



The **Annual Meeting** of the Danby Group Parish Council took place on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017** at Castleton Village Hall, this meeting was immediately followed by the routine monthly meeting.

**Present** : Councillors: G. Banner, J Day, R Findlay, P Stonehouse, R Rudsdale, P Caffry, I Dodsworth, B/Cllr C Pearson and J. Preston (Clerk). Seven members of the public were also in attendance.

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting**

#### **1. Election of Chairman**

Councillor Banner was elected as Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Findlay, seconded by Councillor Dodsworth. Cllr Banner signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

N/A – all members present

#### **3. Election of Vice Chairman**

Councillor Caffry was elected as Vice Chairman on the proposal of Councillor Banner, seconded by Councillor Stonehouse.

#### **4. The following additional appointments were made:**

- 4.1 The Danby Village Hall Management Committee – vacant.
- 4.2 The Castleton Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Rudsdale.
- 4.3 Castleton Play Area Committee – Cllr Day.
- 4.4 The Yorkshire Local Councils Association – Cllr Banner.

### **Minutes of the routine monthly meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chair and immediately adjourned to allow members of the public who were present to speak in respect of the two planning applications on the agenda regarding Botton Village i.e. (agenda item 6.1) **NYM/2017/0189/FL**. - Application in respect of the construction of two buildings (to house biomass boilers etc). AND (agenda item 6.4) **NYM/2017/0219/FL**. - Application to remodel and extend the village store.

The two main speakers in respect of these applications had previously worked in the Botton community and spoke in opposition of the plans. With regards the Biomass application (1) the opinion expressed was that the proposal was not necessarily 'green' and was being progressed for the purpose of securing a grant. (2) One of the locations chosen was reportedly outside of the existing village confines and thereby enlarging the site. (3) The planning application was being submitted retrospectively and the project was virtually complete and there was therefore an implied pressure to accept the development / approve the application. (4) There was no mention in the application with regards consultation with the HSE.

In relation to the Village Store application the opposition was in respect of the wider open use of the store which would be selling more produce / products sourced from outside the existing community. Increased traffic and lack of parking were also mentioned.

Members of the council engaged in a debate with those present after which the Chair reconvened the meeting to deal with the applications.

**6.1 NYM/2017/0189/FL – resolved, no objection**

**6.4 NYM/2017/0219/FL – resolved, no objection**

#### **1. Declarations of Interest** None declared.

Signed as a true record: .....(Chair) Date: .....

2. **Minutes** – The Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April were accepted by resolution as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. **Matters Arising**

The Clerk updated members on actions raised at the previous meeting:

- Sanctuary Housing – depending on availability a representative of Sanctuary Housing had agreed to attend the June meeting of the Parish Council.
- Westerdale Cricket Club – letter of thanks received following the award of a grant
- Business Rates on toilets – letter sent to Robert Goodwill MP, response received circulated by e-mail.
- Closure of Danby PC – letter sent to Mr Wilson NYMNPA, no reply received yet.
- West Lane damage to fence / verge – not yet reported as there was some confusion as to who was responsible, now confirmed to have been the Electricity Board.

4. **Parish Council vacancy**

The Clerk advised members that one application to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council had been received namely from Miss Emily Watson. Members unanimously accepted the application and Miss Watson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

5. **External reports** – no reports presented.

6. **Planning Planning**

6.1 **NYM/2017/0189/FL**. See above.

6.2 **NYM/2017/0130/FL**. Resolved – no objection but with a note indicating members would prefer to see a different car parking surface used i.e. the plastic interlocking tiles which allow the growth of grass.

6.3 **NYM/2017/0233/FL**. Resolved – support on the basis the installation will improve mobile telecommunications in the area.

6.4 **NYM/2017/0219/FL**. See above

6.5 **Former NatWest Bank, Castleton**. Correspondence received from the Planning Consultant and circulated by email. It is stated in the letter received that in due course, a planning application will be submitted for commercial holiday lets, (according to the author) ‘this being a use which in principle, accords with National Park planning policy for the reuse of vacant commercial premises’. It is further stated that that the dormers on the rear roof elevation, previously added by the bank are, (in the opinion of the author), ‘something of an eyesore’. Accordingly, the owner / his planning consultant are looking at what can be done to remove this feature and put back something with a more traditional character and appearance etc. Reportedly once this matter is settled with the National Park Authority, the application will go forward. The author went on to seek the views of the Parish Council with regards this ‘restoration’ and closed his letter stating, “Indeed, if the Parish have any views on any aspect of the potential restoration of domestic use, albeit for holiday lets rather than as an ordinary dwelling, we would be very pleased to hear back from the Parish.”

Members were grateful for the update received but declined to comment further until such time as the formal planning application is received.

7. **Accounts**

7.1 Members approved the statement of accounts for the preceding month and authorised payment of outstanding invoices.

7.2 Members resolved to approve the appointment of Mr J Owens of Argot Accounting and Business Services as the internal auditor in respect of the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> march 2017.

7.3 **External Audit process** – Members resolved to approve the assertions made as part of the Annual Return with regards the ‘Review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control’. The Governance Statement was accordingly approved by resolution and signed by the Chair and RFO.

**7.4 External Audit process** – The ‘Accounting Statements’ made as part of the Annual Return were explained and discussed. The Accounting Statement was thereafter approved by resolution and signed by the Chair and RFO.

**7.5 Parish Council Insurance renewal** - By resolution the Clerk was authorised to progress renewal of the parish Council’s policy of insurance.

**8. Correspondence**

**The Hidden Valley Community Project** has been set up to carry out more research into the history of Westerdale and Kildale. At present, the committee is applying for funding both to the National Park Authority and to the Heritage Lottery Fund. These potential funders have asked for a letter in support of the project from a recognised body - as well as those already provided. The project is to include geophysical surveys of particular aspects of these two dales, some excavation in Kildale, field walking and the examination of pottery shard finds as well as translation of medieval documents relating to these valleys. Mrs Wilson on behalf of the committee states they would be very grateful if Danby Group Parish Council would provide them with a letter in support of this project. Resolved to support the project.

**7. Items reported by Parish Councillors**

**Closure of Danby Public Convenience** Cllr Stonehouse reported on an article which had appeared in the Whitby Gazette on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April with regards the inception of a new rail service which will likely (and is intended to) increase tourism in the Esk Valley area with particular mention being made of Danby. This enhanced rail service is a further reason the closure of Danby toilets should be opposed. Clerk to write to SBC.

**Cllr Findlay. Gates / cattle grids** Despite the response received from Mr Stanton (Area 3 Highways) Cllr Findlay is still of the view that the issue has not been properly addressed. The important point which seems to have been missed being that the gates / grids in question were not in place to prevent farmers stock wandering from fields but to prevent stock grazing on common land from straying into the villages and into fields. Clerk to write back to Mr Stanton

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm.**

**Date of next meeting of the Parish Council – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7:00pm**

**Foot note**

**Retirement of Cllr Reeves** Prior to the formal proceedings Members met and presented Mrs Reeves with an engraved vase in recognition of her service to the community and to mark her retirement from the Parish Council as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.