

Wheldrake Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday April 24th, 2024, at 7.00pm

Venue - Church Cottage, Main Street, Wheldrake

141. Welcome:

142. To receive apologies, consider the reasons for absence and record attendance:

None as all Councillors present as were 24 residents.

143. To receive Declarations of Interests from members present:

No declarations were made.

144. Minutes:

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on March 27th, 2024, were considered and the Council RESOLVED that they are a true record and authorised the Chair to sign them as such.

145. Public participation - members of the public are invited to speak and raise questions for the council for three minutes:

The scale of new housing (David Wilson and Mulgrave) was a 22% increase, and therefore likely to generate the same increase in traffic. The junction with North Lane and then accesses to the proposed Mulgrave development is a particular concern. Already, the property opposite the access to the Mulgrave site has had significant damage to its garden, let alone what might occur when there is construction traffic accessing the site.

Previously, the Parish Council opposed the site on environmental grounds only for the landowner to 'blitz' the site. Since then, wildlife and flowers have recovered. A feeling that the Mulgrave development would lead to further development on a neighbouring site.

The Mulgrave development should not be progressed ahead of the York Local Plan is finalised. The development does not accord with the national planning policy criteria (2023) against which it will need to be assessed. There is now an obligation on the community to contribute its perspective.

Drainage issues are significant at the Mulgrave site and need to be addressed as already neighbouring property is suffering with run-off since the pond was destroyed (see OS map)

146. To receive reports from:

146.1. Chair, Cllr Urwin

No report as matters were covered elsewhere in the agenda.

146.2. Proper Officer, Cllr Nelson

Cllr Nelson introduced his report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes as appendix A.

Regarding the proposal that the Council organises a public meeting to inform further consideration of the proposed Mulgrave Development's housing development off North Lane, the Council RESOLVED to organise the meeting for which White Rose House will be booked.

Other matters contained in the report are considered within the agenda items to which they refer.

Signed as a true record: _____, Chair, May 21st, 2024

- 146.3. **Ward Councillor, Cllr Vassie**
The Council RESOLVED to note Cllr Vassie's report which set out his thinking in relation to the prospective Mulgrave Developments housing scheme off North Lane; the need for primary care facilities in Wheldrake; the need for repairs to Broad Highway; and updated the Council on the repairs to the B1228 which are scheduled for June.
- 146.4. **Community Police Officer**
No report was received.
147. **Council vacancies:**
Kate Sneesby was the only applicant, the Council RESOLVED to co-opt her. The Council also RESOLVED to encourage interested persons to apply for the remaining vacancy.
148. **Council sub-group reports:**
- 148.1. **Playpark**
Following the walk round on April 6th, Cllr Myers reported that ground conditions are of concern in several places because of heavy rainfall. Also, Playscheme need to return to address the inadequate performance of the surface surrounding the tractor which is still under warranty. The Council RESOLVED that Cllr Myers would contact Playscheme.
- 148.2. **Village maintenance:**
The council is concerned that vegetation is again encroaching on the footpath between Main Street and the School. Also, there is need for further chippings to be applied to restore the surface of the footpath. The Council RESOLVED that the Proper Officer would contact City of York Council in respect of the vegetation and Cllr Southern would contact the Lengthsman regarding surface treatment of the footpath.
- In other matters, the Council RESOLVED to note that the lengthsman had pruned two of the nine trees opposite the church but still has still to prune the others and remove the life-expired bench adjacent to The Paddocks. The Council also RESOLVED to note that work to treat benches around the village authorised on March 27th, will begin shortly.
- 148.3. **Defibrillators:**
The battery that has failed within warranty will only be exchanged by the supplier if the Council can produce the invoice for the original transaction in 2022. Cllr Urwin will check his records to see if he has the invoice which has still to be located
- 148.4. **Staffing:**
Please see item 135.
149. **Finance:**
- 149.1. **Payments to be considered for approval:**
The Council Resolved to authorise payments to be made as follows:
- a. Yorkshire Local Councils Association (advert for temporary RFO) £20.00
 - b. Yorkshire Local Councils Association (annual membership fee) £625.00
 - c. Autela (payroll services) £82.95
 - d. Vision ICT (WPC domain renewal) £108.00
 - e. Zurich Insurance (annual fee) £953.31
 - f. Lincoln Occupational Health £450.00.
- The Council also RESOLVED to cancel cheque number 200164 for £388.70 payable to HMRC authorised on February 28th, 2024, as it has not been received by HMRC; and to authorise issuing a replacement cheque.
- 149.2. **Clerk's expenses to be considered for approval:**
None received.
- 149.3. **Clerk's salary at the previously agreed rate to be considered for approval:**
The Council RESOLVED to approve payment of the Clerks salary due on April 24th, 2024.

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- 149.4. **Bank balance to be considered and noted:**
The balance on March 24th, 2024, was £35,120.57 on March 24th, 2024. The Council RESOLVED to note this.
- 149.5. **Temporary RFO arrangements:**
Five applications in response to YLCA advert. Also, the Clerk and RFO for Dunnington, Jessica Bedford, has applied and the Chair proposed and the Council RESOLVED to engage her as temporary RFO.
- 149.6. **Switch to digital banking:**
The temporary RFO is converting Dunnington to digital with Unity Trust Bank which is the preferred Wheldrake Solution
150. **Speeding and traffic calming** (including Community Speed Watch):
The NY Police coordinator for Community Speed Watch and Cllr Batchelor met on April 23rd and identified three sites on Main Street and one on North Lane from which Community Speed Watch could operate. There is a follow-on possibility for extending the Wheldrake scheme to Church Lane. There is an advantage in owning the necessary equipment as there is a shortage in equipment owned by North Yorkshire Police. The Council RESOLVED to purchase two signs, four hi-visibility jackets and a radar gun for approximately £500 drawn from the Council's budget for speeding and traffic calming.
151. **Discarded hedge clippings in the snicket next to Chapel Close:**
The Council RESOLVED that the Proper officer would write to CoYC asking for them to removal. The Council also RESOLVED to ask CoYC to take action to restore the public right of way.
152. **Damage to verges opposite Somerset House due to works traffic**
This is ongoing and requires the contractor building the extension to the Somerset House Care Home to accept responsibility for funding the necessary repairs. The Council RESOLVED that the PROPER officer would liaise with CoYC Highways to agree how this should be progressed.
153. **Items for inclusion on forward agendas:**
As the May meeting of the Council follows the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, it was RESOLVED to build the agenda focussing on the progress made with issues covered at the April 2024 meeting.
154. **To consider excluding the press and public - Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960** (*as the business is prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted*)
The Council RESOLVED to exclude press and public given the matter to be discussed in agenda item 155.
155. **Staffing committee:**
Cllr Urwin provided an update on matters pertaining to the ongoing absence of the Clerk and steps being taken to appoint a temporary RFO.
156. **Next meeting:**
May 29th, 2024, to follow the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which will begin at 7.00pm. The venue will be Church Cottage, Manin Street, Wheldrake
157. **Meeting closed:**
8.58pm.

Signed as a true record: _____, Chair, May 21st, 2024

Appendix A: Proper Officer's report: April 24th, 2024

1. This report covers the period from March 27th, 2024, to April 22nd, 2024
2. **Planning:**
 - a. DPP Planning on behalf of Mulgrave Homes launched on April 16th an informal pre-planning application consultation on a proposed development of 65 homes on land off North Lane. The Parish Council has received an invitation to comment. This invitation is not time limited, unlike the leaflet mailed to residents within which May 2nd, 2024, is said to be the end date for this consultation. The Parish Council should consider whether it wishes to host a public meeting to inform its position prior to a Council discussion and associated resolution at its May meeting.
 - b. Planning applications available for comment are:
 - i. 53 North Lane - single story extension to porch
 - ii. Lower Derwent National Nature Reserve - erection of a timber bird hide with ramped access following demolition of the existing hide.
 - c. CoYC declined the Blackwood's Farm single story extension as it was, given previous extension of the property, as it would constitute inappropriate development within the Green Belt.
3. **Residents' correspondence:**
 - a. **Citizen 1:**
 - i. 16.04 & 17.04.2024 Mulgrave's proposed development of 65 homes - Councillors to visit website and advise that consultation is open. I have advised the resident that the Council will be considering this at its April meeting.
 - ii. 13.04.2024 updating of Council's website - will this be done. I have advised the resident that it is my intention so to do.
 - iii. 06.04.2024 parking at Wheldrake Woods - sharing Cllr Vassie's approach to the risk of damage to verges given introduction of parking charges by Forestry England.
 - iv. 06.04.2024 Road safety grant - availability of grants valued between £20, 000 and £50,000.
 - v. 28.03.2024 Community green spaces fund - availability of grants of up to £75,000.
 - b. **Citizen 2**
 - i. 13.04.2024 Damage to verges - advising the Council of damage to verge opposite the care home and at the junction of Church Lane and Derwent Park, the latter apparently lined to EYMS buses. I have advised the resident that the Council is aware of the former and will investigate the latter.
 - c. **Citizen 3**
 - i. 13.04.2024 Speeding on Church Lane - the need for a vehicle activated speed sign. I have advised the resident of the Councils intent with regard to this matter.
 - d. **Citizen 4**
 - i. 12.04.2024 The David Wilson Homes development - the current status of the planning application. I have advised the prospective resident of the current position.
4. **Finance:**

The following invoices have been received and require authorisation:

 - a. Yorkshire Local Councils Association (advert for temporary RFO) £20.00
 - b. Yorkshire Local Councils Association (annual membership fee) £625.00
 - c. Autela (payroll services) £82.95
 - d. Vision ICT (WPC domain renewal) £108.00

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- e. Zurich Insurance (annual fee) £953.31
- f. Lincoln Occupational Health £450.00

5. WPC vacancies

The only application received is that of Kate Sneesby who has attended recent meetings of the Council.

Aidan Nelson

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