

## BIRSTWITH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23rd November 2023 in the Reading Room at 7.30 pm**

**PRESENT:** E March (chairman) D Fisher R Houseman P Trehitt M Worsnop  
County Councillor Nathan Hull The clerk + 2 parishioners

**APOLOGIES:** Carol Packer

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** M Worsnop – Clerks Salary and R Houseman re: PA  
Grange Farm

**PARISHIONERS QUESTIONS:** Mr & Mrs Saddington attended the PC meeting. They told the Councillors that they had bought The Cow Shed at Hew Green from the developer Gary Douglas with Planning permission, gained at appeal to convert into a forever home. However problems arose as the builder started the renovation regarding the rear northern wall which was in danger of collapse. They had no hesitation in agreeing to replace it on the grounds of H & S and had no idea this was a contravention of the planning permission. Three subsequent applications have been refused the last one went to planning committee refused 3 – 2. They were then told to apply for a self build application along with a unilateral legal agreement which cost a great deal. The neighbours have no objections and would rather see the building developed as previously intended as it dominates the development and without a resolution will remain in this derelict state, in perpetuity. They were asking for the PC's support with their latest application.

**MINUTES:** It was proposed by D Fisher seconded by R Houseman and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman

**COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:** Nathan reported 314 million over the next decade will be allocated to Highways due to the cancellation of HS2. The monies will be spent on road improvements and pot holes. The elected Mayor in each area will be responsible for allocation of available money. The 24 Bus is being used more by local residents since the fares were brought down hopefully this will encourage the service to remain. Housing Strategy form (forwarded to Councillors for comments) – local occupancy should be stipulated with affordable housing for local residents. It is hoped that more vacant houses in the village will be purchased by NY Council. The B6165 Hartwith/Stripe Lane area – Highway issues needs looking into as 3 accidents have been reported in the last 2 weeks. It is understood more sand bags may now be available and this is being followed up. Concerns have been raised about the length of time the Menwith Hill road is going to be closed. New recycling bins some residents had received a letter and the bins should be in place within 4 weeks but not in the village as yet. The position of the Dog fouling bin on Darley Road is still an issue as it is on a bend and dangerous to access from both sides of the road the Chairman has discussed this with Sandy Botham from NYC. Nathan is giving money out of his Local Community Fund to provide more matting at the entrance to the Birstwith Show Field.

### **Updates:**

**The Play Area:** It was proposed by R Houseman seconded by P Trehitt that we apply for £1,000 from Nathan's Local Locality Fund for essential repairs to the Playground equipment arising out of the Rospa report. Park Lane Playgrounds quote is £1780 + VAT. Another quote is being sort for an additional piece of play equipment to be discussed at next meeting

**Highway issues:** The footpath outside the Doctors Surgery has still not been completed further

investigations are under way. The Chairman is meeting with the Police this coming Sunday to discuss the problems with the pinch point. The Chairman is to speak with Darren Griffiths as to whether it would be possible to erect a flashing sign at the pinch point. As we are getting no further with Highways to remove weeds from paths and verges on Nidd Rise it was suggested that the residents living in this area should write in themselves.

**BIB Arrangements** are being made to move the old Clint Bank stone sign to the Community Garden in the near future.

**Elton Top Bus Shelter:** Has now been completed by Backhouse Bros it is a great improvement and the clerk will complete the relevant paper work to be sent to Two Ridings. Proposed by R Houseman seconded by M Worsnop that the account should now be paid

**Grass Cutting:** the 2<sup>nd</sup> verge cut has now been completed

**Sustainable Birstwith:** have been given a grant from Two Ridings towards the cost of a VAS sign near Birstwith School, along with their own funding and a 1/3rd of the total cost from the PC when all the relevant information has been received

**Christmas Tree Lights:** Have now been repaired and have been switched on

**Nidderdale Greenway** – It has been suggested that a survey is carried out next year possibly on-line/church magazine to get an idea of the public interest in this venture

**Footpath from Birstwith to Hampsthwaite** – a letter has been received from Hampsthwaite Parish Council stating that they would like to arrange a meeting so that both parties can discuss improvements to this footpath. The clerk to write to HPC saying they would like them to arrange an informal meeting in the New Year

**School Clock:** The chiming mechanism has been repaired at a cost of £175 + VAT but the Autowind 8 unit is under strain due to its age (it is a case of when, not if, the unit will fail). The cost of a new unit will be £3,447 + VAT. It was proposed by M Worsnop seconded by D Fisher that the work should commence once we know if it is backed by a guarantee

**NALC – E01-23 Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023** – The National Joint Council for LGS had reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April to 31 March 2024. It was agreed that the Clerk's Salary should be increased in accordance with the above agreement proposed by D Fisher seconded by the Chairman – all in favour

**Precept for 2024/2025:** It was proposed by R Houseman seconded by D Fisher that we should apply for a precept of £15,000 and it was unanimously agreed

**Accounts approved for payment proposed by D Fisher seconded by R Houseman – all in favour**

<b>W E Benson</b>	Verge Mowing	Chq 264	£666.00
<b>Brit Gas</b>	Electricity a/c	DD	15.75
<b>Smiths of Derby</b>	Repairs to School Clock	Chq 265	210.00
<b>SLCC</b>	Ann Sub	Chq 266	76.00

draft accounts from April to November

### **Planning Applications**

**Erection of 1 self build dwelling** – ZC23/03777/FUL Hew Green Farm High Lane High

Birstwith HG3 2JL – **No Observations strongly approve**

**Retrospective permission for installation of rooflights and change of use of existing outbuilding**

**and associated land to ancillary purposes to serve Grange Farm** – ZC23/03703/FUL Grange Farm High

Birstwith HG32JT – **Observations: Change of use, object to roof lights, totally inappropriate in the area**

**Temporary widening of both the B6451, with installation of 20m x 1m hardstanding area to west side,**

**and the existing vehicular access into RAF Menwith Hill. Lateral reduction by 0.5 m to south side of 1**

**Hawthorn Tree (T8) and Lateral reduction by 1m to north west side of 1 Oak tree (T9) – Land**

**comprising Field at 420013 456784 Darley North Yorkshire – No observations**

**Certificate of lawfulness for existing building and associated hard and soft landscaping**

ZC23/03827/CLEUD Grange Farm High Birstwith HG3 2JT – **Observations – Cannot comment on Lawfulness of this application however dismayed it was allowed to be built in the first instance**

**Grant Planning Permission**

**Sunnyside Back Lane High Birstwith HG3 2JS** – permission granted with conditions

**Sleights Farm Back Road High Birstwith HG3 2LJ** – permission granted with conditions

**Spring House Back Lane High Birstwith HG3 2JH** – permission granted with conditions

**Coachmans Cottage New Road High Birstwith HG3 2JF** – permission granted with conditions

**Correspondence**

**Letter from Andrew Jones MP House of Commons** – Thank you letter from Andrew Jones MP  
re: water quality in the River Nidd

Meeting closed at 9 pm

**Date of next meeting**      25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

*Signed by the Chairman*

*Dated*