

MELSONBY PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

THE MEETING OF MELSONBY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.30pm at St James Church Meeting Room

PRESENT: Cllr G Angus (GA), (Chair), Cllr V Elrington (VE) (Vice Chair), Cllr J Stansfield (JS), Cllr W Nixon (WN), Cllr T Sutton (TS), Cllr B Bottle (BB), Cllr T Henderson (TH).

In attendance: J Pears (Clerk) and residents.

Item	Covering	Summary	Detail/Action	Action/By Who
1.	Apologies		None.	
2.	Declarations of Interest		None.	
3.	Minutes of last meeting		RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 th September 2023 are confirmed as a true record.	
4.	Police update	No police were present at the meeting.	RESOLVED – The October update was received and circulated prior to the meeting. This was posted on the website and Facebook page.	Completed
5.	Progress report:			
5a.	NYC Councillor update	Update from Councillor Angus Thompson (AT)	RESOLVED - Councillor Angus Thompson (AT) did not attend the meeting. No update given.	
5b.	Community Speed Watch (CSW) and VAS	Update.	RESOLVED – BB is handing over the data analysis process to the new speed watch co-ordinator. Clerk will share the data with PCSO Elliot Brown when available. The VAS has been ordered and awaiting installation.	BB/Clerk
5c.	35 Church Row public footpath	Ongoing.	RESOLVED – Clerk spoke to the resident and they confirmed they would not be able to put in the new footpath as previously agreed. Cllrs have asked the clerk to write to the resident and confirm they will be reinstating the existing footpath. VE spoke with the grass cutting contractor to complete remedial work on the PC's area of the public footpath. Clerk to contact Footpaths at NYC as the existing right of way footpath wall is blocked up. Access is currently restricted.	Clerk/PC VE Clerk/NYC
5d.	St James Close remedial work	Ongoing.	RESOLVED – Highways have responded and are aware of the concerns/issued raised by the PC. Highways are meeting with the contractors to raise the PC's issues/concerns. VE will share photos of the work to send to Highways. The footpaths are in a mess and require sweeping.	Clerk/VE
5e.	Condition of the wall on East Road	Ongoing.	RESOLVED – Completed	Completed
5f.	Flood on Moor Road		RESOLVED – Clerk to follow this up with NYC and AT as this is still unresolved. Cllrs agreed that firmer action needs to be taken. NYC have written to all landowners to carry out the necessary work to their ditches and beds to help prevent further flooding. The responsibility lies with the land owner. If the work is not completed in the required timeframe NYC will carry out the work and invoice the landowner.	AT/Clerk
5g.	Archived Documentation		RESOLVED – GA and WN will go through the information first before making it accessible to all.	GA/WN

5h.	Village Hedges		RESOLVED – There are still properties with overgrown hedges. Clerk will write to this property.	Clerk
5i.	Northumbrian Water update		RESOLVED – WN met Northumbrian Water (NW) on 24 th November 23 and raised all concerns and issues. NW have confirmed that the infrastructure work scheduled for before end 2024 has been pushed back for consideration in the 2025 – 2030 budget. The PC will collate a response with all issues raised and write to NW and include Rishi Sunak PM, NYC, EA.	Clerk
5j.	Barclays Bank		RESOLVED – The PC are still receiving emails requesting further information from the bank. Even after speaking someone to confirm the information received is sufficient. Clerk has written to the CEO of retail banking and the financial ombudsman.	Clerk
5k.	Debris in the Beck	The culvert had collapsed	RESOLVED – Relates to 5f.	Completed
5l.	Grassed area opposite the school	Clarification is required as to who owns a grassed area opposite the school	RESOLVED – No update received from the resident. Cllrs asked Clerk to follow this up. Previously the PC met with the resident who lives adjacent to the beck and grassed area. It has been agreed that the land is unregistered land. The resident attended the meeting and agreed the telephone pole will be protected and secured with gabion baskets. Cllrs agreed that the Clerk would write to NYC asking that the parish take over responsibility for the land.	Clerk
5m.	Trees on the green	Remedial work required	RESOLVED - A resident has asked if the overhanging branches growing over the quoit's pitches could be pruned back. Councillors agreed that this should be carried out. NYC have confirmed that a new application will need to be submitted. Work will be carried out on all trees once the additional application is approved by planning.	Clerk
5n.	Planters by village signs	Email received from a resident	RESOLVED - GA spoke with the environmental group and others to ask for volunteers to manage planters. Steve Pace is organising a get together and Everards have offered to donate some plants.	Completed
5o.	Parish Council Insurance		RESOLVED – Clerk confirmed that they are unable to provide 3-year cover as the date to confirm this had lapsed. Clerk will get quotes next year prior to the renewal date.	Completed
5p.	Defibrillator Training		RESOLVED – The training took place however there were no attendees. Clerk will write to Steve Pace who facilitated the training to thank him. It was agreed the clerk will start a list of interests prior to arranging the next training date.	Completed
5q.	Blister Packs		RESOLVED - Cllrs discussed the possibility of blister packs being collected at ASJ doctors' surgery. However, the boxes collecting the packs would need to be paid for. The PC agreed that this is not a cost that could be absorbed by the PC.	Completed
5r.	Tables at Moor Road Play Park and Play Park inspection report		RESOLVED - The picnic tables at Moor Road Play Park are in need of repair and possibly to be replaced. Clerk looked into costs to replace them. These are £445 – NBB or £384 – Provider at Consett. These are both recycled composite material. PC will look at the current tables and make a decision to repair or replace them. Cllrs will also look at the play park equipment following the latest inspection report from NYC.	PC
5s.	Limegarth Development		RESOLVED - Clerk has contacted Broadacres and ask that the building on site is secure and safe. Cllrs asked the clerk to get a date for this to be completed.	Clerk
6.	Matters Arising			

6a.	Parish Precept 2024/25		RESOLVED – BB shared the precept information and the workings. Cllrs agreed the precept of £12,291 for 2024/25. This is was a 5% increase of 23/24. Clerk will apply for this agreed amount.	Clerk
6b.	Melsonby Bell Project		RESOLVED – Clerk shared information on the project. A poster was put on the noticeboard and information shared on the Facebook page and website. Clerk will also include this in the newsletter.	Clerk
6c.	Housing Strategy Consultation	Email received	RESOLVED – Clerk shared the email with Cllrs prior to the meeting. Cllrs felt this did not consider affordable housing helping young people in rural areas.	Completed
6d.	Polling District Review Consultation		RESOLVED – Clerk shared the email with Cllrs prior to the meeting.	Completed
6e.	Melsonby Allotment – Bonfire complaints		RESOLVED – BB has dealt with the email. NYC will correspond with BB going forward.	Completed
6f.	Annual Christmas carol event		RESOLVED – The event will take place on 24 th December at 6pm – 7pm. Cllrs agreed the budget of £100 would be increased by additional £25. TH will liaise with the school to invite village school children along to sing. TS will co-ordinate the MC, brass band and volunteers. WN will provide the refreshments and TH will purchase the selection boxes for children from the village. Clerk to include something in the newsletter, website and Facebook pages.	Clerk/TH/TS
6g.	Let's Talk Money – NYC consultation		RESOLVED - Clerk shared the email with Cllrs prior to the meeting.	
7.	Finance	Clerk to provide budget report for year 2023/24 to date see Appendix – emailed to Councillors prior to meeting.	RESOLVED – Clerk provided a budget report up to 23 rd October 2023. See appendix – emailed to Cllrs prior to meeting. The following payments were approved and cheques signed: Grass Cutting - £1416, PCC – 50% Annual church clock service - £117, NRCP – Printing costs – £108, NYCC Grit Bins - £180, J Pears – Clerk wages £357.36, Great North Air Ambulance Service Donation - £100	Completed
8.	Planning Applications	As per appendix.	RESOLVED – Discussed and no further comments.	Completed
9.	Correspondence	Correspondence received and dealt with by Clerk since last meeting.	RESOLVED - Correspondence as per appendix.	Completed
10.	Any other business	Great North Air Ambulance Letter	RESOLVED – Cllrs agreed that a donation of £100 should be given to the Great North Air Ambulance as have done in previous years. Clerk will sort this.	Clerk
		Land on Jagger Lane	RESOLVED - An issue was raised with the access along Jagger Lane from Moor Road. NYC have acknowledged the issue and are dealing with it.	Clerk
		Blocked drain from West Road to Jagger Lane footpath.	RESOLVED - Clerk to raise an issue of a blocked drain from West Road to Jagger Lane footpath. A sump appears to be blocked on the side of the resident's property. Highways will need to contact the resident. Clerk to raise this with Highways.	Clerk
		Gnomes in gardens – Update	RESOLVED - Clerk to contact PCSO Brown to ascertain if gnomes are placed in a garden and remain unmoved these properties are a target to be burgled. This is NOT something the police are aware of. It appears to be fake news.	Completed
		A66 Update	RESOLVED – JS wrote to Rishi Sunak- PM to share the frustration on the extension of the A66 project by 4 months. The new statutory deadline for a decision is 7 March 2024.	Completed

		Street Light Green Bin charges will increase Leaves around the village	RESOLVED – A street light still remains unused. It has been installed but is not in use. Clerk to raise this with NYC. RESOLVED - BB shared information regarding the green bin increase. This will go from £25 to £46.50. RESOLVED – TS asked Clerk to contact NYC. There are a lot of leaves around the village that need clearing, particularly opposite Glebe Court. If NYC aren't able to offer a road sweeper to come regularly around the village could the PC have funding to do this themselves?	Clerk Completed Clerk
11.	Public participation	Opportunity for residents to bring matters to the attention of the Parish Council.	RESOLVED – Bringing Christmas to Melsonby – The project now has its own bank account and intends on taking over the Christmas tree, organising Santa visits to school, they have purchased new lights for the Christmas tree and intend on lighting up the village green. The lights will need a permanent and bigger power supply. Perhaps use the substation? Could SWARCO help with this? Cllrs are supportive of the project and agreed £100 donation towards the project. WN offered to power the project this year.	Completed
12.	Items for future agenda	Opportunity for Councillors to bring up items to be included in next meeting's agenda.	None.	
13.	Date of next meeting		The next meeting will be on 10th January 2024 at 7.30pm in St James Church Meeting room.	

Meeting ended at 9.09pm