

## Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council

### Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Baldersby and Baldersby St James held at 18:00 on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at The Mission Room, Baldersby

**Attendees:** Cllr J Hart, Cllr C Brown, Cllr V Shaw, Cllr, P Whitham, Cllr A Wilson and the Clerk

1. Apologies.  
No apologies had been received.
2. To note the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the chair.
3. Report by Councillor John Hart , Chairman Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council  
Cllr Hart gave his report. It is attached as appendix 1.
4. Financial Report by Keith Pettitt, Parish Clerk and RFO, Baldersby and Baldersby St James Parish Council  
The RFO gave his report. The opening balance for the year was £5,406.26 and the closing balance was £4,105.97. The major items of expenditure during the year were grass cutting, insurance, administrative cost including the clerk's salary and the sports pavilion. The latter was giving the Parish Council food for thought and it was felt that this expenditure should be reviewed during the oncoming year.
5. Questions from the floor  
It was agreed to invite specific village societies and establishments at the following year's meeting in order to boost the attendance and share information on what is happening within the parish. It was also agreed that the County Councillor should be in attendance and he should present a report.
6. Date of next meeting.  
This would be held between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025.

The meeting closed at 18:10.

## Appendix One Chairman's Report

### **Introduction**

It has been another active year for this Parish Council. I'm pleased to report that last Summer we elected Anthony Wilson which brought our number of Councillors up to the full five places that we are allocated. At the outset of my annual report, I would like to thank all my fellow Parish Councillors for their hard work over the past year which includes the attendance of six meetings.

### **Baldersby Speeding Measures.**

This continues to be a key issue for many residents; I am pleased to report that the equipment we purchased and installed last year continues to function well-I take this opportunity to thank Councillor Whitham for his assistance in moving this equipment between our two locations from time to time.

### **Precept**

During the year, we carefully reviewed the precept for 2024/25 - following the depletion of much of our reserves in order to fund the equipment referred to above and taking account of the high inflation experienced on grass cutting and most of our other costs, we were obliged to increase the precept up to £8,500. The Parish Council has not heard adverse comments from any parishioners concerning this larger than usual increase we were obliged to make.

### **Playing Field & Pavilion**

Further attention has been given during the past 12 months to the playing field which, we are very grateful, continues to be made available to residents for uses that the owners are willing to accept.

In addition, the future of the pavilion sited on the playing field remains under question - we must continue to carefully review the on-going costs of maintaining this facility. The play equipment on the playing field which is available to all our residents continues to be looked after and repaired by the Parish Council who in addition continue to ensure the grass is regularly cut.

### **Planning Applications**

We have dealt with a number of applications throughout the year, supporting those that were appropriate and objecting on behalf of the residents to those which would not maintain the character of the Parish. A number of parishioners made representations against proposed changes at the Baldersby Nursery (Old Baldersby Station) and further objections to this development were tabled.

### **Highways matters**

There are many highways related matters that this Parish Council has needed to take action on during the past 12 months; NYCC have not been as responsive as we would expect so some matters are proving to be difficult to resolve such as the poor state of repair of Marlpit Lane. We have tackled issues concerning Wards Corner, the poor state of our footpaths, hedge trimming required at certain properties, flooding in Baldersby St James and we have also promoted the idea of NYCC seeking to improve the existing limited bus service for our Parish by extending the No 36 bus service from Ripon to Thirsk.

## **Litter Pick**

Our annual Litter pick again took place in March and for the first time we experimented with an extra pick in October; I am pleased to say both of those events were well supported with plenty of residents getting involved and around 50 bags of litter in total were collected. The outcome is, thanks to the parishioners who gave their time on those two Saturday mornings, we have a cleaner local environment. I take this opportunity to thank Councillor Brown for his assistance in transporting the litter picking equipment to & from Harrogate and for ferrying bags & people around on those two days.

## **New defibrillator for Baldersby St James**

I am pleased to report that during recent months, the Parish Council have been working hard to obtain a second defibrillator so St James can enjoy the same emergency service as Baldersby currently enjoys. As a result of these initiatives, I am confident that new facility will be in place soon.

## **Representation of Baldersby on NYCC Forums and group seminars**

During the past year, County Councillor Nick Brown started running forums for the various parishes in his ward to attend to assist with the flow of information to and from NYCC – I am grateful to Councillor Wilson for representing us at these meetings and to Councillor Shaw who continues to be our representative at a variety of NYCC meetings some of which are administered by 'Zoom' video link.

## **Parish Clerk & Parish Council web site**

I take this opportunity to record my thanks to our Parish Clerk, Keith Pettitt - we are most appreciative of the high-class services which he continues to provide to this Parish Council.

## **General Outlook**

What continues to remain at the heart of everything we do is we try to listen to our residents and to seek to support them where appropriate. I have every confidence that with the strength of our current team, we will continue to strive to ensure the interests of our residents are best served.

DRAFT