

**Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on
Thursday May 14th 2020 by email**

Melbecks Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday May 14th 2020 by email, as councillors are unable to meet physically due to the current Covid-19 situation. Councillors Silver, Crapper, Lewis, McCartney and Alderson were in attendance and the Clerk was Miss N. Adams.

The following were agreed by email:

1. It was agreed to postpone the election of officers until the Parish Council meets again physically.
2. Finance – orders to pay. Payments to Low Row Institute (£30) and Gunnerside Village Hall (£40) for meeting hire were agreed unanimously.
3. Highways. The clerk was asked to report the following:
 - Drain/Gutter at Peat Gate has not been cleaned out and as a consequence all water comes down the road and affects the properties at the bottom of the hill.
 - The trees at the bottom of the gutter need to be cut right back so the drain at the bottom of the gutter can be accessed, assessed, cleaned out properly and any other works required so as to prevent further flooding issues to properties below.
 - There are some large potholes a third of the way up Brocca bank that need urgent attention.
4. YDNPA Planning application, Lilac Cottages, Low Row. Councillors unanimously agreed to submit an objection to this planning application based on the following issues:
 - Flooding issues. In recent years flood waters coming down the hill have already impacted on Lilac cottages and have also followed on to affect the properties at Nick Jones (Barn) and the adjacent property. The lowering of the ground to facilitate a level patio means that surface water running down the hill will soon overcome the patio area, and possibly any sewage treatment package in the vicinity. This may cause the aforementioned affected properties being deluged not only with flood water but raw sewage.
 - Sewerage. The septic tank arrangement is insufficient for the upgrade of the property as outlined in the plans. If it turns out the current septic tank is insufficient for the envisaged works then a water treatment plant will be required, and where the proposed site for that would be is hard to imagine.
 - Parking. There are doubts as to whether there any rights to use the stinted common for parking, therefore there is no specific parking allocation, and there are already parking issues in the village now.

- Turning two-bedroom houses into three-beds. If all the 2- bedroom houses are turned into 3- beds, what chance have local young people of getting on the housing ladder and staying in the dale. Councillors feel that the policy of granting permission such as this needs to be re-considered, especially when it is likely that the property will become a second home or holiday let.
5. YDNPA Trees in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Conservation area.
- To reduce of a group of willow in Feetham Woods to harvest as living willow stakes.
 - To crown reduce one eucalyptus tree at Strands Holme, Gunnerside
- Councillors raised no objections or comments in regard to either application.
6. It was suggested joining the Yorkshire Local Councils Association at the start of the financial year with a cost of £127 per year. The clerk to confirm exact part-year cost for the next meeting.

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Thursday July 23rd 2020 by email/virtual meeting, format to be confirmed.