

Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday December 2nd 2021 at 7.30pm in Gunnerside Village Hall

The Melbecks Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday December 2nd 2021 at Gunnerside Village Hall. Present were Councillors Silver, McCartney, Lewis and Crapper with Cllr R. Alderson presiding. NYCC County Councillor Yvonne Peacock was also present. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams. All were welcomed to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 7th October 2021 were agreed to be a correct record, and these were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

i) Cattle grid at Gunnerside

Councillor Crapper has contacted Ian Burgess, NYCC Highways Officer who confirmed that this is on the list of works to complete.

ii) Pothole at Strands

This has been reported to Highways again but no response has been received. The clerk to report this again.

iii) Queen's Jubilee Beacon. Gunnerside Village Hall have been in touch regarding holding an event, and it is yet to be decided whether this should be held jointly or not. It was suggested sending out flyers to possibly arrange a meeting about this event in the New Year.

v) Recycling bin, Gunnerside. Cllr McCartney has been in touch with RDC who have confirmed that this will be emptied regularly and up until now, this has been taking place and recycling has not been building up. It was decided to monitor this for a bit longer and report back to the next meeting. It was noted that a notice on the bin asking holiday cottage visitors not to use it for all their recycling but to use the recycling facilities at Reeth or Muker instead would be helpful. The clerk will contact RDC regarding this.

vi) Internal auditor. It was confirmed that Richard Hunt has agreed to take on this role.

vii) Benches in Low Row. It was confirmed that a new bench has been installed at Thistlebout Green, and the Clerk has responded to the other request for a bench to be replaced in Low Row.

5. Finance

No items

6. Highways

The clerk was asked to contact Highways regarding the following concerns:

i) Pothole at Strands.

ii) Potholes on the roads to Peat Gate and Blades. Cllr Peacock to contact Steve Barker.

iii) Blocked drain on Waller Hill (on the B6270 heading out of Low Row towards Reeth where water is accumulating and then freezing in the cold weather.

The clerk will email Cllr Peacock with these issues who will then raise them with Steve Barker, NYCC.

7. Richmondshire District Council

a) Councillors noted that an election for the new unitary council will take place in May 2022 with RDC councillors to stay in post until May 2023, with a transitional period from May 2022-23. Parish Councillors will end their terms in May 22 when elections will take place. Normally this would be a 4 year term but it will only be 3 years this time. If an election is not required there will be no charge to Parish Councils, however if an election is required, this will need to be funded by the Parish Council therefore, they need to precept for this just in case. Cllr Peacock advised that it is important going forward for decisions to be made locally and the existing Richmondshire Area Committee would be useful for this, with every resident having an elected member of this committee.

8. NYCC

Unitary authority update was circulated to councilors.

9. YDNPA

a) Planning application: Park Hall, Morley Gate, Healaugh: Listed building consent for works to farmhouse. There were no comments or objections raised.

b) Planning application: Wardell Hall, there were no comments or objections raised.

10. Any other business

a) Dales Police report: The council noted receipt of the Dales monthly crime bulletin for October 2021.

b) Scott Trial thank-you letter. The council noted receipt of a letter from the Scott Trial to thank the Parish Council for the use of land in Melbecks Parish.

c) Recent power cuts: An email has been received from a resident following the recent power cuts in the area. It was noted that six flats for elderly residents in Gunnerside had no power for several days, and as all the heating is powered by electricity, this meant several days with no heating or cooking facilities. Richmondshire District Council did send gas heaters but they did not arrive until just before the electricity came back on. The resident had also contacted the 24-hour helpline but this did not seem to work. It was noted that having no electricity also means no communication; it is not possible to plug in old phones as lines have been digitalised. It was also suggested that there should be an emergency generator which could switch on automatically. It was noted that Northern Powergrid should have a list of any vulnerable residents and also where the power was off, and they should have alerted NYCC, but it seems that this did not happen until Monday morning. A call was received from RDC asking for a list of vulnerable persons in the area but this had not yet been completed, and it was agreed to do a mail drop as soon as possible so that names included in the Emergency Plan. Cllr Peacock will contact Tony Clark regarding the emergency telephone and find out whether RDC will be leaving the heaters in Gunnerside. The clerk was also asked to write to the following: i) EE to ask if it possible for there to be a generator which switches on automatically so that residents are not left stranded with no means of communication, ii) BT to ask if they will stop digitalising the phone lines as this means that residents have no means of communication when the electricity is off, and iii) an email to NYCC and MP, Rishi Sunak to raise these issues.

11. Date of next meetings:

- **Thursday February 10th 2022 (Low Row),**
- **Thursday March 24th 2022 (Gunnerside),**
- **Thursday May 26th 2022 (Low Row)**
- **Thursday July 21st 2022 (Gunnerside)**

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 8.50pm