

BOWLAND FOREST HIGHER DIVISION PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting 28th November 2023, held at Dunsop Bridge Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Whitney - chairman
Cllr S Bennett
Cllr B Powney
Cllr G Williams
Cllr S Hore, RVBC
Cllr R Swarbrick, LCC
Mrs R Carr – clerk
Mr C Stephenson, member of the electorate
Mr M Donnelly, Bowland Fitness

Apologies for absence were received from Mr James Pyrah and Mrs Lara Thompson, both Duchy of Lancaster.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 12th September 2023 were read, approved and signed.

Matters arising:

The cockerels have been rehomed.

Proposed works at Root have not begun – to ask Mrs Thompson for an update.

Burholme Bridge has been mended – Cllr Swarbrick explained the delay in mending is due to insurance issues. He also mentioned that due to roads being forecast to be used more frequently during HARP works that he was looking for them to be repaired and maintained before, during and after the proposed works. He said that United Utilities are to fund a highways officer to check on road issues during the HARP works.

Enquiries about repairing the noticeboard are ongoing.

The water main in the field next to the car park has been marked out – to ask Keith Wells for a quote for the fencing.

Rural England Prosperity Fund

Mr Matthew Donnelly spoke about this fund and explained some of his role which is funded by Sport England. RVBC have already designated funding for an electric charging point in the village. Mr Donnelly had quite a lot of other suggestions which the community could apply for and thought the play area committee are thinking of applying. It was agreed to approach the play area committee to work together and talk about this at the next meeting. Mr Donnelly said he had some time which he could dedicate to an application. Mr Donnelly was thanked for attending the meeting.

Finance

Reserve account: £3289.39, received interest £10.70

Current account: £1547.28 – paid mowing £2244, received concurrent grant £550

The precept was discussed and it was agreed to ask RVBC for £2167.

Correspondence

1. Cllr Swarbrick informed the council that Armstrongs have applied for a further licence at Waddington Fell Quarry
2. The clerk to find out more information about the post office at Puddleducks.
3. LCC Walking and Cycling Survey
4. Matt Donnelly had asked for permission for a Picnic in the Park on the football field on 23rd September which had been approved by councillors by email.
5. AONB has given an update on the footbridge near Holmehead which will be repaired – the bridge will need to be closed during the repair.
6. Slow Ways – national walking network
7. National Data Collection Survey about elections – Cllr Whitney has completed this.
8. RVBC – information about Parish Liaison Committee on 14th September
9. Electricity North West have indicated that they will need to carry out works on the green and in the play area, probably in summer 2024 but will provide further notification.
10. Enquiry about defibrillator fund – not for maintenance costs.
11. Chipping parish council has replied to say the roads there are cleaned by volunteers and swept twice a year by RVBC.
12. LALC update
13. RVBC survey on playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities in the parish.
14. RVBC waste and recycling newsletter
15. LCC has replied about ownership of railings between the cenotaph and Bridge Cottage to say they are not sure who owns them but will make further enquiries.
16. RVBC consultation on planning at Root, garage site and 8, The Crescent – replied to say no comments.
17. Parish Council Liaison committee on 9th November – topics included Little Green Bus and HARP.
18. Public Realm Agreements – information sent
19. RVBC Household Support Fund – leaflets distributed
20. RVBC North West Community Energy Fund information
21. Letter from NatWest

Remembrance

It was thought the format worked well and it was very good to have school involvement.

There was much less traffic.

Cllr Williams asked about the cenotaph garden and is happy to continue to maintain it.

Lighting the war memorial and painting the flagpole were discussed.

Cooption

It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Powney that Mr Stephenson be invited to join the parish council – Mr Stephenson accepted and he was welcomed onto the council – the clerk supplied him with the necessary forms of acceptance of office.

AOB

Cllr Swarbrick had some details about a proposal for LCC to join with Blackburn and Blackpool Authorities to become a Combined Authority which would allow access to extra funding without districts losing any of their current powers.

Cllr Hore explained the workings of the precept and mentioned some funds which could be taken advantage of: North West Community Fund, RVBC -Village in Bloom fund, Christmas Light fund, Community fund and Sporting or Cultural Excellence fund.

Cllr Stephenson mentioned that there are very few pavements in the village – particularly when walking to school – Cllr Swarbrick suggested that the best course of action would be to send photographs of the areas in question to LCC.

Cllr Swarbrick mentioned gritting and grit bins which are very expensive.

Cllr Williams pointed out that 1st April 2024 would mark the 50th anniversary of Dunsop Bridge being in Lancashire.

Next meeting

This is to be held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 in the village hall

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.