

BOWLAND FOREST HIGHER DIVISION PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting 18th July 2023, held at Dunsop Bridge Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Whitney - chairman
Cllr S Bennett
Cllr B Powney
Cllr A O'Rourke
Mrs R Carr – clerk
Cllr S Hore, RVBC
Mr J Pyrah, Duchy of Lancaster
Mrs G Williams

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Laura Airton, Ms Lydia Richards and Mrs Lara Thompson, all Duchy of Lancaster.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th May 2023 were read, approved and signed.

Matters arising: Mr Pyrah reported that the cockerels would be rehomed shortly and that the duck feeding is to be reduced and moved nearer the river, away from the village green. Following a meeting with Mr Pyrah, Alex West, Cllr O'Rourke and Mrs Carr, the Duchy had received a quote from Mr West to create and plant a circular area on the green, plant wildflower seeds on the riverside and provide planters near the cenotaph. The Duchy is prepared to match fund whatever amount the parish council wishes to contribute. Cllr O'Rourke explained how she had set up a working party of volunteers who had already carried out some weeding and planting in the village and they might like to do some of the planting suggested to bring down the cost. Mr Pyrah flagged up the issue of future maintenance of these potential projects.

It was reported that signs about dog behaviour had been placed and removed from the football field gate. Cllr Bennett suggested fencing off an area between the football field and the play area for people to use for dogs although mowing would be a consideration necessitating a field gate from the road. The clerk will ask Keith Wells for a quote for this and to re-fence the car park fence from the field gate back to the road as RVBC will not do this.

Cllr Hore reported that RVBC had trimmed the hedge in the car park and will hopefully cut it back further if a new fence is erected.

Replies had been received about the Little Bowland road and this is not to be closed in the near future. Also, Burholme Bridge should be mended shortly.

Replies about the road surface had been received and Cllr Hore suggested that these were followed up again as the surface is still poor.

Finance

Reserve account: £3278.69 – received interest £3.18

Current account: £3844.48. It was agreed to pay coronation expenses £378.20

The clerk will apply to RVBC for the concurrent grant and enquire about paying for play area expenses which could be claimed back under the scheme.

Correspondence

1. Peak and Northern Footpaths Society – to forward this information to all councillors and place on agenda for next meeting.
2. Trough Road has been closed for more than one day despite Cllr Hore's efforts on this and the signs placed ahead of the works.
3. Malcolm Herbert has cleaned the telephone box and tidied the grass around it and has obtained extra bins for the centre of the village. He has been thanked for this.
4. Parish Liaison meeting on 22nd June – items discussed included Ribble Valley economic plan, home upgrade grant, road safety working group and levelling up in rural areas. The next meeting is 14th September at 6.30pm at RVBC. A new policing model has been forwarded.
5. Ribble Valley Citizens Summit for Climate and Nature 1st July.
6. Risk assessment – the clerk will forward this to the councillors for further discussion.
7. An invitation from Thorneyholme School to attend a leaving event for the head, Mrs Jackson on 21st July.
8. RVBC survey on dog fouling and control issues open until 31st July 2023.
9. An invitation to join the Ribble Valley Traffic and Road Safety Working Group
10. A letter from Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
11. The community sports equipment shed should be arriving soon

Co-option

Cllr Bennett proposed that Mrs Williams was co-opted onto the council, this was seconded by Cllr Whitney and Mrs Williams agreed and was welcomed.

AOB

Cllr Williams asked about the ownership of the metal railings between the cenotaph and Bridge Cottage. Cllr Hore said they belonged to LCC who might contribute towards some paint. It was thought that the village working party might be able to paint them. Also the flagpole needs painting and benches on the green need staining. It was thought that it is possible to pay for the road sweeper to come on extra occasions – the clerk to find out the cost of this.

Cllr Hore mentioned that there is a Household Support Grant voucher and asked that this was advertised as widely as possible. He also mentioned the Clitheroe Food Festival on 12th August.

Cllr Hore said that the car park had new signs saying payment is cash only and that the boundary commission changes will come into effect in 2024 when there will be two MPs covering the Ribble Valley.

Mr Pyrah gave an update on Duchy developments – at the garage site the project is on hold due to utility companies. At Root building works are due to begin in September/October 2023 starting with improving the roadside access and works are expected to take 41 weeks.

Works at the garage site are expected to take 40 weeks but there is no start date yet.

Mr Pyrah was asked about arrangements for a Post Office in the village and he said he would let the council know in due course.

Next meeting

This is to be held on Tuesday 12th September 2023 in the village hall

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

