

Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday March 23rd 2023 at 7.30pm at Low Row Institute

The Melbecks Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday March 23rd 2023 at Low Row Institute. Present were Councillors Silver, Strafford and Bowe with Cllr R. Alderson chairing the meeting. County Councillor Yvonne Peacock was also present. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams. All were welcomed to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Stephen Calvert.

2. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting, held on February 2nd 2023 were agreed to be a correct record, and these were signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Finance

i) Bank mandate form. Digital personal details forms have been completed by Councillors Calvert and Silver, to be added as signatories. It was also unanimously agreed to send a letter to the bank to clarify contact details as: Nikki Adams. The contact address is correct, however the contact name is still Mrs T Sharp, previous clerk. The letter was signed by Councillor Alderson as Chair and the clerk will arrange for this to be signed by another signatory of the bank account and sent to the bank.

ii) Order to pay was signed for the clerk's salary and expenses. A cheque was issued for £1137.00.

iii) Order to pay was signed for the insurance renewal. A cheque was issued for £167.44. this premium remains the same as last year.

iv) The council agreed to increase the clerk's salary from £1100 to £1150 from April 2024. *(The clerk left the meeting during this discussion)*

v) Additional income of £174 has been received from Richmondshire District Council, which has been allocated to all Parish Councils towards an event to mark the Kings Coronation. Rather than Parish councils applying for funding, RDC decided to share this remaining funding equally between all Parish Councils. Gunnerside are planning an afternoon tea to celebrate the event. Mr and Mrs Miller of Gunnerside Estate have offered money to the village which has paid for a flagpole to be put up on the road to Gunnerside Lodge road. It has been suggested to arrange something for the children of the Parish and ideas are being considered.

6. Highways

i) Trimming back of bushes at Rowleth End has been completed.

ii) Work has taken place at Trough House, Low Row, but more work is needed on the underground pipe. The clerk will report this issue. The clerk was also asked to report a blocked drain near Park Hall, Kearton, as well as a blocked drain, halfway up Brocca Bank

7. Richmondshire District Council

There were no further updates.

8. North Yorkshire Council

A query was raised regarding business rates for village halls, following the creation of the new North Yorkshire Council from 1st April 2023. Prior to this, village halls have been able to apply for 100% rates relief. Councillor Peacock advised this would continue, but village halls will have to re-apply to the new council and this can be done online. It was also noted that Councillor Peacock is Chair of the Area Constituency Committee for Richmondshire, and councillors were encouraged to raise any issues that they may have to Councillor Peacock, to be discussed at this committee.

9. YDNPA

YDNPA Local Plan 2023-2040. It was noted that the YDNPA Local Plan consultation is due to be published shortly. This will include details of land being allocated for housing.

10. Any other business

- a) Dales Police report: This has been circulated and read by the council.
- b) BT Digital: A resident has been in touch to raise a concern regarding the proposed plan to introduce BT Digital in the area, which would mean if there were a power cut, any old analogue telephones would not work as they do now, leaving residents without any method of communication. It was agreed for the clerk to contact MP, Rishi Sunak, again regarding this matter. It was also noted that NYCC Locality Funding from Councillor Peacock has been provided to purchase 2-way radios to enable volunteers to contact each other in the event of there being no signal. Work is also ongoing to get a 48-hour generator for the mobile telephone mast.
- c) Best Kept Village Competition 2023: The council noted receipt of this competition.
- d) A report has been received regarding the dog waste bin at Gunnerside Bridge, which appears to be damaged. Councillor Bowe offered to have a look at this to see what can be done.

11. Date of next meetings

- **Thursday May 18th 2023 (Gunnerside) at 7.30pm**
- **Thursday July 20th 2023 (Low Row) at 7.30pm**

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm