



MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 20th May 2024

LOCATION: Leeming Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: Cllr Capel (Vice-Chair); Cllr Bowes; Cllr Temple; Cllr Robinson; Cllr Stead

Apologies: Cllr Curry (Chair)

Others: 3 Resident; Sue Nicholson (Clerk)

Item Ref	Detail
23/24 APC	
1)	<p>Election of Chair</p> <p>The meeting was opened by the Vice-Chair who stated that Cllr Curry, who was present due to personal reasons, had indicated she would put herself forward to act as Chair. There were no other nominations. The nomination was accepted.</p> <p>Cllr Capel nominated Margaret Curry as Chair</p> <p>Seconded by Kirsty Temple</p> <p>Agreed unanimously</p>
2)	<p>Election of Vice Chair</p> <p>Cllr Bowes nominated Claire Capel as Vice-Chair</p> <p>Nomination accepted.</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr Stead</p> <p>Agreed unanimously</p>
3)	<p>Declaration of Office</p> <p>1. Signatures of declarations of Office by Chair will be completed when the Chair is able to sign the documents.</p> <p>Action: Clerk to organise.</p>
4)	<p>Consider and discuss the Minutes from 2022/23</p> <p>1. Minutes Annual Parish Council 22nd May 2023</p> <p>Proposed as accepted Cllr Bowes</p> <p>Seconded by Cllr Robinson</p> <p>Unanimously agreed by all councillors present.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>2. Any outstanding matters</p> <p>None</p>
5)	<p>Approval of Policies / Regulations</p> <p>1. <u>Annual Accounts</u></p> <p>1. Agreement of 2023-24 Accounts and Public Notice dates.</p> <p>Agreed and signed by the Vice- Chair</p> <p>2. Financial regulations pertaining to Small Authority</p> <p>Agreed and signed</p> <p>2. <u>Risk Assessment;</u></p> <p>Agreed</p>

3. To Review Policies

The following policies are now stator policies needing to be agreed:

- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations / Accounts
- Code of Conduct
- Publication Policy
- GDPR
- FAO Policy
- Complaints Policy
- Transparency Code
- Website Accessibility Access
- Schedule of Fees and charges
- Local Grant
- Employment policy / Pens
- Health Safety Policy
- Privacy
- Disciplinary and grievance policy

The clerk stated that from the above there was a new Financial Policy had just recently been released and forwarded by Yorkshire Local Council Association and she wanted this and other new statutory policies to be adopted once they have been scrutinised and agreed by the Parish Council. All policies will remain current until these have been ratified. A suggestion was that because of the increase in Statutory Policies required the parish look at all the policies in batches every month. Councillors discussed and agreed that the clerk should forward monthly the policies that need to be agreed in a timely manner, so councillors have time to read and ensure they are correct. They agreed that the Finance Policy should be discussed in the June meeting along with any other new statutory policies.

Agreed

6) **Insurance Company**

The clerk stated that she had looked and requested various price for insurance but our present company Clear Insurance (previously known as BHIB) was still the best.

Agreed

Meeting Closed

Signed by Chair:

Dated:.....

Annual Report May 2024

By the Chair

Good evening and welcome to this the Annual Meeting of EL&L PC and welcome to Fiona our newest member of the Parish Council who's first Annual meeting this is..

The purpose of this meeting is to up-date you on what we, as your Parish council, have been doing over the past 12 months. It will also give you the opportunity to ask questions about what we're doing or to raise other matters that fall within our remit.

It's now my pleasure to present the Annual Report on the activities of ELL&L PC for 2023-24.

To begin I'll just outline what the PC is responsible which includes:

- Playparks
- Grass cutting
- Village maintenance
- Reviewing Planning Applications
- Feeding into District and Country Council consultations
- Liaise with the Police, District and County Council
- Represent the parish on associated committees.

Other Issues we can take on are

Highways issues, transport and traffic, community safety, housing, street lighting, playing fields, litter, war memorials, seats and shelters, rights of way.

With these in mind let me outline what we've been doing over the last 12 months.

Environment

We've worked to both maintain and enhance the environment of the parish and have funded

- planters
- seating in Leeming and Londonderry
- a new notice board in Exelby (with a grant from NYC)

In progress we are looking to fund bulbs along the verges in Leeming and additional seating.

Unfortunately the contractor responsible for cutting the grass within the 30mph limits tendered his withdrawal from the contract due to personal reasons and we had to quickly find a replacement contractor at short notice. This was achieved and we were

aware of issues last May due to extremely wet weather, but this is was unavoidable as even we can't control the weather.

The playground along Mill Lane was in dire need of attention and some refurbishment. Fortunately for us, Sue, the Clerk has worked extremely hard to secure a lottery grant for £20K for this purpose. We have put some funding towards the refurbishment from savings and CIL money. Thank you Sue.

There were issues with the bridleway at Londonderry but this is still on-going. Also there is an issue at Crow Wood, Londonderry where a tree house has been built in the trees there - this needs to be discussed and appropriate action taken.

Transport & Safety

The speed limit through Exelby was reduced to ensure the safety of pedestrians in the village and the PC funded a VAS sign to help control the speed of traffic - this seems to be working.

A further traffic issue we're trying to address is that of heavy goods vehicles going through Leeming despite clear signage prohibiting this.

We are also working with Highways England to resolve a parking issue next to the emergency exit on Dere Street, but progress is proving to be slow.

Though we do not own buildings we are responsible for the upkeep of the three bus shelters in the villages and we have and are continuing to carry out repairs and maintenance on these structures.

Planning

As councillors we have reviewed and submitted considerations on planning applications within the parish. These range from landscaping applications, outline planning permission, domestic extensions and farm buildings. We strive to ensure all approved plans are in keeping with the needs of the villages always bearing in mind a development's impact on neighbours.

I have to stress here that the PC can only make recommendations for approval or objection - the final say goes to NYC planning department.

This of course leads onto the on-going difficulties with two planning applications which the PC has rejected and objected to on what we believe to be justified reasons. These applications are for four houses off Exelby Lane for 24 houses down Sycamore Lane. We are awaiting the NYC's decision on both of these applications.

Though not specifically within the boundary of EL&L PC we are aware of an application for a solar farm on land abutting Exelby but within Bedale Town Council bounds. We will support Exelby residents as much as we can over this installation and the problems it may cause.

Financing our parish duties

All Councillors are volunteers and give freely of their time and do not claim any expenses. Our only paid employee is the Parish Clerk and Financial Officer - Sue who is worth her weight in gold and keeps us up-to-date with everything and also keeps us in check when necessary.

A huge thanks to Sue.

The funds used to carry out our responsibilities comes from NYC in the form a THE PRECEPT which we apply for each year based on our planned needs. When formulating our financial plans we are very aware of the need to keep costs down as much as possible and it is with reluctance that we ask for a higher amount of Precept. I can honestly report that we have one of the lowest Precepts around.

This then is my Annual Report for 2023 - 24 and I hope you can appreciate that we have continued to function efficiently and professionally on your behalf. I'm extremely proud of our councillors and the hard work they have put in on behalf of residents.

All PC papers are to be found on the official website but please do not hesitate to contact us if you need to.