

**Minutes of the Melbecks Parish Council meeting held on Thursday  
February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Gunnerside Village Hall**

The Parish Council meeting was held on Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017.

Present were Councillors Calvert and McCartney with Cllr R. Alderson presiding. Also present was RDC Councillor Blows and one member of the public. The Clerk was Miss N. Adams.

**1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from Councillor Crapper.

**2. Declaration of Interests.**

None declared.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting.** A correction was made to item 11, to correct the date of the next meeting to Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Subject to this amendment the minutes were agreed to be a correct record, and signed by the Chair.

**4. Matters Arising.**

a) BT consultation on the removal of payphones. The Council was informed that Richmondshire District Council had recommended that the payphones should not be removed.

b) Notice boards. Quotes have been received for different notice boards. The Council agreed to order 2 16 x A4 notice boards from freestanding recycled plastic notice, the Clerk will arrange this.

c) Trees in Gunnerside Ghyll, It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the YDNPA ranger, Michael Briggs and Councillor McCartney and possibly Councillor Crapper, if available. The Clerk will contact Michael Briggs and councillors to confirm the date and time.

d) Public Participation. Different suggestions to the wording of the information on the website regarding public participation at meetings had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The councillors agreed by 2 to 1, to continue not to allow public participation at other meetings except the Annual Parish meeting in March.

It was proposed that the following be included on the website:

'All residents of the Parish are welcome to attend these meetings, but as the Council has always decided not to have public speaking at Parish Council meetings electors can only speak at the Annual Parish meeting held each March.' Councillors agreed by 2 votes to 1.

e) Light at Toledo. The Council was informed that there is a new pole on order for this light, which will be repaired once this has been received.

f) Pension. The Clerk has contacted Pensions Administrator, and it was confirmed that Melbecks Parish Council do not have to provide a pension, as the Clerk's salary is less than £92 per week, and this just needs to be registered, which the Clerk has done.

**5. Finance**

a) Order to pay – Great North Air Ambulance. An order to pay was signed and a cheque signed for £50 for a donation to the Great North Air Ambulance.

**6. Highways**

a) Wall at Lodge Green. The Clerk was asked to contact Highways regarding wall at Lodge Green which is not in very good condition. The Clerk will report this again.

**7. Richmondshire District Council**

a) Parish Precept information. The council noted receipt of information regarding calculation of Council Tax base.

b) District Ward Boundary Review. Councillor Alderson and RDC Councillor Blows had attended this meeting and advised the Council that RDC are looking at the

number of councillors, which currently stands at 34, and would like to reduce this to a number possibly in the 20's. although RDC have advised that they do want to continue to reflect the community and not cut across parish boundaries.

Swaledale is the biggest ward with the smallest numbers of electors, however Swaledale and Reeth and Arkengarthdale combined would be too many for a single ward. RDC advised that ward names may change. Parish Councils are being asked for their views by July, and then a final decision will be made.

#### 8. NYCC

No items.

#### 9. YDNPA

The council was notified of the following planning decisions:

- a) Planning decision, approved conditionally - Three Sisters, Low Row
- b) Planning decision approved conditionally – Friar Intake
- c) Planning decision approved conditionally – 2 Lilac Cottages, Low Row
- d) Planning decision approved conditionally – Ralph Bank House, Low Row
- e) Article 4 direction. The Council was notified that on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017, YDNPA made an 'Article 4 Direction' which if confirmed, will remove a 'permitted development right' that would otherwise allow light industrial premises to be converted to dwellings without full planning permission.
- f) Local Plan. The Council was advised that YDNPA had resolved to adopt the YDNPA Local Plan in December 2016.
- g) Ash tag project. YNDPA had contacted the Council to raise awareness of the threat of Ash die back fungi, and to possibly help with the Living Ash Project.
- h) Update for Parish Councils. The Council was given an update including the Article 4 Direction, Local Plan, Dark Skies Festival, Rights of Way maintenance and appointment of new Parish member, Allen Kirkbride.

#### 10. AOB

- a) Yorkshire Dales Society. The Council received a letter and information from the Yorkshire Dales Society, and was asked if Melbecks Parish Council wanted to become an Affiliate member. It was decided not to do so at the moment.

#### 11. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish meeting to be held on Thursday March 30<sup>th</sup> at Gunnerside Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**\*\*Post meeting note, the Annual Parish meeting will now be held on Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Gunnerside Village Hall at 7.30pm.**