

CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 9th December 2024 at Cliffe Village Institute

24/296 Present: -

Councillor G Wilson (Chairman)
Councillor H Cross
Councillor S Gummerson
Councillor A Holman
Councillor J Jewitt
Councillor J Wallinger
Councillor E Yates

North Yorkshire Councillor K Arthur

One member of the public was also present

24/297 Apologies: -

Councillor R Woodall

24/298 Declarations of Interest: - None

24/299 Public Session: -

A member of the public raised concern regarding an overgrown public footpath which crosses over Old Mill Field Drain and a ditch that has been filled in on land to the north of Prospect Gardens (north side of the A63) and the **Chairman** agreed to raise this with Guy Parker – Ouse and Derwent Drainage Board at their site meeting, scheduled for later in the week.

24/300 Police Report: -

It was noted that Cliffe have been assigned a new police community support officer, PCSO Hannah Gaskell who is keen to meet with the Parish Council but unfortunately due to shift patterns she is unable to attend any of the scheduled Parish Council meetings up to and including March 2025.

It was agreed that the **clerk** would ask her to provide a monthly police report to be circulated to all members and posted on the Cliffe Village Website.

Members also discussed the recent theft of a Land Rover Defender from an address in the Cliffe-Cum-Lund.

24/301 Listen to reports from North Yorkshire Councillor: -

North Yorkshire Councillor Karl Arthur reported that garden waste bin collections have now finished until March 2025 and advised that it is likely that the green bin charge will increase by the rate of inflation plus one pound. It was noted that both the A63 Selby Bypass and Selby town swing bridge repairs have now been completed.

Councillor Arthur provided an update on the North Yorkshire Council boundary review, and it was noted that North Yorkshire Council will not consider increasing the number of Parish Councillors until after the conclusion of the boundary review in mid-2025.

Councillor Arthur also advised that he has asked our new PCSO Hannah Gaskell to follow up on the Police's commitment to deploy mobile (motorcycle) speed cameras on York Road.

It was noted that a date was still to be arranged for the **Chairman** to meet with **Councillor Mark Crane** to discuss issues relating to planning applications both current and historical within the Parish.

24/302 Confirmation of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024: -

With one amendment to Item 24/294 from Station Lane to Station View, members **resolved** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting.

24/303 Matters arising from the minutes of the above meetings: -

Parish Portal

It was noted that the new Parish Portal goes live on Wednesday 11th December; **clerk** to set up a new Parish Council account and circulate details to all members.

Lack of street lighting at the eastern end of old Hull Road

Councillor J Wallinger reported that he was still waiting for an indicative cost to install an additional streetlight in this area, but it was noted that a light is attached to one of the houses at the eastern end which when turned on lights up the stretch of darkness.

Chairman and **Councillor J Wallinger** to speak to the homeowner to enquire if they would be prepared to turn the light on during the hours of darkness if the Parish Council contribute towards the electricity cost.

Barbed wire over the stile on Turnham Lane

Councillor E Yates reported that the barbed wire has now been removed by North Yorkshire Council Public Rights of Way.

Faulty Streetlight on Badgers Way reported by a resident

It was noted that unfortunately the streetlight on Badgers Way has still not been fixed however the faulty light at Cliffe Playing Field Car Park has been repaired.

Outside tap at the Village Institute – Ongoing

Chairman still awaiting quote to fit an outside tap at the Village Institute (costs to be covered by the Parish Council).

Streetlight attached to front of a house on Station View

It was noted that the resident has been paid £60.00 for the backdated electricity usage 2021-2024 (4 years) and a yearly payment will be made at the end of every year (based on the current electricity tariff).

24/304 Highways:-

It was noted that following the November Parish Council meeting, **North Yorkshire Councillor Karl Arthur** had chased North Yorkshire Highways for a response to several long-standing highway issues (see below).

The Chairman read out the response received from Highways (in blue) and his reply (in red):-

1. The Removal of the Speed Humps along York Road and their replacement with painted humps – Cliffe Parish Council received a quote of £13k and I have arranged for some of it to be paid for out of my locality budget, the rest will be paid for by Cliffe Parish Council. The Council would like to know why this work has not been carried out yet and when it is likely to be carried out as the finance is available and it is not costing North Yorkshire Council Highways a penny to carry out this work?

I have also been chasing for a quote from the contractors QS. They have finally sent a quote of £12,420.20. We could not order the work until we received the quote from NYH, if we had NYC or the parish council would be 'out of pocket'. Can the parish send a confirmation email to say they are happy with the quote and want the work carried out.

Thankyou – yes please can we have this work carried out ASAP? Please also can you confirm that the painted speed bumps will reflect the original layout of 4 sets of bumps, as per the original diagram (attached) – which includes the 'triple' painted bumps near the end of Oxen Lane (which were originally installed but removed some years ago)?

2. Traffic Calming Down the Approach to York Road (such as speed sign painted of the ground, "Dragons teeth" and 3-2-1 silent road markings etc) – When is this work likely to be carried out as the order was placed in the spring and nothing appears to have been done about it to date?

NYH initially informed us that the work had been carried out, on inspection this was not the case. We are therefore waiting for a new programme date.

Please can you let us know when this will be done? And also, please confirm that the speed camera warning signs will be incorporated into this (as requested some time ago) - as approved by the police?

3. Yellow Lines outside of the shop in York Road – The Council and local residents are concerned that parking outside of the shop in York Road is becoming dangerous and may lead to an accident taking place. The Parish Council reported this to Highways over the summer but have received no response to date. Would you please be able to provide a response at the earliest opportunity?

There is not a 24/7 issue outside the shop. On the times the Highways Engineer has visited the area no safety issues or obstruction were seen. If the parish think otherwise we need photographic evidence.

Photographic evidence was supplied along with the original request (but I provide them again attached). This issue is caused by people parking opposite the shop, going into the shop for two minutes, then driving away again. Therefore, it is an intermittent issue – but is very dangerous as the bend isn't very tight when turning left coming from Selby, so cars are still travelling at speed when they reach the shop. The shop keeper is very concerned and has raised this issue a number of times with the PC. This is a safety issue as there has already been at least one collision that we know of, and many more near misses. I'm not surprised your engineer didn't see any issues, as they would need to be there for a period of time to notice it – this will happen I would say multiple times every hour, but is not a constant. Please can you reconsider providing double yellow lines along the Western side of York Road opposite the shop?

4. Dangerous Crossroads on the junction between York Road and Cliffe Common – The parish council have asked for a better marking and signage at the crossroads. They have asked for a “STOP” sign to be provided as a replacement for the current “GIVE WAY” sign, but so far to date no response has been received in relation to the enquiry. Why not?

A stop sign is subject to Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act, therefore requires consultation and support from the police. The possibility of making a visibility improvement at a junction should always be investigated before considering a STOP sign. We could investigate the possibility of installing advanced give way signs with distance plates, **IF** there is a recorded history of RTC's where the causation factor is failing to give way.

Sorry, but this feels like another example of Highways being reactive rather than pro-active. Very frustrating that when a safety concern is raised Highways seem to have no appetite to prevent an accident occurring, rather let the accident happen first before doing anything.

5. Safe Environment for People to Walk to and from Cliffe Common – This is a legacy, I think, from the merger of the district and county councils. At the time Cliffe Parish Council received information saying it would cost £87K to carry out this work. My then colleague, Cllr. Mark Topping, tried to get funding as part of the merger between Selby District and North Yorkshire County Councils but none was forthcoming at the time to carry out the work. Is there any funding available or avenues available for the council to try and attain finance to ensure that a footpath can be laid to ensure safe pedestrian access down York Road from the village to the Common?

We do not receive funding for highway improvement schemes, one avenue available is through Section 106 contributions from developers. Other constraints is verge width, on a 60mph road there must be a verge width of at least 2.5m (1.5m wide FW and 1m wide verge area to protect pedestrians)

So what do you propose to help pedestrians who walk between Cliffe and Cliffe Common (national speed limit)? There is a slight bend in this road and pedestrians are walking in the road – at times they are not seen until late. We requested a speed limit review a couple of years ago to reduce the speed limit up to and through Cliffe Common (as Cliffe Common has significantly grown in population over recent years). Again, it seems like someone has to be killed in order for something to be done. What do you propose the way forward for this issue is please? We have added the Eastern verge to our grass cutting schedule so that pedestrians at least have a cut verge to jump onto if a vehicle approaches – but this doesn't feel like a permanent solution. I would be happy to meet for a site visit for you to see and understand for yourself?

Councillor S Gummerson spoke about the footpath alongside the A63 in Lund which is not wide enough as per the response received from Highways i.e. on a 60mph road there must be a verge width of at least 2.5m (1.5m wide footpath and 1m wide verge area to protect pedestrians). Councillor Gummerson suggested that therefore if the footpath is not fit for purpose, the road speed should be reduced to 40mph.

This was discussed by members, and it was agreed that **Councillor Gummerson** would put some information together regarding the footpath not being compliant and send this to the **Chairman** who will forward on to North Yorkshire Highways.

Turnham Lane Speed Limit Extension - Ongoing

It was noted that Mark Lumby (North Yorkshire Council Highways) has agreed to move the signs that were put too near the road making it narrow and causing difficulties for larger agricultural vehicles.

Cliffe-Cum-Lund Traffic Calming

It was noted that the **clerk** is still awaiting a response from Stacey Preece (North Yorkshire Council Highways Project Engineer) to the Parish Councils request for a village/boundary “Please Drive Carefully” sign and other traffic calming measures for Cliffe-Cum-Lund; **clerk** to follow up.

24/305 Speeding:-

Letter from Keir Mather MP regarding road safety in our area (circulated to all members prior to the meeting)

A letter received canvassing the views of Parish Councils on installing fixed speed cameras was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would support the installation of fixed speed cameras in locations where needed for genuine safety concerns (not covert cameras just there for the purposes of money-making). However, they would also like other road safety measures to be considered including a 40mph speed limit introduced through Lund and Cliffe Common and a footpath from Cliffe to Cliffe Common.

Clerk to draft a response and send to the **Chairman** to review before sending on to Keir Mather MP.

24/306 Oxen Lane:-

Councillor J Jewitt to place order for the road scalings and rubble, to be kept in his yard until the spring when this can be put down on Oxen Lane.

24/307 Water/Drainage:-

The **Chairman** reiterated that he has spoken to the Ouse and Derwent Drainage Board, and he will be meeting with Guy Parker later in the week to discuss the flooding at the back of William Jacques Drive and sewage waste flowing into Old Mill Field Drain. The Chairman also referred to previous correspondence with the Ouse and Derwent Drainage Board.

Councillor J Wallinger advised that no further problems had been reported during the recent heavy rain.

24/308 Village Green:-

Councillor J Wallinger to reset the timer following the recent power cut and to liaise with a local electrician with regards to extending the spotlights.

The **clerk** advised that Harrisons would service the flagpole in early January (date to be confirmed) at a cost of £260.00 plus VAT including replacement of the rope.

24/309 Parish Council Documents:-

It was noted that **Councillor H Cross** had accessed the safe in school to go through the Parish Council documents.

24/310 Public Footpaths: - (to include any overgrown public footpaths which have been identified that do not comply with the applicable laws/regulations): -

It was noted that the overgrown footpath reported by the resident (see Item 24/299) has died back now and it was agreed to look at this again in the spring.

Members discussed the educational signs that were distributed to Parish Council landowners last year & the misuse of public footpaths and it was agreed to put a regular post on social media to reiterate the countryside code.

The **Chairman** asked the landowners to contact the Country Landowners Association & National Farmers Union for advice in tackling this issue and **Councillor H Cross** also agreed to investigate further.

North Yorkshire Councillor Karl Arthur left the meeting.

24/311 Grass Maintenance: -

It was noted that no additional cut is required at present.

24/312 Flooding of footpath at the back of William Jacques Drive: - Already discussed under Item 24/307

24/313 New Litter Bin near Cliffe Village Institute: -

The **clerk** reported that North Yorkshire Council have sourced a replacement Barnsley Bin from storage which should be installed within the next couple of weeks.

It was also noted that the **clerk** has enquired if a litter bin can be installed on Turnham Lane and is awaiting a response. Our request was previously refused as deemed unsafe by Selby District Council in 2021 citing this is a high-speed narrow road in a rural location (which councillors disagree with).

24/314 Path Maintenance: -

It was noted that Matt from Meticulous Gardens has now cleared the footpaths Turnham Lane and York Road up to Jacques' Lane.

24/315 Broad Lane Wood: - Ongoing

It was noted that a walk around will be arranged in the spring.

24/316 Parish Paddock: -

The **Chairman** advised that Askham Bryan College have visited the site on several occasions in September & October and the students are very engaged with the project.

Phase 1 (Habitat Survey) has been completed with further surveys to be carried out in the new year on this very biodiverse site. A progress report will also be produced and sent to the Parish Council to keep them updated.

24/317 Little Library: -

The **Chairman** advised that the children's library will be powder coated by a local resident then Amy Wilson will paint on the details in April/May ready for a relaunch in conjunction with World Book Day.

It was also noted that the Parish Council handyman has carried out the required repairs on the little library.

24/318 Planning: -

a) Councillors considered the following Planning Applications received: - NIL

b) Consider Planning Applications Received not listed on the agenda: - NIL

c) Note Planning Applications Granted: -

i. (ZG2024/0864/FUL) Removal of existing dwelling and outbuilding and erection of pair of semidetached and one detached dwellings with integral garages at **West View, York Road, Cliffe**

d) Note Planning Applications Refused: - NIL

e) Note receipt of planning appeal against refusal of an application for:

i. (ZG2024/0309/FUL) Full planning permission for the change of use of the existing reception lodge unit to Managers accommodation and reception at **Cliffe Meadows Holiday Park, Turnham Lane, Cliffe**

ii. (ZG2024/0761/FUL) Erection of a self build manager dwelling at **Four Acres Caravan Park, Cliffe**

24/319 Finance: -

a) The following payments were proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed: -

i. J Leighton-Eshelby (Clerks Salary – December)	£ As Agreed
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b) To approve payments not listed on the agenda: -

i. HMRC (PAYE)	£ 109.40
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ii. Meticulous Gardens (Grass Cutting)	£ 888.00
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c) To ratify payments made in between meetings: -

i. Cliffe Playing Fields Association (CPFA) Insurance Renewal	£ 808.08
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ii. Mrs S Roper (Electricity Reimbursement)	£ 60.00
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iii. PKF Littlejohn (External Audit 2023 & 2024)	£ 504.00
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d) Note receipt of income, as listed below: - NIL

e) Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25

The Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2024/25 was noted and agreed.

f) Receive Finance Report, consider the budget proposals for 2025/2026 and decide upon the level of precept
Deferred to January 2025 Meeting.

24/320 Correspondence Received: - NIL

24/321 Representatives Report: -

The **Chairman** advised that the Village Institute Committee are in the process of obtaining quotes for the new heating system and are arranging for internet to be installed in the Institute which the Parish Council will financially support them with (£25/month as discussed last year). It was also noted that the Christmas Fair had been a big success raising nearly £500.00.

Councillor J Wallinger advised that he has spoken to **North Yorkshire Councillor Karl Arthur** regarding a tree on NYC land which is growing through the Preschool fence; **Councillor Arthur** to raise with NYC.

Councillor H Cross advised that Cliffe Parish Charity have donated £150 each to Cliffe Village Institute & Cliffe Playing Fields and Cliffe Relief in Need Charity have donated £25 each to 34 recipients.

It was also noted that the Mary Waud Foundation will be appointing a new secretary in June 2025 and a new trustee is also required.

The **Chairman** reported that Cliffe Playing Fields Association have thanked both the Parish Council and Cliffe Combined Charities on social media for their support.

Councillor S Gummerson queried the Cliffe Playing Fields Association (CPFA) Insurance Renewal payment, and the **Chairman** clarified the process.

Councillor A Holman gave an overview of the Drax Parish Council Liaison Meeting held on Monday 25th November and the Meet your MP (Keir Mather) drop in session held on Sunday 24th November.

24/322 Confirm date of next meeting: - Monday 6th January 2025 commencing at 7.00pm in CLIFFE VILLAGE INSTITUTE

Councillors are elected on behalf of everyone on the Register of Electors; therefore, matters discussed, proposed and voted on, become the majority view and are not necessarily individual councillor's views.

Parishioners may view previous minutes, by giving prior notice to the Clerk (Ring 01757 630077 for appointment).