

QUERNMORE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2023

Present: Councillors: J Townley (Vice Chair), J Pye, D Whitaker, A Johnson, B Carter
District Councillor: J Jackson.
Clerk: Gareth Catterson

Action

23/001 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: G Kelsall (Chair), J Fox, J Alexander
District Councillor Mayor J Pritchard
County Councillor: Matthew Maxwell-Scott

23/002 OPEN SESSION

No members of the public were present.

23/003 MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 4th December 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record and the Clerk was asked to upload them to the website.

Clerk

23/004 MATTERS ARISING & REVIEW OF ACTIONS

The Clerk reported he had talked to the Church, Chapel and WI regarding warm hubs but none felt it was practical owing to the buildings they used and the cost of heating. It was also thought there was no demand for a warm hub within the Parish.

23/005 POLICE AND COMMUNITY

No reports

23/006 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk reported the current bank balance remained at £1,811.77p. He had received an invoice from Krystal Web Hosting for £47.99p. Krystal were no longer accepting cheques and therefore he had paid the invoice from his own account. The Councillors **resolved** to refund the Clerk by adding it to his expenses allowance at the end of the financial year.

23/007 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

The Budget for 2023/24 was discussed and it was **resolved** that: -

1. In accordance with Section 50 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 this Parish Council hereby makes the following calculations in respect of the year 2022/2023
 - a. Budget Requirements for Function £3,500
 - b. Contingency Allowance £ 0
 - Total £3,500
 - c. Income generated £ 0
 - d. Balance brought forward £1,704
 - Total £3,200

2. Accordingly, the Budget requirement for the Parish for the year 2023/2024 being £ 3,200, the Clerk was authorised to Precept Lancaster City Council for that amount.

Clerk

23/008 CLERK'S SALARY

It was **resolved** that the Clerk's salary be set at the same level as 2022/23, i.e. £1000 incl. £200 tax, plus £275 Office Allowance.

23/009 PLANNING MATTERS – The following are reported:

21/01351/FUL	Land To The Northeast Of Kidds Transport Limited Caton Road Lancaster - Installation of a 25MW battery storage facility with ancillary development including 3m high fencing, battery storage containers, substation, transformers, switchroom, control room, welfare cabin and storage room, construction of internal access road and 4m high CCTV columns.	Application Permitted
23/01271/FUL	Ty Nant Wyresdale Road Quernmore Installation of solar panels to south roof slope.	Awaiting Decision
23/00026/PAD	Oatlands Farm Grab Lane Lancaster - Prior approval for the demolition of Oatlands Farmhouse and outbuildings	Awaiting Decision

23/010 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Councillor, Joan Jackson reported:

1. The City Council would be holding their budget meeting the following week. It was clear that cutbacks in expenditure would be required and rates would be raised to the maximum allowable. She stated that the current year's expenditure would have been within budget had there not been the increase in energy prices.
2. There was doubt about whether the proposed M6 Link Road at Galgate would go ahead. There was a likely increase in the number of houses to be built in the area from 3000 to 5500. A £10,000 roof tax would be levied on all the new properties if the Link Road did go ahead.
3. Regarding the Parish Council's queries about the use of an enforcement notice at 'Redfields', she had pursued this with the Planning Dept. and it appeared they had interpreted the planning rules differently to the Parish Council and an enforcement notice was not appropriate. The member of the Planning Dept. dealing with the case was on long term sick leave and therefore there was no further progress on trying to resolve the Parish Council's concerns.
4. When asked about whether the new legislation regarding voter identification and whether this would affect those with postal votes, she said she would find an answer and email a response to the Clerk.

Dist. Cllr.
Jackson

23/011 NORTH WEST STAGES RALLY – MARCH 2024

Councillors noted the correspondence regarding the proposed rally and the resulting road closures. They commented that a previous rally stage that took place in Abbeystead had been well organised and therefore they had no objections.

23/012 DOCUMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

In detailing the documents and correspondence received, the Clerk asked Councillors to indicate which items they would wish to have forwarded to them in the future. Councillors stated they were content with what decisions of what the Clerk had decided to forward and what not to forward to date.

1. **Notification of external auditor appointment** (PKF Littlejohn LLP)
2. **Rural Services Network:**
 - 2.1. **The Rural Bulletin** – weekly
 - 2.2. **Rural Funding Digest** - January 2023 Edition
3. **Introduction to PARISH.UK Network**
4. **Lancashire County Council:**
 - 4.1. Formal Notification: Little Fell Lane, Lancaster 16-18/1/23 (forwarded to Councillors)
 - 4.2. Budget consultation (forwarded to Councillors)
 - 4.3. Response to query re 'Dangerous Trees' (forwarded to Chair & Councillor Pye). The response from the County Council was not acceptable and the Clerk was asked to pursue the matter further through County Councillor Matthew Maxwell-Scott
 - 4.4. Speed Indicator Device (SPiDs) Policy and Procedure
 - 4.5. Trading Standards - Consumer Alerts January 2023
 - 4.6. January's Bus Services Changes Information
 - 4.7. New £2 flat fare scheme on all Lancashire bus services
 - 4.8. Weekly Winter Stakeholder Bulletins
 - 4.9. Examples of better working with LCC and parish and town councils, request for details of any examples of where you're working with or have worked with LCC on successful projects (none known).
 - 4.10. Safer Roads Fund Average Speed Cameras Installation A683. There was a brief discussion about where cameras may be installed and whether any would be situated within Quernmore Parish.
 - 4.11. Amendment to Permit Parking Provisions Lancaster and Preston City
5. **Lancaster City Council**
 - 5.1. Funding available from a Lancaster Trust
6. **Community Connectors**
 - 6.1. Just Can't Wait Toilet Scheme
 - 6.2. Rural Cost of Living Survey
 - 6.3. Lancaster City Council Budget and Policy Framework Proposals
 - 6.4. Funding Opportunities
 - 6.5. Sharing Employment Opportunities
 - 6.6. Lancashire County Council - Budget Consultation
7. **Cllr Joyce Pritchard**
 - 7.1. Changes to the voting system
 - 7.2. Rural UK prosperity fund
8. **Mark Hothersall**
 - 8.1. North West Stages Rally. March 2024 (forwarded to Councillors)

Clerk

23/113 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

The Clerk reported that in conversations with the WI the issue of providing useful local information to newcomers to the Parish had been raised. The Clerk had agreed to raise the possibility of expanding the current website to include this information and any other helpful information received, e.g., Trading Standards - Consumer Alerts. The Clerk was asked progress this if possible.

Clerk

23/114 ITEMS INTRODUCED BY MEMBERS (if any)

Councillor D Whitaker asked District Councillor J Jackson why the City Council deemed it necessary to spend £250,000 on project regarding air pollution from wood burning stoves when all new stoves were now required to comply with new legislation. She informed him that the City Council were complying with their Climate Change Emergency Policy.

23/115 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would normally be held on Monday 8th May 2023 at 7.30pm, however as this was the Coronation Bank Holiday it would now be held on Monday, 15th May 2023 at 7.30 pm in Quernmore Recreation Club. Clerk to make necessary arrangements.

Clerk

Certified as a correct record _____ G.Kelsall (Chair)