

Wheldrake Parish Council

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Minutes of Wheldrake Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm at White Rose House on Wednesday 27th September 2023

20	<p>Welcome: The Chair welcomed councillors to the meeting, noting that there were four members of the public present.</p>
21	<p>Apologies and Attendance: The Clerk reported that apologies had been received from Cllrs Wilkinson and White. Reasons for absence were approved and it was resolved that councillors apologies be approved.</p>
	<p>Attendees were noted by the clerk.</p>
22	<p>Interests: The Chair reminded members to make any declarations in any agenda item(s). No interests were declared.</p>
23	<p>Minutes: The Council resolved to approve the draft minutes of the meeting on 26th July at the October meeting.</p>
24	<p>Public Participation: The Council received a comment on agenda item 29 from elector(s) present. The resident of Wheldrake gave his support and rationale for the bus subsidy to continue.</p>
25	<p>Reports received (for information only)</p> <p>a. Village Maintenance Group N/A. There was no report</p> <p>b. Playpark Committee N/A. There was no report</p> <p>c. Defib update All working and no updates.</p> <p>d. Police report The Clerk informed the Council of a 'Stop and Search' that took place on the morning of 9th September in the village. One speeding driver was stopped and had his vehicle seized due to having no licence.</p>
26	<p>Communications Received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Letter from Cllr Vassie- Letter from CYC re tree- Letter received from resident re bus- Letter from Thorganby Parish Council- Letter from resident re Newsletters <p>These communications were discussed by the Council and suitable responses will be sent.</p>
27	<p>Planning: To consider and decide upon the following planning applications;</p>

	<p>City of York Council Planning Portal</p> <p>23/01502/FUL – Orchard Farm, no comments</p> <p>23/01516/FUL – The Stables, Wigman Hall, Crockey Hill, no comments</p> <p>23/101682/TCA – 2 Church Close, no comments</p> <p>23/01738/TCA – 15 Low Well Park, no comments</p> <p>The Council discussed all applications and resolved not to comment.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>a)</p> <p>(b)</p> <p>i</p> <p>ii</p> <p>iii</p> <p>(c)</p> <p>i</p> <p>ii</p> <p>iii</p> <p>iv</p> <p>Other</p>	<p>Finance:</p> <p>To receive latest bank balance £29,102.18</p> <p>All payments approved for payment as follows;</p> <p>PAYE - £440.00</p> <p>YLCA training - £416.00</p> <p>Printlove Newsletters - £229.00</p> <p>AGAR – All elements of the AGAR were approved, namely the;</p> <p>AGAR</p> <p>accounting statement</p> <p>governance statement</p> <p>date for the notice of the period for the public rights</p> <p>Approval was granted for Clerk’s salary at rate already confirmed, plus any receipted expenses.</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>To receive report from Ben Gilligan, representing EYMS on the evening weekend bus service</p> <p>Ben addressed the full Council and members of the public.</p> <p>He outlined the current commercial model that buses operate under which is one where the commercial risk mostly sits with the service provider following deregulation of bus services in 1986. This means that all routes must be profitable. Where they are not, and it is deemed by Local Authorities that there is sufficient justification within their tendered services criteria, they will step in and provide funding for services. This is the case with the day time Service 18.</p> <p>As an operator, our sources of revenue are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fares paid on bus • Reimbursement for elderly and disabled customers • Tendered service funding • Commercial partnerships <p>The background to the 18 is that the current service format has existed since August 2018 and is a much reduced service compared to the 35 that existed up to that point. This is due to the impact of significant reduced funding on Local Authorities due to the Austerity policy pursued by the government which has resulted in less discretionary spend available and bus services are a non statutory area of spend. It is worth noting for instance that East Riding of Yorkshire Council had to cut £110m of spend between 2010 and 2016 and a further £60m between 2016 and 2020. This has resulted in a 52% reduction in tendered bus services between 2011 and 2019 compared to a 5% reduction in commercial services.</p>

When the service was awarded in 2018, the evening journeys did not meet City of York Council's tendered service criteria which only funds day time bus services (CYC are the lead authority however East Riding and North Yorkshire Councils also part fund the service). At the time, the Parish Councils agreed to step in and fund the evening journeys which has stayed in place since then. It is worth noting that the current funding has not increased since then although the day time service has been subject to inflationary increases.

Some data are below which puts the service in context. All time periods are the 12 months up until last weekend:

- Total passengers using the entire service – 45,292
- Passengers using the 1940 from Wheldrake into town – 702 (6.9 average)
- Passengers using the 2300 from town – 2712 (25 average)

It is reasonable to assume that 60% of the passengers who board the 2300 will be going to Wheldrake which means c1600 passenger journeys have been made in the last 12 months. When you look at the number who board the 1735 (funded by CYC) from Wheldrake into town on a Friday and Saturday only, the total is 922. Given that the total going in on the two journeys and coming back on the 2300 the assumption that 1600 people from Wheldrake have used the bus in the last 12 months seems to stand up to scrutiny. Broadly speaking, this is around 16 people per day of operation.

Other facts that are worth noting:

- The 1940 journey is busier on a Friday than a Saturday
- The 1735 is busier on a Saturday than a Friday
- The numbers using the 2300 are fairly consistent between the two days
- Passenger usage has varied from 0 through to 42 over the last 12 months.

As a final point, it is worth noting that the subsidy covers around 1/3 of the operating costs of the service. We carry the commercial risk on the remaining 2/3 and the funding therefore fulfils the role of slightly de-risking the viability of the operation given how variable passenger numbers can be. Without this funding we would not operate the service and Wheldrake would only have a day time bus.

30 To consider quote from Blueberry Cooperative for autumn/winter planting
This item has been moved to October meeting

31 To consider quote from Graham Alderson for planter refurbishment
The Council discussed and resolved that this was unnecessary.

32 To consider results from whole village survey into development of an outdoor gym
Wheldrake Parish Council wished to explore the possibility of installing an outdoor gym or fitness trail in the village. In order to test residents' opinion, a survey was developed which was a combination of paper returns (900 distributed) incorporating a QR code and a weblink to the survey via the village Facebook page.
All data were collected and analysed via SurveyMonkey.

	<p>Results</p> <p>Number of responses: 283. This equates to a response rate of 31%</p> <p>Gender: 183 Female, 96 Male (2:1 ratio)</p> <p>Age: 50% of respondents were in the 35 – 54 age range</p> <p>Exercise habit: 1 in 5 surveyed either did not exercise or would like to</p> <p>Good idea?</p> <p>YES 152 (54%)</p> <p>NO 100 (35%)</p> <p>MAYBE 30 (11%)</p> <p>How likely to use?</p> <p>V likely/likely 139 (49%)</p> <p>V unlikely/unlikely 127 (45%)</p> <p>Location:</p> <p>60% of respondents felt that the equipment should be grouped in one place.</p> <p>Any other comments</p> <p>134 comments were made of which only 18 (13%) were positive – ie, the outdoor gym was a good idea.</p> <p>Prominent themes were: “bad idea”, “waste of money”, “target for vandalism”, “ongoing maintenance”, “initial enthusiasm but eventual disuse”.</p> <p>Many felt the money would be better spent on other projects, eg, support for the weekend evening bus service, cycle path, the development of a safe pedestrian path to the woods and traffic calming measures in the village.</p> <p>The council’s decision on this is not approved.</p>
33	<p>To consider use of Parish Council social media</p> <p>The Council resolved to end the Wheldrake Parish Facebook group and set up a Facebook page.</p>
34	<p>Items to consider for the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies - Speed calming measures - Remembrance Sunday - Braithgate Park purchase - Budget meeting timescales
35	<p>To confirm date of the next meeting as Wednesday 25th October at 7pm</p>

Meeting closed: 20.45