

Bilsdale Midcable Parish Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held 3rd May 2023

Chop Gate Village Hall

Present: Cllrs M Bowes, J Smith, B Heley, S Sanderson, K Verity

In attendance: Cllr H Moorhouse, Mrs P Johnson, Clerk R Chapman,

1. The meeting welcomed Ms Verity, attending for the first time.
2. Apologies for absence – none received
3. Declarations of interest: Cllr Smith declared an interest in agenda item 12
4. New Councillor - Ms Verity signed the Declaration Of Acceptance of Office form, countersigned by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: To co-opt Ms Verity as a member of the Parish Council.

5. The minutes of the meeting on 1st March 2023 were agreed as a true and correct record.
6. No issues arising from the minutes were raised.
7. Rural Watch – Cllr Smith reported that the group is up and running but take-up is low so far with just 17 members. Cllr Smith receives notifications from the Stokesley Rural Watch scheme. Any posts that are relevant to Bilsdale / Raisdale are posted on our site.

RESOLVED: Councillors will publicise the initiative to gain more support

8. Unitary Authority – Cllr Moorhouse reported on status. Council email addresses have been changed along with telephone contact numbers. The Council acknowledges concerns about the large increase in Council Tax bills and is striving to deliver best value through consolidation of contracts etc. There have been surprising difficulties in finding suitable applicants to fill staff vacancies in the new Council, especially Planning Officers. The Council has a policy of openness and the public is welcome to observe the meetings online. Cllr Moorhouse highlighted the recent consultation on the Parish Charter and the Climate Change initiative as examples of important engagement with communities. Practical details of how the Authority will work with Parish Councils are still being worked out but it is expected that local hubs will be important. Bilsdale is likely to be included within a hub centred on Stokesley.
9. Coronation Tea Party - Cllr Smith reported on arrangements. The committee are planning for a wet weather event bearing in mind current weather forecasts. There will be no marquee this year. Outdoor events will be limited, the biggest highlight being the duck race. Income from sponsorship has been encouraging with good prospects that more will come in. A few more tombola prizes are needed.
10. Bilsdale Mast – Construction of the main mast appears to be almost complete. Cllr Bowes has been in touch with both Arqiva (the mast owners and operators) and Cellnex (operators of mobile phone network equipment on the old mast). Estimate for restoration of TV

broadcasting and mobile phone signal is September 2023 at the earliest. Cllr Sanderson reported that installation work at height can only be conducted during favourable weather conditions and that work on equipment inside the buildings must be suspended for safety reasons during high work on the mast. These factors are affecting the rate of progress.

11. Fangdale Beck DMMO – final submissions have gone in from 4 parties. The Inspectorate had planned to walk the route on 26th April and a person with a clipboard had been observed then. No further updates expected until the report is complete.

12. Planning – The meeting ratified the decision reached through earlier correspondence and already submitted to the Planning Authority

RESOLVED: To offer comments but no objection to NYM/2023/0118 and 0119, Chop Gate Chapel

RESOLVED: To offer one comment but no objection to NYM/2023/0147, High and Low Crookleith

13. Finance –

a. Cllr Smith presented detailed accounts up to date and for the last complete financial year.

RESOLVED: To accept the accounts as presented by Cllr Smith

b. Cllr Smith presented a forward projection for finances over the next year. The financial situation of the Council has become more complicated due to expenditure on community projects and funding for the defibrillators, maintenance of which will incur substantial periodic expenditure. To improve clarity in the management of Parish Council finances, Cllr Smith proposed subdivision of the bank account into an 'Operational Account' and a 'Community Fund Account'. She tabled an illustrative spreadsheet.

RESOLVED: To create Operational and Community subdivisions of the Council reserves as proposed by Cllr Smith.

c. Changing bank account – No change. Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Clerk will meet soon to progress this.

14. Police report – Monthly reports had been circulated earlier.

15. Parish Council Annual Meeting – The date has been agreed as Wednesday 21st June. The accounts have been prepared and the key documentation has been reviewed. The package is almost ready to present to the Internal Auditor, Mr R Stanton. It was agreed that all Councillors should be aware of the scope of the annual audit process (AGAR).

RESOLVED: Clerk to send Councillors a list of key documents required for the annual audit.

RESOLVED: Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Clerk will meet imminently to finalise documentation

16. Policies: Copies of a new Code of Conduct, a revised risk assessment and two updated versions of the Asset register had been circulated before the meeting. The Code of Conduct will be adopted as a verbatim copy of the Local Government Association document. The Risk Assessment has been reviewed. The Asset Register will be updated in 2 stages – first to reflect the retirement of redundant assets and addition of the defibrillators as agreed by correspondence earlier in 2023 and second to add in the new benches as assets.

RESOLVED: The Code of Conduct, the revised Risk Assessment and the Asset Register (May 2023) were approved.

17. Correspondence: Incoming correspondence continues to be screened by the Clerk. The Council has received a proposal from Mr T Scott who wishes to donate a new bench to be placed near the Village Hall in memory of his late mother.

RESOLVED: Clerk to have telephone conversation with Mr Scott at the earliest opportunity and a possible site visit to make progress with the concept and report back to Council.

18. Next meeting:

The Parish Council Annual Meeting will be on Wed 21st June 2023.

The next ordinary meeting will be on Wed 5th July 2023

All meetings held in Chop Gate Village Hall starting at 7:30 pm unless otherwise stated.

R Chapman
Clerk, Bilsdale Midcable Parish Council