

**Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday
December 8th 2016 at Low Row Institute**

The Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday December 8th 2016. Present were Councillors Crapper, Calvert, McCartney, and Silver with Cllr R. Alderson presiding. Also present was RDC Councillor Blows. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams.

1. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from District Councillor John Blackie.

2. Declaration of Interests. None declared.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. A correction was made to item 4(e), to read that "members of public can speak at the Annual Parish meeting in March". Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed to be a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters Arising.

a) Pothole at Low Row Institute. This pothole has been filled in by BT Open Reach, after they had been doing some work nearby.

b) Overgrowing bushes in Gunnerside. Cllr Calvert has spoken to the owners and they have trimmed the bushes and now the visibility has been improved.

c) Notice Boards. Grants have been received to replace the notice boards at Low Row and Gunnerside from Richmondshire District Council. Quotes have been received to install wooden notice boards, however it was agreed to look for further quotes for plastic notice boards as well.

d) Drain at Gunnerside. This is still causing problems when it rains with water running down towards the village centre. Highways have inspected but nothing has been done yet. The Clerk will report this again.

e) Brocca Bank drains have been cleared.

f) Light at Toledo is still off. The Clerk will report this again.

g) Trees at Gunnerside. It was agreed that the Council would ask the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority if there were any volunteers available to complete the work to cut back the trees. The Clerk would also contact the previous clerk to see if they had any information.

5. Finance

a) Audit. This has been completed and received back, and no payment is due.

b) Pension. The Clerk has received a letter from the Pensions Authority advising that the Clerk needs to have a pension scheme set up by November 2017. The Clerk will look further into this.

6. Highways reply

The Clerk was asked to contact highways regarding the following issues:

a) Drain that comes out between West End Cottage and garage needs reporting again.

b) Light out outside Toledo, Low Row.

7. Richmondshire District Council

a) Budget consultation

Cllr Blows advised that RDC is looking at a slight increase in Council Tax of approximately £5 per year for the next 2 or 3 years. NYCC is doing the same to cover staff costs etc.

b) Parish Precept. The Council agreed to ask for a precept of £1500. The Clerk will send back the forms.

8. North Yorkshire County Council

9. YDNPA

a) Reeth 3 day trial – approved conditionally.

b) Tree preservation order- Removal of 1 limb of an oak tree at Oak Tree Barn, Low Row. The Council raised no objections or comments.

c) Planning application - Lilac Cottage, Low Row, -for demolition of existing rear extension and erection of single storey rear extension, The Council raised no objections or comments.

d) Planning application – Ralph Bank, Low Row, for subterranean ground floor extension to provide additional living accommodation, The Council raised no objections or comments.

e) The Council noted that the Parish Representative elected is Mr Allen Kirkbride.

10. AOB/other correspondence

a) BT consultation on payphones.

The Council noted that the payphone at Crackpot Lane has been included on the list of payphones which BT wish to remove, as it is claimed that it has not been used much in last few years. However, a letter was received from a resident who had tried on several occasions to use this phone when the phone service in Low Row was not working. In addition to this, there was no mobile phone service either. Each time the payphone was not working, so could not have been used anyway. As this payphone is situated in Grinton Parish, and Grinton PC have written to say that they are happy for the payphone to be removed, the Clerk was requested to send a representation to Grinton PC to say that Melbecks Parish Council is sorry to hear that they are happy to remove this, and to ask if this could be reconsidered.

RDC Cllr Blows advised however that it is likely that RDC will vote to object to the to the removal of payphones, at their meeting next week.

b) Superfast fibre. Now that this has been installed connection speeds have improved greatly.

c) Reeth 3 day trial/ Scott Trial

The Council noted receipt of thank you letter for both these trials.

d) Great North Air Ambulance

A request for financial assistance was received from Great North air Ambulance. It was agreed to make a donation of £50. The Clerk will arrange this.

e) Punch Bowl.

The Council received notification that the Punch Bowl would like to install some lights along the wall near the road. The land belongs to Kearton Pasture and this does not require planning permission – 4 towards Brocca Bank, and 3 on the other side.

Another removeable A-board would also be put up., next to the telegraph pole. The Council raised no objections to this.

f) Public participation at meetings.

A member of the public has written to the Council to request that the Council's policy of public participation at meetings should be more clearly stated on the 2dales website, as well as on the Richmondshire District Council and Parish Connect websites. It was agreed that the wording would be looked at and once all councilors have agreed, the information would go onto the websites. The member of the public also requested where they could read the 'Good Councillors Guide' referred to at the last meeting. The Clerk will send a copy of this.

11. Date and time of next meeting. The next meeting will be held at Gunnerside Village Hall on Thursday 8th February 2016.