**PARISH COUNCIL OF BISHOP WILTON**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council (PC) held on Monday 16th December 2019 at 19:30 hrs at the Bishop Wilton Village Hall.**

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Young and assisted by the clerk.

Present: Cllr Young, Wilson, Black, Rodmell and Hall. Ward Cllr Rudd and several members of the public were in attendance.

**OPEN FORUM**

Ward Cllr Rudd gave his report as follows;

ERYC have been awarded top recycling for the third year in a row. The national figure is 45.1% and ERYC achieved 64.8% which is an increase of 0.3% from the previous year.

Ward Cllr Rudd noted that ERYC are reminding residents not to put batteries in the wheelie bins. A fire started in a wheelie bin in Bridlington which had been caused by batteries. Batteries should be taken to supermarkets who collect these to dispose of.

ERYC in conjunction with the NHS have produced information on how to reduce the risk of cancer. The tips can be found on the ERYC ‘Happy and Well Me’ website.

ERYC are currently preparing budgets and the final budget meetings will take place in January 2020.

A parishioner wanted it noting that thanks should also go to the recycling operatives at the Pocklington refuse site. He asked that this be passed onto the relevant team.

Cllr Young invited comments from the members of the public.

One of the candidates for Councillor read a statement to the PC detailing his skills and career history.

A series of challenges were then put to the PC about their decision-making criteria when selecting a candidate and also the PCs transparency. It was noted again that the PC co-opt correctly and that the process is legal and transparent.

At this point Cllr Hall said that it appeared to her that the PCs correct procedures and transparent conduct were being called into question. She resigned with immediate effect and left the meeting.

A statement was read out by Cllr Young upon advice that the clerk had obtained from ERNLLCA stating that the PCs process was fair and inline with the correct process of co-opting parishioners. The advice confirmed that the PC do not have to provide feedback to unsuccessful candidates.

At this point a member of the public made a statement on how he felt the PC should co-opt candidates.

Ward Cllr Rudd noted that all parishioners had had the opportunity in May to nominate themselves for elections and again when each vacancy notice had been posted.

A Parishioner considered that in his opinion, the current PC were not representative of the Parish.

A resident asked what the members of the public in attendance felt the Parish Council were not doing. Comments were made around diversity and transparency. Cllr Young felt it worthy of note that there had been nothing specific as to what the PC were not doing in the interests of the Parish.

A resident commented that the tree overhanging Worsendale had still not been addressed. ACTION: Clerk to chase the progress of this with ERYC. He also noted that the cat’s eyes on the A166 going west towards York starting around the junction with Barf Lane (Bugthorpe turnoff) and continuing beyond the Parish boundary towards the Full Sutton junction do not function. ACTION: Clerk to report this to ERYC.

At this point Cllr Young called an end to the Open Forum.

**Meeting started at 20:04 hrs**

1. **Welcome and Apologies –** None.
2. **Declarations of Interest –** Cllr Young declared an interest in the planning application 19/03284 PLF.
3. **Co-option of Councillor**

Cllr Young asked the three candidates to leave the room at this point whilst their co-option was discussed.

Cllr Young abstained from all three votes and asked the remaining Cllrs for nominations for the following;

Roy Sumpner – Cllr Black proposed to co-opt Roy, Cllr Wilson seconded this, and Cllr Rodmell was in favour.

Andrew Holloway – no nominations were given.

Paul Rigby– no nominations were given.

The candidates were invited back in at 8.10pm.

Cllr Young advised Andrew Holloway and Paul Rigby that they had received no nominations. Cllr Young went onto invite Roy Sumpner to be co-opted as a Cllr. The clerk handed Roy the relevant forms to fill in. Cllr Sumpner joined the table at this point.

Members of the public challenged the PC on their decisions and one of the candidates openly made threats to the PC in an aggressive manner. One member of the public criticised Ward Cllr Rudd for allowing these decisions to be made. Ward Cllr Rudd emphasised that the PC were within their rights to not co-opt parishioners. All members of the public (with the exception of one) left the meeting at this point. The PC agreed that the behaviour of the individual vindicated the decision that they would not be invited to join the PC.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** – The minutes from the 18th November and the 9th December were signed as a true and accurate record.
2. **Matters Arising**

The clerk had sent Ward Cllr Rudd a list of actions that were outstanding. Ward Cllr Rudd updated the PC as follows;

Potholes on Belthorpe Lane - i.d.#1096896. No response.

Potholes on Vale Crescent and Worsendale Road. Confirmation was received on the 20th November that these works will be carried out in the next 28 days.

Potholes on Bolton Lane and Thistle Hill – The clerk had had previous confirmation that works would be carried out on Bolton Lane within 28 days. Ward Cllr Rudd has had no further response regarding Thistle Hill.

T-junction at Youlthorpe – Confirmation was received from ERYC stating that they will continue to monitor the issue as the ruts are not deep enough to repair. Cllr Wilson stated that they were very deep and needed addressing.

Grass verges on The Balk and Kirklands Lane – No response.

Flooding at Youlthorpe and Gowthorpe – No response.

Grips on Kirklands Lane and Gowthorpe Lane. No response.

Previous work in Youlthorpe - this is at the east side of the hamlet in the direction of Bishop Wilton. Previously water was running down the middle of the road and was particularly heavy after rainfall. A trench was dug on and filled with gravel this diverting the water away from the road. The water then ran under a culvert to take the water away. On completion reflective post were driven into the ground to alert vehicles of the soft gravel. Within three days all the posts had been broken by farm traffic (as it is narrow at that point) and a heavy vehicle has obviously sunk into the grave. The water is now travelling down the middle of the road and the work done has been completely wasted. A more realistic option needs to be considered and one that has protection from heavy farm traffic. The school bus travels through daily and it is on a designated cycle route. No response.

ACTION: Clerk to send all outstanding issues to Paula Parker at ERYC for updates.

**School Pictures for Noticeboard**

Cllr Young has spoken to the printers and will have a final copy emailed to him. Once he has received this, he will forward this to all Cllrs and get this printed. He confirmed that it will take 1 week after confirmation to receive this. ACTION: Cllr Young to provide an update at the next meeting.

**Highways**

Overgrown hedgerow on the junction of Worsendale Road and Garrowby Lane (i.d.# 1096914). Cllr Rodmell confirmed via email prior to the meeting that this has now been cut.

**Emergency Plan**

Clerk has received Cllr Rodmell’s details. ACTION: Clerk to populate plan and put an updated one in the emergency box.

**Community Issues**

The streetlight has now been repaired in the bus shelter by the village green.

The streetlight has now been fixed on Street Lane near Clay Farm.

**Access to Eastfield Farm**

Cllr Young has spoken to the resident concerned and they confirmed that this is not a usual occurrence.

**Auto Debris on Hatkill Lane**

Ward Cllr Rudd has had no response to this issue. ACTION: Ward Cllr Rudd to provide an update at the next meeting.

**Hazardous Path from Vale Crescent Adjacent to Allotments.**

Cllr Young confirmed that he has reported this to the Allotment Association and that they would be dealing with this.

**Unsafe Tree near Holiday Lodges**

Cllr Young reported that the tree has since fallen into a resident’s fence. The resident reported this to ERYC who advised him that it was not their responsibility and that he should contact his insurance company. The resident has since fixed the fence.

**Red Telephone Box**

ACTION: Agenda this for February 2020.

**Vicarage Lane**

The clerk sent correspondence from ERYC to the resident who raised the issue of planings. ERYC stated that the lane is owned by the residents and any improvement works must be funded by themselves. Any works should be approved by ERYC first.

1. **Accounts**
* **Roundabout Conversion**

Cllr Wilson has spoken to the contractor who will be carrying out the work. They have confirmed that they will sandblast the item and make the repairs at no cost. The PC will have to pay for the decking and installation. ACTION: Cllr Wilson to obtain a quote for this for the next meeting.

* **PC Contribution to MUGA Project**

This could not be discussed further until the PC have a quote for the roundabout conversion.

* **Internet Banking**

ACTION: Cllr Black to update the PC at the next meeting.

The clerk noted that she had received an invoice for £2234.30 from ERYC for the street lighting as well as a credit note for £2278.99. She had spoken to ERYC who confirmed that the original invoice #64675230 had been issued incorrectly and the PC were due a refund of £44.69. The clerk confirmed that she had received a form to fill in for the refund.

The bank statement and reconciliation were signed by Cllr Black and Wilson

The schedule of payments was approved and signed by Cllr Wilson and Black.

Payment was made by cheque and signed by Cllr Young and Black for the following;

Came and Company - £382.01, cheque no. 000062 (insurance)

1. **Planning Applications**

19/03284/PLF Internal alterations including repair/ replacement of structural timbers on two staircases, installation of line slurry tanking system and lime plaster to internal wall and installation of internal fanlight window. Location: Cliff Farmhouse, 58 Main Street, Bishop Wilton, YO42 1SR.

Cllr Wilson conducted a site visit and confirmed that all works were internal. It is a grade 2 listed building and the ERYC conservation officer has visited the applicants to advise them. The restoration work is to replace the existing staircase damaged by dry rot. Cllr Rodmell noted that previous works that have been carried out have been of a high standard.

Cllr Wilson proposed to support the application, Cllr Black seconded this, and Cllr Rodmell was in favour. ACTION: Clerk to respond to ERYC with the PCs decision.

1. **Precept**

The clerk had prepared a report based on 2018/19 and the current financial years expenditure. She noted that in both years, had it not been for substantial irregular payments, the PC would have remained within the precept awarded. She gave the PC the option to increase the precept to £10,000 to cover the cost of a possible election. This would see council tax rise by 14.21% but this would save the PC using any more of their reserves. The second option was to keep the precept demand the same as in 2019/20. The PC could use reserves to pay for the potential £1400 cost of an election.

A discussion was held, and it was felt by all that it would not be appropriate to raise the precept to cover the election costs. All agreed that the precept remain at £8549. The relevant form was signed by both the chair and clerk. ACTION: Clerk to send the form back to ERYC before the 17th January.

1. **Strengthening Police Powers to Tackle Unauthorised Encampments Consultation.**

A discussion was held, and it was agreed that this would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting with a view to completing the survey. The clerk noted that the deadline was the 19th February. ACTION: Clerk to agenda this for January.

1. **Request to Support the Local Electricity Bill**

The clerk had circulated an email from ‘Power for the People’ asking the PC to support the Local Electricity Bill. If the Bill is made law, it would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers. Residents can sign up to the campaign at [www.powerforpeople.org.uk/sign-up](http://www.powerforpeople.org.uk/sign-up)

1. **Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Black reported that Farm Watch was proving to be very successful. There had been a recent update reporting that several vehicles had been stopped and dispersements had been issued by the Police. The service provides details of vehicle registration numbers for suspicious vehicles.

1. **Community Shop Christmas Event Update**

Cllr Young asked the remaining member of the public if they could update the PC considering Cllr Halls resignation.

It was confirmed that the event will take place on the 22nd December between 4 and 6pm. There will be carol sing-a-longs at 4.30pm and 5.30pm followed by a walk to see the advent windows. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

1. **Public Meeting: Village Green Initiative**

Cllr Wilson commented that he is contact with the organisers of the conservation group previously mentioned and will update the PC with any further developments. ACTION: Clerk to put this on the next agenda. ACTION: Cllr Young to obtain a quote from the grass cutting contractor regarding the collection of grass cuttings.

1. **Correspondence**

The clerk wanted it noting that in light of recent developments and persistent aggressive challenges by certain members of the public, she has tendered her resignation. She went on to say that it was with a heavy heart that she is leaving as she has very much enjoyed working with all members of the PC. Cllr Young at this point thanked the clerk for all her hard work over the five years she has been employed by the PC.

The clerk read out an email received from Cllr Black making residents aware that there have been reports of a female and a male attending addresses and asking occupants to look and buy paintings/ sketch drawings from them. They are telling the occupants they are deaf, and they also have deaf children and need the money to pay for operations. The Police ask that residents do not engage with these people or let them in their homes.

The clerk reminded all Cllrs that she would be on annual leave from 21st December until the 2nd January 2020.

1. **Community Issues**

None.

1. **Date of Next Meeting –** 20th January 2020 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:17 hrs.

Signed as a true and correct record  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**