

Yealand Conyers Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held by video communication on
Wednesday 6 January 2021 7.00pm.**

Present, Cllr Arthurs, Cllr A Metcalfe, Cllr D Hancock (Chair), City Cllr A Duggan.
Sue Brown, Temporary Clerk to the Parish Council.

Open forum – No member of the public in attendance. YCPC has no clerk at the moment, despite adverts in the usual places. The hourly rate seems too low, but this is always problem with small parishes. It is considered a local community service, with a stipend, although in fact it is a professional job. A better community spirit, with a passion for the place in which you live is hoped, but there is still the need for a Parish clerk who is either trained, or willing to be.

Following the Community Connectors meeting, the severity of the current lack of beds at the RLI is worrying. A Testing Centre at the Park & Ride in Lancaster will be set up soon. As a PC, we should be looking out for our neighbours and friends, there is a Support group and Yealands Facebook Gossip page too, plus the website, for information to be disseminated.

Grit Bins are currently OK, apart from Peter Hill, where it is leaking, so the grit is wet. Cllr Duggan will report it.

Thanks given to Dawn for her input on Noticeboards.

Suggestion that the Parishes could be amalgamated ? Some are keen, some are unsure, loss of identity, administering of joint Facebook page etc ? Especially as this situation continues. Decision of the Villages – there would need to be a referendum, with a full explanation of how the budget would be made up. A business plan needs to be provided, what is spent for both PCs, and forecasted amounts. Could there be a separate budget for each PC – trying for commonality; a good starting point for the future – see if it works or not ? Suggest all meet in March 2021 and discuss. One Agenda, that addresses key items, with maybe separating towards the end to discuss the more specific village issues ?

Pre meeting to sort it out, general items, then specifics

Lots of Potholes in Peter Lane, needs more than patching, City Cllr Duggan will look after request to County.

Potential new One Off Bank Holiday for HMQE2 Possibly first weekend in June 2022, to celebrate 70 years on the throne ? Should there be a Party in the Park at Leighton Hall, open to all local Councils, Villages, etc ? Needs lots of time to organise ticketing, numbers etc. Note (Open meeting closed).

1718. Apologies : No apologies have been received from Cllr Julian Atkinson.

1719. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th Nov 2020

Minutes have been circulated and agreed. Proposed as correct, by Cllr Arthurs, seconded by Cllr Metcalfe.

1720. Declarations of interests and dispensations : None were received.

1721 Resignation of Cllr Bridge and confirmation of the status of other Councillors : Information held at City Council office was incorrect, they have Cllr Panton, Tyldesley and Cllr Page listed as councillors . The Chair contacted Cllr Bridge & Cllr Atkinson and asked them if they had filled acceptance of Office forms and declarations of interest and dispensations. The latter forms are held by the City Council.

At that point, Cllr Bridge handed in her resignation . She felt that she cannot easily join remote meetings and questions how much she is able to contribute. Nothing has been heard from Cllr Atkinson and we do not know whether he has completed his forms. A problem occurs, as at least one vacancy arisen. Advertisement to go into the Parish Newsletter, Noticeboards, the Priest, (good information source) and Facebook page. Can we ask friends and neighbours as well - also flyers ? Concern re contamination 72 hours to be left before touching. Present advice is that residents should stay at home.

1722 Update of information for correspondence and new e mail address : New email address is : yealandconyerspc22@gmail.com The HMRC have been advised so the old clerk will not get any correspondence. Pensions Regulator say they

don't need to do anything else, until a new clerk is appointed. They are updated with situation, there is no pension scheme in place at the moment. Website has now been negotiated and Minutes & Agenda etc have been uploaded, but Cllr Hancock does not want to continue that role.

1723 Consideration of future planning for the role of the Councillors within the Parish Council. Cllr Hancock is concerned about passwords, etc, if nothing could be accessed, in the event of her being unable to continue in the role. HMRC was particularly difficult to sort out. Suggestion that an envelope, sealed and signed across the seal be left with other Cllrs. One is not happy with paper, wants it electronically.

1724 Change of signatories for Santander : When changes of address done, it was realised that Santander's details were not up to date. Cllr Angela Metcalfe was asked if she would be a signatory, she has agreed.. The old signatories will be removed and covering letters of their resignation sent to Santander . Item 1724 , this minute confirms that the present councillors confirm the changes . Cllr D Hancock will complete details and circulate to Cllrs Arthurs and Metcalfe . At present Cllr Dawn Hancock and Cllr Lucy Arthurs are signatories, we will confirm that Cllr Metcalfe is a member of the Council.

1725 Precept 2021-2022 : The forecast of what might be spent has been considered. Keep precept at £2,900, which would leave a very small balance at the year end. In the previous year, the precept was £2,645. Statutory charge for the website, Lengthsman, new defib batteries, replacement pads will be needed too. Cllr Hancock has not taken any fee for clerking, but hopes the PC will pay for ZOOM Probe, which is about £14.40 per month (effectively the current room hire budget ?) Resolved : Precept will be £2,900, Proposed by Cllr Metcalfe, and seconded by Cllr Arthurs.

1726 Consideration of hourly rate for a clerk : After discussion it was agreed that an hourly rate of £11.08 should be set for the new clerk, the budget reflect this.

1727 Readvertisement for Clerk : The time for a clerk should be increased from three hours, perhaps up to 5 hours, to encourage loyalty and the need to cover all legislative needs. Resolved 4 hours would be advertised, at a new pay rate of £11.08 per hour.

1728 Finance : Payments for 2 months Lengthsman £56.00

S. Brown 2mths clerking help £61.44

D Hancock 1 month zoom £14.39

After discussion it was resolved that the payments could be made. Proposed Cllr Arthurs & Seconded Cllr Metcalfe. £500 grant for improving footpaths has been received from County Council, not yet decided where it should be spent. Suggestion of online banking, consider for the future, no rush, might be easier once a new clerk is in place?

1729 Lengthsman update : Paul the lengthsman will make sure he passes on information before meeting in the future, Some signs are very rusty, won't clean up very well. The Flower box near Cllr DH door is rotting, needs to be replaced /improved, he is generally tidying up .Cllr AM happy to help him, in the Spring. Paul happy to work outdoors at the moment. Water pump viewpoint, so a new planter would be welcomed, estimates will be sent in.

1730 Notice Boards : The AONB information boards have been agreed, and should be in the process of being made up.

1731 Use of footpath grant : £500 received, it could possibly to put towards the Canal footpath and tidying up the footpath at the bottom of Well Lane ? Stainton footpath, near Heversham has been done and is very good. The AONB can help with the tidying up and improving the safety landing stage near the Village Hall.

Could this become a Community Area, so that the villagers get involved ? There is a fine line between amusement park and an open space. Footpaths – discrete notices about the Countryside Code, respecting the area, etc, including how to cross the road, look after livestock, etc. Reminders needed at key entrance and exit points would be helpful. Suggest a letter to the AONB to assist ? Money can be spent over the next financial year – by 31 March 2022.

Cllr Hancock will contact the VH Committee to see if they can tidy the back of the Car Park, a Risk Assessment will need to be done as it is near water.

The wall near the layby entrance at Tarn Lane, where the steps are is extremely dangerous and needs attention. Could it have any disabled access too ? A photo will be taken and sent to County Highways. Cllr Hancock will then report it.

1732 Planning : No outstanding applications at the moment. Scaffolding has been put up at Yealand Road (Clifford Hall, previously divided up into separate dwellings) Planning have been asked for the status (previously a Listed Building) of the house now.

1733 Date and time of next meeting : Monday March 15th 2021 at 7.00pm, to be held remotely, in conjunction with Yealand Redmayne Parish Council, for joint working / commonality exercise. Meeting closed at 8.45pm