

## **BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF BUCKDEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BUCKDEN VILLAGE INSTITUTE ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00PM**

Those present:

Chairman: Councillor P Breen

Councillors: Councillor A Jarrett and Councillor P Vetch

Also Present: Councillor R Foster (NYCC), Mr P Katic (NT) & two members of the public

#### **2223/67**      **Chairman's remarks**

Councillor Breen welcomed Councillor Foster & Mr Katic. He explained that there had been a problem with the council's computer which had delayed the issuing of some documents. He reported that Councillor Way was making good progress and wished her a speedy recovery on behalf of the council. He commented that the Macmillan Coffee morning held in the Institute on 8<sup>th</sup> October had raised in excess of £650, which was a remarkable result and a testament to the community.

#### **2223/68**      **Apologies and reasons for Absence**

Apologies and reasons for absence had been received from Councillor Way and Councillor Ramsden – these were noted and accepted.

#### **2223/69**      **Disclosures of Interest**

None

#### **2223/70**      **Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be signed as a true and accurate record.

#### **2223/71**      **Public Participation**

A member of the public noted that the inadequacy of the car park EV charger was on the agenda (Item 2223/81), and observed that in his experience it was rarely used. It was explained that the inadequacy was not a capacity issue, but rather that it did not work.

The maintenance of foot paths was raised. It was confirmed that this would be addressed under item 2227/74A

No other matters were raised

#### **2223/72**      **Reports from District / County Councillors**

Councillor Foster expressed his frustration with the lack of progress on Seal Bank and explained that this was in part down to the significant cost involved. He will continue to apply pressure to Area 5 for a resolution.

Mr Katic gave a short talk summarising the principal projects currently being undertaken by the NT on the Upper Wharfedale Estate. These are:

- a) **Peat Restoration.** A major project is underway in this area in collaboration with the Peat Partnership (part of the Great North Bog programme. Significant funding has been made available to restore the blanket bogs. This is to remedy the effects of erosion which has been going on since the Industrial Revolution and is caused by pollution, grazing and heavy rain. The eroded bogs are carbon emitters, and the remedial work will raise the water table and return them to being carbon stores, as well as providing important habitats for rare species. The focus is on reprofiling of peat hags, leaky gully blocking and restoring the hydrology. A similar project was undertaken some 12 years ago on Cray Moss which has been extremely successful.
- b) **Woodlands.** It is an NT strategic objective to plant 20 million trees nationally by 2030. The NT local is working with the White Rose Trust to plant locally – scattered trees emulating the natural environment rather than dense plantations. The approach should be thought of as “more trees in the landscape” rather than “creating woodland”. Much of the planting is in the ghylls where they contribute reducing erosion and the quantity of gravel being washed into the river. 70 hectares of native species are being planted between Beckermonds and Low Greenfield.
- c) **River Wharfe.** Some years ago the Wharfe (which is an SSSI) was deemed to be in poor environmental condition and a 50 year plan has been put in place to improve it. The NT are heavily involved in this. A member of the public expressed concern that the build-up of gravel in the river near the bridge threatened its structural integrity. This was acknowledged but the bridge is an NYCC responsibility rather than an NT one.
- d) **Footpaths.** The Dalesway to Hubberholme is to be re-routed along the riverside to reduce the need to walk on the road.
- e) **Ash Die back.** Work in this area continues
- f) **Buckden Pike Summit.** The work to flag the path from the summit of the Pike to the Polish Memorial has been completed.

Mr Katic was thanked on behalf of the Council and the public for his useful and informative update.

#### 2223/73

#### Proposed Community Areas

The Community Areas proposed for NYC were discussed and agreed to be inappropriate. The meeting felt that Buckden and Kettlewell should be part of the Grassington area. The consultation team will be in the Supermobile library in Buckden Car Park on 26<sup>th</sup> October from 10 – 12. Representations can be made there and also in writing. To be discussed further at November meeting.

#### 2223/74

#### Highways Matters

- a) **To receive an update on footpaths in the parish and consider any action required**

The maintenance of foot paths was discussed. The NT were thanked for the work they had already done and asked if they would be prepared to continue

trimming the paths on an occasional basis. It was explained that they were not in a position to contract to do this but would do it as a contribution to the community although should the PC feel inclined to make a donation this would be appreciated. The knotweed issue was discussed, and Mr Katic stated that he thought that Garry Schofield was dealing with it. Councillor Breen asked him if he would be able to confirm this.

**b) To consider any highways issues in the parish and any action required**  
Seal Bank – see item 2223/72.

Councillor Jarrett reported two further highway issues in Oughtershaw: There is a stream flooding on the corner by Danehill Farm and the water is running down the road towards the houses. There are also blocked road drains between Oughtershaw Village and Oughtershaw Hall. Councillor Breen will raise these issues with Area 5.

**c) To receive an update from the Road Safety Working Group**  
No update was available. This item was deferred until the next meeting.

**2223/75**

**Planning**

No applications have been received for consideration.

**2223/76**

**Emergency Planning**

Councillor Vetch reported that Mr Rangeley and Mr Davidson had identified a suitable generator so the council is now in a position to go ahead with the grant application, which will be for £3,500. Councillor Vetch noted that as well as buying the generator and getting the electrical work done, it would be necessary to establish the process by which it is used, and also a storage location. Contact had been made with the Emergency Group in Kettlewell who are also doing work in this area. **Proposed** that Councillor Vetch should write the grant application and submit it following review by Councillor Breen.

**2223/77**

**Land Registry Project**

Councillor Vetch circulated a draft of the risk analysis document which is currently work in progress. On completion, a working group of the council will review the document and agree which recommendations should be adopted.

**2223/78**

**Bonfire**

The bonfire will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Soundings in the community (notably at the Institute committee meeting) suggested that we should not proceed with fireworks, primarily due to the negative effect on animals. The Institute Committee has offered to pay for refreshments to accompany the Jacob's Join. The Institute has also offered to provide sparklers for children. The council thanked the Institute for both of these items.

**2223/79**

**Frequency of Parish Council Meetings**

Councillor Breen has researched the proposal to move to full council meetings

being held once every two months. The concern over approval of planning and financial matters, which could be delayed in these circumstances, can be addressed by the establishment of a Finance, Planning & General Purposes committee; all councillors would be members of this and it would be convened at three days' notice on an ad-hoc basis should the need arise. The quorum would be three councillors. **Resolved** that Councillor Been formalise and document the new working arrangements, with a view to formal agreement of the proposed approach at the next meeting.

**2223/80**      **Warm Spaces Initiative**

Councillor Foster reported that £500 "Warm Space" grants were available through CDC should we wish to take advantage of this. Applications should be made through Councillor Metcalfe. It was agreed that views should be canvassed to determine if there was any demand for a "warm space" and who would use it. **Resolved** that this would be done through the WhatsApp groups.

**2223/81**      **Electric Vehicles Charging - YDNP car park**

Users have reported problems with the EV charging pod in the car park. These relate to the need for a mobile or wi-fi connection to be able to use the app. Councillor Vetch reported that he had been contacted by Alan Hulme of the National Park authority in 2021 on a related issue and offered to contact Mr Hulme to raise the matter.

**2223/82**      **Correspondence**

- a) Invitation to join last meeting of the CDC Standards Committee. Noted – no action required.

**2223/83**      **Finance**

- a) **The bank statement was received and noted.** The bank balance at the 31<sup>st</sup> September was as follows: Unity Trust T1 account: £11098.51
- b) **Resolved to approve the following payments:**
  - To Mr Davidson for cost of Vodafone service - £82.00
  - To Roger Hall for decommissioning of old CCTV cable – £1000
  - To Councillor Vetch for the purchase of additional title records from the Land Registry - £6.00

**2223/84**      **Resolved** that members of the press and public be excluded from item 2223/85 under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960 s1(2)) during consideration of items of a confidential nature. (staffing matters)

**2223/85**      **Staffing Matters**

The Council discussed the recruitment a new clerk. An application has been received. Councillor Breen will organise a telephone interview.

**2223/86**

**Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting of Buckden Parish Council will be held at 7pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

The Clerk should be given seven clear days' notice of items for the agenda of the next meeting.

DRAFT