

**Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at Gunnerside Village Hall**

The Melbecks Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at Gunnerside Village Hall. Present were Councillors Silver, Bowe, Calvert, Strafford with Cllr R. Alderson chairing. NYC Councillor Yvonne Peacock and PCSO Don Watson were also present as well as one member of the public. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams.

1. All were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence: There were no apologies, all councillors were present.

3. Declaration of Interests: Cllr Alderson declared an interest in item 9c, and the Clerk declared an interest in item 8a.

4. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting, held on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were agreed to be a correct record, and these were signed by the Chair.

6. Matters Arising.

a) There were no matters arising.

7. Finance

There were no finance items

8. Highways

a) Highways Reply: It was noted that the pothole at the bottom of the Church steps in Low Row has not been repaired. The Clerk will report this again. There have been issues with flooding between Wood End and Trough House during the recent wet and windy weather which has blown debris into the drains and gutters which need clearing. The road to Peat Gate also needs work, as the drains on this road are not working. It was agreed for a meeting to be arranged with the Highways Officer, Ian Burgess, on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 12.00pm at the Punch Bowl. YP to contact and confirm.

b) Lodge Green: GSC Grays have been in touch to confirm that Reeth Estates do not own this land.

c) Planned speed restrictions: This will take place between 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February from Healaugh to Feetham with a reduction in the speed limit from 60 to 40mph for BT maintenance work.

d) Urban Grass cutting: Councillors noted receipt of this letter. It was suggested that the council could apply for a permit to cut trees on the highways. Cllr Bowe to investigate this.

9. North Yorkshire Council

There were no further updates.

10. YDNPA

a) Full planning permission for conversion and extension of existing barn to form a two bedroomed residential dwelling for local occupancy/holiday let, with associated access, parking and package sewage treatment plant at Barn west of Intake Bottom, Low Row, Richmond, North Yorkshire - R/05/256. There were no comments or objections.

b) Householder planning permission for erection of single storey extensions to form entrance hall and link, conversion of garage to form additional ancillary accommodation at The Long House, Low Row, Richmond, DL11 6NE - R/05/36. There were no comments or objections.

c) Notification of appeal: Full planning permission for removal of timber outbuilding and erection of building to provide staff accommodation for the site manager and visitor reception area at Hazel Brow Farm Visitor Centre, Low Row, Richmond, DL11 6NE. There were no further comments.

d) Trees in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Conservation: notification to fell one sycamore located at Hazel Garth, Low Row. There were no comments raised by the Parish Council.

e) Trees in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Conservation Area: notification of various works to trees located at Barney Top, Low Row: Remove large low limb of plum tree in front garden, crown lift oak tree to 3m above ground level, light crown thin of horse chestnut, restoration pruning of two apple trees. There were no comments raised by the Parish Council.

f) Trees in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Conservation Area: notification to reduce one ash

to 4m habitat pole at Hazel Brow Farm, Low Row. There were no comments raised.

g) Autumn Parish Forum: Notes and briefings. A link to this information has been circulated.

h) Yorkshire Dales National Park Management Plan: First public consultation. Councillors were provided with the details of this consultation, which ends on 26th February 2024.

11. Any other business

a) Inadequate winter maintenance policy, Arkengarthdale Parish Council. The council noted receipt of this letter from Arkengarthdale Parish Council. Cllr Peacock advised that the winter maintenance policy has not changed; Priority 1 and 2 roads are gritted first following by Priority 3 which are done if the temperature is below freezing for 72 hours. Going forward, certain Priority 3 routes will be 'super' Priority 3. It is unclear how school routes are prioritised. YP to investigate this. The Clerk will write a letter of support. It was also noted that cars are sometimes blocking roads preventing the gritter from getting through. If this is the case, this can be reported to the police. This was noted as being an issue on the approach road to Gunnerside School. It was agreed to report this issue to the Highways Officer to see what can be done to address this.

b) Gathering data about Swaledale and Arkengarthdale communications and power. Replies to this questionnaire were collated and returned to the Clerk to Reeth Parish Council. YP advised that this issue will be raised at the meeting of the Richmond Area Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> March at 10am at Mercury House.

c) Request for financial assistance- Reeth Gazette. To be discussed at the end of the meeting.

d) Police report, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023- 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Don Watson provided an update to the Parish Council and confirmed that PCSO Sharon Diamond has undertaken speed gun training; this will result in data being collected and followed up with warning letters to anyone who has been speeding.

e) Possibility of installing 2 dog waste bins, Low Row: It has been raised by residents that Low Row is lacking a dog waste bin, which are sited in other villages locally. The council agreed unanimously to purchase a dog waste bin for Low Row, and the Clerk will contact North Yorkshire Council to arrange this. Two possibly locations were proposed: either at the garages at the west end of the village near Brown Hill Top, or at the turning area near the Institute.

f) PCSO Speed gun: A letter from the PCSO Sharon Diamond was noted.

g) Request for financial assistance for the Reeth Gazette: (Councillor Alderson declared an interest in this item and left the meeting for this discussion). It was agreed unanimously to donate £100 to the Reeth Gazette. The Clerk to arrange this.

h) Request from Melbecks Emergency Group: A request has been received from Richard Lewis, from Melbecks Emergency Group to ask whether the Parish Council would be able to receive a grant from NYC of £600 to fund the first aid courses for the emergency group, as this payment must be made into the parish councils account before being transferred to the emergency group. The council agreed unanimously to do this.

10. Dates of next meetings:

- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at Low Row Institute
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Gunnerside Village Hall
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at Low Row Institute

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

