road. Revised plans have now been received showing a lowering of overall height and reprofile of the roof. Clerk to submit comment in support of the changes and acknowledging that these reflect our earlier comments.
6. Finance.
  - a. Clerk to issue public invitation to tender for grass cutting in 2019
  - b. Some scheduled donations remain to be paid before financial year end
  - c. Clerk's salary for 20128 / 19 and income tax is yet to be paid
  - d. Meeting authorized purchase of replacement printer for £32 as the existing one has developed a paper pick up fault. To be paid from the Transparency fund.
  - e. Clerk to endeavour to pay outstanding amounts before financial year end.
7. Transparency The website needs to be improved. Cllrs Bowes and Smith and the Clerk to meet separately to discuss requirements and plan action including development and training costs. There is residual money in the Transparency fund to cover anticipated costs.

8. Fangdale Beck Village Green. Mrs Heley addressed the meeting, seeking Parish Council support for protection of the village green in Fangdale Beck as a public space. At the moment, it does not appear to be registered as a village green and does not appear in the National Park Plan as a visibly important space. Mrs Heley stated that throughout living memory, Fangdale Beck residents have enjoyed unencumbered access to the village green as a relaxation, play and amenity area.
  - a. The green had at one time formed part of the Feversham estate but since that was divided into separate parcels and sold, there had been some doubt about ownership.
  - b. One Councillor recalled that the Mexborough Estate had requested an annual fee, thought to be £90, when the Parish Council had placed a village notice board at the edge of the green. The request was not pursued after the Estate was challenged to demonstrate ownership.
  - c. NYCC Highways have reportedly stated that the area is not their responsibility.
  - d. Cllr Bowes stated that from experience, there are substantial costs involved in achieving registration of a village green
  - e. Council accepted Cllr Bowes' offer to discuss this with the NYMNPA with a view to a followup letter seeking that it be declared a community space.
9. Police Report. PCSO Dunn's report was presented to the meeting. She later sent her apologies for non attendance in person due to being diverted on other Police business.
  - a. There were no reported crimes in Bilsdale Parish area in the last 2 months.
10. Highways.
  - a. Carlton Bank
    - i. Since the meeting with NY Highways in February, some work has been done but problems remain.
    - ii. There is still water running on the road at Brandywell corner.
    - iii. The gully that was full of stone has been emptied but water is still running down the road and is also arising in the road between Brandywell and the cattle grid.
    - iv. Highways plan to jet the drains clear - likely to require 2 days of road closures.
    - v. Parish Council will continue to monitor progress of drainage improvements at Carlton Bank
  - b. Winter clearance
    - i. Cllr Brass, who is also the contractor for snow and ice clearance in Raisdale has not been deployed by NY Highways this year despite the road being in a dangerous condition on several occasions.
    - ii. Cllr Brass recently tested the gritter supplied by NYCC and found that it does not work. The grit sticks in the hopper and cannot be evenly spread.

- iii. Cllr Bowes will write to Highways to seek clarification on how to communicate for effective response in severe winter conditions.
  - c. The Urra Road is still affected by surface water accumulation.
  - d. Some roadside footpaths in Chop Gate are poor. Probably not wide enough in places between the bank and the road edge for wheelchairs / prams etc.
  - e. A drain on the B1257 opposite the school is blocked.
  - f. At Carlton Bank top some earth banks have been created and planted up with trees close to the road edge. This will cause difficulties when cars meet larger vehicles at the bend because the normal road margins are now gone. Cllr Griffiths offered to take this issue up with Highways.
11. Shale gas exploration. The local MP, Mr Sunak and the Minister Mr Malthouse have acknowledged the concerns submitted by BMPC regarding protection of rural water supplies and offered assurance that these are being considered in the review.
12. Western Area Parish Forum. The April meeting has been switched from Chop Gate to Helmsley. Cllrs Bowes and Smith plan to attend. The October meeting will be held in Chop Gate.
13. Correspondence:
- a. Cllr Devlin has reported a large amount of soil and rocks recently deposited in a field near Bilsdale Hall adjacent to the road. This was reportedly imported to the site in multiple lorry loads and now blocks the view towards the horizon from the road. Cllr Devlin has reported this to NYMNPA and a response is awaited.
14. Parish Council Elections: Cllrs Bowes, Brass and Smith plan to stand for re-election. Cllr Hollingworth stated his intention to stand down after about 28 years of service as a Parish Councillor.
15. Date of next meeting. This will now be 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019, timed to follow the local council elections

R Chapman, Clerk, Bilsdale Midcable Parish Council