

BIGGIN PARISH COUNCIL

Biggin, Sherburn in Elmet, North Yorkshire, LS25 6HJ

Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of Biggin Parish Council held at The Blacksmiths Arms, Biggin, on Wednesday 17th April 2024.

The meeting opened at 6.31pm

Present: Cllr N Kaiper-Holmes (Chairman), Cllr C Hartley (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Anderson, Cllr J Lamb and Georgina Ashton, Clerk to the Council. 6 members of the public present.

(1) To receive Apologies for absence

The resignation of Cllr Martin Maltas has been received since the last meeting. No apologies for absence received in advance of the meeting.

(2) To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by Biggin Parish Council for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

None.

(3) Public Participation Period

Resident 1 – a resident posted a complaint on social media which they wished to be raised at the next meeting of the Parish Council. This post was made on 28th March 2023.

Can somebody please tell me what the point in us as a village spending a lot of time, effort and money buying bulbs 18 months ago and planting them in the verge was for, when the person (who I assume the parish council gets to cut the grass) just comes with his strimmer and cuts them down?!?!?. I saw him there yesterday with the ride on mower doing the edges and then I saw him get his strimmer out, and I wondered why it was necessary to cut right in between each clump. I wish I'd gone up to him yesterday and challenged him about this, but I didn't and now I regret not saying something. I am completely dismayed at the sight of the verge this morning! Daffodils that were in full flower just lying flat on the ground, plus bulbs that hadn't even opened up yet, also chopped off carelessly!

Daffodils need their leaves in order to photosynthesise and then store this energy in the bulbs underground, in order to push up new leaves and flowers the following year. These clumps which have been completely chopped off will not grow back next year or if they do they will be extremely weak and probably won't flower. The ones that have had some leaves removed might come up next year but they will be less abundant in size. And the flowers which he has chopped down from this years display are now gone. Daffodils have such a brief flowering period over the year – just these few weeks – which we look forward to seeing all year...

Why could he not have waited till after the flowers had died before doing his cutting and why did he even need to strim between each clump in the first place – and if he was instructed to do so – why did he not do it carefully so as not to damage the existing clumps? There are a lot of photos here because these are all plants which have been damaged. There is not one clump in the whole street that has not been affected. I have collect up all the chopped off leaves and flowers and if you scroll through the photos to the end you can see them in their entirety. *(41 photographs uploaded)*

Three additional residents made supporting comments. One suggested that "if he is paid to maintain the verge, then he should have the cost of replacing the damaged bulbs taken off his fee. This is a real shame.

The time spent planting lost by careless workmanship. *Response says I think it is a good suggestion. Plus he should have to come back in the autumn and do the planting of them?*

(4) To approve the Minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023.

Resolution: to accept and approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th November 2023 as a true and accurate record. Unanimous.

(5) Planning

a. To consider any live planning applications in the Parish.

ZG2024/0022/DOC – Bridge House, Oxmoor Lane – Discharge of Conditions – Condition decision issued 5th April 2024

Discharge of conditions 06 (construction management plan), 07 (drainage of planning approval 2020/1205/COU Change of use of land to holiday touring caravan site for up to 16 touring caravans, 4 grass tent pitches, associated internal layout tracks, new exit point, package sewage treatment plant and replacement of existing temporary toilet block with permanent amenity building (Part retrospective for 8 touring caravan pitches and amenity building).

ZG2023/1094/FUL – Fieldhouse View, Biggin Lane – erection of 1 dwelling – not yet decided

b. To receive an update on the renewal of the ACV on The Blacksmiths Arms, Biggin.

Copies of emails sent have been provided to the Chairman. It appears that NYC did not receive the application on 8th November 2023. Need to confirm if any additional information is required when the applicant was resent on 5th April 2024. Once valid, the process then involves writing to the owners and occupiers who will have 21 days to make any comments or objections. Then the next stage takes 7-8 weeks.

Letter of Acknowledgement received on 10.04.2024, Update from Officer (17.4.2024) All the relevant letters have gone, prepared the draft report for legal in anticipation there will be no objections. Given it was an ACV until the autumn of last year I don't expect any objections so it should go through swiftly and I am pushing for that for you.

c. To consider S106 expenditure and any updates

The Clerk has written to Gary Lumb, Highways Engineer and Stacey Preece, Highways Officer copying in County Cllr Andrew Lee for support. No response received as yet.

Agreement in principle to source quotations. Glasdon Gateway – Dickens Heath pg 14 (2 white posts) – with wording of Welcome to BIGGIN Please drive carefully – 2 entrances on Oxmoor Lane and only on the approach side of the road. (approx. location – nearest as is feasible to the speed limit entrance signs). (2 quotes, 1 additional quotation from the company which Towton PC used.

Resolution: for the Clerk to source 2 quotations for the next Parish Council meeting based on the above brief. Unanimous.

(6) Finance Report

a) Financial update from the Clerk, balance at bank – to 16th April 2024

Balance on the account as of 31 March 2024 was £3,846.94. Balance on the account as of 16th April 2024 was £3,836.95.

b) To approve the Bank Reconciliation and any payments

a. Schedule of payments include: The Community Heartbeat Trust (annual subscription) of £151.20, YLCA (annual subscription) of £62.00 and Clerk's wages for the 6 months to 31 March 2024 of £293.04. The precept instalment from North Yorkshire Council is expected in the account before 30 April 2024 for £1,613.15.

Resolution: to accept and approve the bank reconciliation and the payments schedule to 16th April 2024. Unanimous.

(7) Community Safety and outstanding matters

a) Defibrillator report – Cllr Anderson has just ordered some new electrode pads.

b) Grass cutting – complaint received from resident via social media.

Both Cllr Kaiper-Holmes and Cllr Hartley did not manage to secure anyone or a possible new contractor to take 3-4 cuts per year for less than £300 per year. Cllr Hartley to liaise with another local contractor.

Resolution: for the local resident to continue to cut the verge on Oxmoor Lane (3 further cuts for this year), for the resident to put in an expenses claim towards fuel costs. Unanimous.

(8) Correspondence received

a) To note the resignation of a Councillor – Cllr Martin Maltas provided his resignation to the Chairman on Monday 8th April 2024. Democratic Services at North Yorkshire Council have been notified and will issue a Notice of Vacancy in due course. Once the period of public consultation has expired (14 days), and if no election is called, the Council can co-opt for the vacant seat.

b) The caravan park has been sold, bought by a company who have other campsites/holiday lets in the region.

(9) Date of next meeting - 15th May 2024 (Church Fenton Village Hall).

Agenda items for next meeting:

- (i) update from Cllr Anderson on Land Registry/ relationship with Highways (verges in the parish).
- (ii) Village gateway signage
- (iii) Co-option of new councillor
- (iv) Caravan park update
- (v) Grass cutting

The meeting closed at 7.28pm

Signed:

Dated: