

Minutes of the Clarborough & Welham Parish Council meeting to be held at 7.00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024 in the Clarborough Village Hall, Main Street, Clarborough.

**Present:** Cllr Gibson (Chair), Cllr Willcock, Cllr Avery, Cllr Joyce, and Cllr Baines  
**Others:** Mrs Davies (Clerk), members of the public and County Cllr Tracey Taylor joined the meeting

**2466/24 To consider the receipt of apologies and reasons for absence**  
 Cllr Willcock proposed to accept the apologies and reasons from Cllr Driver and Cllr Palfreman; this was seconded by Cllr Joyce and resolved by the Council.

**2467/24 To receive any Declaration of Interest in any items on the agenda**  
 No declarations of interests received.

**2468/24 To suspend the meeting for open session for Members of the public to speak and to receive reports from the District & County Councillors and CDCA**

The Chair suspended the meeting to hold a public session.

- Mr Herdman (C.D.C.A) sent his apologies and his submitted report was circulated
- County Cllr Tracey Taylor gave her County report – it was noted that the Mayor elections are on 2<sup>nd</sup> May as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner
- The S.T.E.P project continues to have engagement events

At this point County Cllr Taylor discussed flooding matters with Cllr Avery as part of his flood agenda item.

The Chair reconvened the meeting.

**2469/24 To consider the minutes of the meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
 Cllr Baines proposed to accept the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 as a true record; this was seconded by Cllr Jones and resolved by the Council.

**2470/24 To receive updates on any actions from the previous meeting**

**2451/24** – Work to the village hall entrance wall is still work in progress. The Chair has purchased sets of Christmas lights for this year

**2456/24** – An invoice for the allotment rent for 6 months of £25.00 has been sent

**2457/24** – The Chair has purchased the poles and signs for the village hall's verges requesting that cars are not parked on the grass area.

**2463/24** – The dip in the road at the corner to Hayton has been reported; work has now been carried out, but it is not good enough

**2471/24 To receive reports from any other meetings attended**

The Chair has attended the allotment meetings, one was the Annual General Meeting which was followed by an ordinary meeting.

**2472/24 To receive play area inspection reports and consider any expenses**

The Chair has conducted an inspection with no actions required. It was noted that the football pitch gate has been left open and the padlock has disappeared; the Chair has now purchased a new combination lock for the gate.

**2473/24 To consider any planning applications as listed and note any planning correspondence**

**Application:** 24/0031/COU  
**Proposal:** Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian  
**Location:** Land front of Big Lane, Clarborough

After discussing the concerns that the Council has regarding the public footpath that goes through the field which is used by dog walkers; a possibility of stables being erected in the future and the condition of the current access gate. Cllr Willcock proposed to only support the application subject to the three concerns were considered; this was seconded by Cllr Joyce and resolved by the Council.

**2474/24 To consider the general & financial risk assessment**

The Clerk previously circulated copies of the general and financial risk assessment for the Councillors to review.

Cllr Willcock proposed to approve the above risk assessment; this was seconded by Cllr Baines and resolved by the Council.

**2475/24 To consider the purchase of littering picking equipment**

Following on from the discussion at the last meeting, the Chair has investigated the costs of the littering picking equipment which works out at approximately £18.00 per person.

The Chair reported that District Councillor Fraser McFarland asked if the Council has any projects that he could support with his community fund. The Chair mentioned the purchase of littering picking equipment and the need to purchase a new bin for the sports field. Cllr McFarland may contribute £300 towards the projects.

After discussion, Cllr Avery proposed that the Chair purchases the litter picking equipment up to £200; this was seconded by Cllr Willcock and resolved by the Council.

The organising of a litter pick is to be included on the next agenda.

**2476/24 To consider purchase of Monolith signs and wildflower seeds for Parish Pasture area**

Cllr Willcock reported on the costs for three oak monolith signs with direction signs engraved on it at a cost of £1305- which is the Council's match funding regarded for the footpath project.

Cllr Willcock reported that the purchase of wildflower seeds for the Parish Pasture would be around £180 including vat – approved in the next item.

Cllr Willcock proposed the purchase the wildflower seeds and the signs as above; this was seconded by Cllr Joyce and resolved by the Council.

**2477/24 Finances - to consider payments as listed and finances documents for 31st January 2023**

Copies of the finance & budget reports, bank statements were circulated for the Councillors to view.

Cllr Willcock proposed to approve the payments as listed and finance reports; this was seconded by Cllr Baines and resolved by the Council.

- 1 - Wages £224.57 (SO)
- 2 - Kobi Construction £17,474.47 inc. vat and funded (2424)
- 3 - OakApple – Monolith signs for Parish Pasture £1566.00 – Item No. 2476/24 (2425)
- 4 – Cllr Gibsons reimbursement of expenses Xmas tree lights, padlock etc £140.71 (2426)
- 5 – 1<sup>st</sup> Clarborough Scout Group – donation for Hi viz vests £198.00 (2427)
- 6 - P Willcock – Wildflower seeds £180 approx. – Item No. 2476/24

Bank Balance 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2024	£43,858.90
<b>Less unpresented cheques</b>	<b><u>£00,050.00</u></b>
Closing cash book balance 31.1.2024	<u>£43,808.90</u>

Made up of:	General reserves	£22,893.68
	Ear marked reserves	<u>£20,915.22</u>
		<u>£43,808.90</u>

**2478/24 To consider a grant request from the Scouts**

After discussion, Cllr Baines proposed to donate £200 to the Clarborough Scouts for the purchase of logo printed Hi Vis vests; this was seconded by Cllr Joyce and resolved by the Council.

**2479/24 To consider budget/precept for 2024-25**

The Clerk previously circulated copies of the draft budget and precept figures for the Councillors to view and consider.

The Clerk went through the budget expenses, income, precept options and reserves to consider when considering this item.

After consideration, the Chair proposed to approve a budget of £16,633.00 and to reduce the precept by 1% this year, giving a figure of £14,850.00 for the 2024/25 precept; this was seconded by Cllr Willcock and resolved by the Council.

The calculations are:

Parish Precept requirements:	£14,850.00
Parish Tax Base	<u>£00,390.51</u>

Divide the precept by the tax base: £00,038.03 which is the impact on the taxpayer of a band D property.

A decrease of 0.10p from last year's figures.

(Note that band A to C properties will be less than £38.03 and E properties and above will be more.)

**2480/24 To consider moving to internet banking**

The Clerk reported that more suppliers are no longer accepting cheques as payment; internet banking is now the preferred method of payment.

After discussion, the Chair proposed to open an account with Unity Trust which provides online banking for councils and fits the criteria required for the two-signature legalisation and security; this was seconded by Cllr Joyce and resolved by the Council.

2481/24

**To receive any updates on the Parish Pasture and consider any expenses**

Cllr Willcock gave the following report:

**Footpath** - The work on the new footpath started on 22 January and lasted exactly two working weeks. The work was very carefully carried out with the least possible damage to surrounding areas. And which did occur was corrected by the end of the development. The workers and owner of KOB Construction were pleasant and thoughtful and have done an excellent job. I have said such to them. They offered to plant a mixture of twenty tall and small trees which I had not been able to plant and did so at the end of the work.

I regret to say that a number of residents totally ignored the safety signage – one even walking across between the digger and dumper truck as they were working. The workers reported a number of complaints concerning the work – one saying the path should be straight like it used to be.

I had a vision of what the footpath would look like when finished – it does.

The UKSPF organized a photo shoot on 14 February which both Cllr Gibson and I attended. Photographs from which will be on the BDC website, along with information from me about the footpath and how the work came about.

The direction signage is being made by OakApple Signs, the same company which made all the other signs, these have been changed to Monolith signs rather than large finger posts. More subtle, less intrusive, and no more expensive.

**Damage to the Parish Pasture** - In November 2023, the Chair requested that grills on the Beck near the canal and the north end of Broad Gores be cleared of gathered rubbish. This was carried out by a contractor using a tracked digger unit. The weather having been very wet and personal illness I did not get down to the Parish Pasture for a few weeks until early January. I immediately saw that a section of fence near the canal had disappeared. I then discovered that a tracked vehicle had run from the north end of Broad Gores, alongside the Beck for about half the distance. In doing so it went right through Birch Woodland smashing down trees – almost including a planted specimen tree – over planted saplings and dozens if not hundreds of Snowdrop bulbs, Primrose plants and Cowslip plants. 6 years of planting ruined!

I have contacted Bassetlaw District Council's Estates Department which said they only went to clear the Beck and that they used a gap in the fence. The damaged area was some 20-30 feet from the Beck, the damaged fence had no gap in it and tracks ran straight through it, they even 'hid' their rubbish from the Beck in the woodland.

This has never happened before in all the years in which they have been clearing the grills.

I have replied to make these further points and have yet to receive a reply.

Request for extra finance - The footpath work has left 150 m long x 1m wide strip of bare soil on each side of the path. I would like to sow this with a wildflower mixture. It will cost about £200 to seed this.

- 2482/24**      **To receive any updates on the Mayflower Community Orchard and consider any expenses**  
 Cllr Avery report that he is planning to plant plums and would like to have the field cut in March. The Chair will contact the grass cutting contractor for the cost of the grass cut.
- 2483/24**      **To receive any updates of flood reports**  
 Cllr Avery has circulated what the Flood Warden's have been doing to try to get to be bottom of; one part of the process is trying to tie Nottinghamshire County Council as the lead authority down to answering what they are going to do and when.
- At the last meeting it was mentioned that the Council circulates some leaflets about the sandbags and giving advice on what to do. Some help is required to distribute to areas where flooding as been in the past.
- 2484/24**      **To report any Highways, Rights of Way, or Service Faults**
- Tree on Howbeck land which were reported a while ago, highways have been out to inspect them ready for work to be done. It was noted that some branches had also fallen which they took away
  - Clarborough Hill – the hedge is being cut back
  - The Chair has carried out six litter picks and done up to Welham corner twice
  - The Chair reported 6 potholes up to Welham corner and all six have been repaired
  - A streetlight that was reported was also repaired
- 2485/24**      **To receive any correspondence or information for future agenda items**
- Litter Pick
  - Renewal of Dog Control Order 2021
- 2486/24**      **Time and date of the next Parish Council Meeting**  
 Time and date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7pm in the Clarborough Village Hall, Main Street, Clarborough.