Wheldrake Parish Council

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Minutes of Wheldrake Parish Council Meeting held at 7pm at White Rose House on Wednesday 26th April 2023

1 Welcome:

The Chair welcomed councillors and visitor(s) to the meeting. Craig Ralston, Manager at Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve was in attendance for 23/00028/FUL

2 Apologies and Attendance:

Cllr Wilkinson, Nelson, Buckle and the clerk

Attendees were noted by the Chair in the absence of the clerk.

3 Interests:

The Chair reminded members to make any declarations in any agenda item(s). Cllr Cranfield declared an interest in 23/00771/FUL

4 Minutes:

Minutes of the previous meeting in March signed off and approved.

5 Council:

The Council received comments from resident(s) present.

N/A

6 Reports received (for information only)

a. Village Maintenance Group

Email from the clerk requesting the planters to be done for the summer has been received and passed to a colleague who will respond. It was noted that a planter at the far East end of the village (next to the Wheldrake brick sign) had not been planted up. Felt that it was not in an optimal position and the possibility of moving it should be considered – eg to the junction of Beck Lane with Church Lane.

Email from resident in respect of overgrowing verges encroaching on pathways on Main Street and Church Lane – noted that majority of residents actually trim those outside their properties. Cllr Southern to contact TJ to sort.

b. Playpark Committee

No immediate concerns and things seem to have quietened down in spite of lighter nights.

Councillor Southern gave feedback on her attendance at a playpark inspection training session. It is clear that we fall short in many areas – eg provision of self-closing gates, weekly inspections, activity logs etc. The clerk will contact YLCA who provided the course to get the information required so the PC can put things in place.

c. Defib update

No issues. Still no announcement on £1M government funding

7 Communications Received:

a. Confirmation from City of York Council regarding recent nominations CYC confirmed receipt of all 13 PC members meaning the PC is full.

Email from resident suggesting chicanes. Not thought to be a viable suggestion – number of parked cars on Main Street act as a traffic calming measure in their own right

Two emails from residents in Broadlands regarding 2 large trees in grass verge. Clerk to respond that land is the responsibility of CYC and that problem should be reported to CYC. Go to CYC web site and search for "report a vegetation problem" and click on link to application form.

8 Planning:

To consider and decide upon the following planning applications;

23/00028/FUL — Lower Derwent Valley National Nature Reserve Erection of single storey building comprising integrated wildlife watch tower, laboratory, meeting space, work space, ancillary accommodation including dormitories and associated works at the

Craig Ralston gave a short presentation on the development and answered questions from Councillors. Particularly about accommodation as some were concerned that this could end up as a sort of Air BnB set up. We were assured that the accommodation was in two rooms and was very basic (bunk beds) with rudimentary cooking facilities and would be available to those individuals undertaking nocturnal surveys. With this clarification we strongly supported the application

23/00771/FUL – no objections

9 Finance:

Payments to be made:

PFK Littlejohn £240.00 YLCA subs and training £676.00

Remittance

Other

Clerk's salary at rate already confirmed, plus any receipted expenses.

10 To consider the PC response to the Bus Subsidy going forwards

We felt that data supplied by Ben Gilligan was inadequate in that stats were not available for passengers from the outlying villages en route. Moreover by his analysis, only 225 people had made the journey in/out of York in the 22/23 year equating to 4.5 persons per week.

The council did not feel that subsidising a bus service at this level costing >£3K was a good use of the Parish Precept. A decision on this issue will be forthcoming once the results of the CYC elections are known as all candidates claim to have championed

the service and if it is to be believed, then the PC feel that such a subsidy should be forthcoming from Ward Grants.

NB – this subsidy only relates to the weekend evening service.

11 Playpark CCTV

Councillor Southern reported that she had received an offer of a security camera free of charge. We considered the draft proposals on CCTV guidance but expressed reservations about the appointment of a DPO (who would also have to go on an accredited course). Moreover, if this individual left the PC then a further individual would have to be appointed to the role etc.

Councillor Myers suggested that we explore an external firm to take over the monitoring role and offered to undertake the necessary research.

12 PC Noticeboard

Fine as it is – needs a bit of a tidy up. Chair noted that notice of meeting which he posted on the school board had been torn down after a day or two.

To consider the PC response to tree planting on Broad HighwayNo comments.

14 Items to consider for the next meeting

- Playpark. A vigorous debate on its future. Plans for development, open day for users to seek views, Skate Park? Consider employing a new maintenance firm? Adult exercise machines?
- Grants

To confirm date of the next meeting which will take place on Wednesday 31st May at 7pm.

This meeting will include:

- Annual PC Meeting
- Annual Meeting of Wheldrake PC

Meeting closed: 20.19