

Minutes of the Meeting of Bowes Parish Council held at Bowes School on 14th June 2022

The meeting commenced at 7.05

Present

Cllr Carlisle, Cllr Redfern, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Tipping, Cllr White and Mrs H Overfield.

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of the Meeting

held Tuesday 17th May 2022 agreed to be a true record, approved by Cllr Redfern, seconded by Cllr Hughes.

3. Matters arising (unless dealt with later in the agenda)

Hulands Quarry visit has been booked for Wed 22nd June, 2 'o' clock.

Community Plan – Mrs L Redfern was the Emergency Training and Development Manager for the WRVS and has very kindly offered to support us with our community plan. We have invited her to the meeting on 12th July as she has a wealth of experience in regard to setting up such projects.

The sign at the top of the village has been replaced but the sign post at the bottom of the village is still awaiting a post, as someone stole it!

Parishioners in Gilmonby have purchased jubilee mugs. Cllr Hughes is distributing the mugs to children of school age living in Bowes, these are free of charge. Any remaining mugs will be sold.

4. Finance & Accounts – See summary below

Receipts since last meeting £1.55 interest

Expenses since last meeting £568.00 H Overfield wages £142.00 HMRC

Summary Bowes Parish Accounts & Balance sheet			As at 09/06/2022	
Year to 31st March 2023				
Budget	Income		Cumulative Total	
108.00	Allotments	170.00	Bank as at 31st March 2022	£12,218.15
1.00	Bank Interest	2.76	Income y/e 31st March 2023	£6,245.80
450.00	Cemetery & Village	0.00	Expenses y/e 31st March 2023	-£883.08
0.00	Footpaths	0.00	Total	£17,580.87
0.00	General Income	20.00	Represented by	
200.00	Grants	0.00	Nat West a/c - 21543798	£17,380.87
5611.20	Precept D.C.C.	5584.00	Nat West a/c - 015102553	£200.00
0.00	Playground	0.00	Uncleared movements	
0.00	Publications	0.00	Total	£17,580.87
600.00	Vat Refund	469.04		
170.00	West Clint Field	0.00		
7140.20	Total Income	6245.80		
	Expenses			
300.00	Allotments	350.00	Petty Cash	£0.00
1700.00	Cemetery & Village	0.00	Total	£17,580.87
0.00	Footpaths	0.00		
250.00	General Expenses	167.96		
1400.00	Grass Cutting	270.00		
550.00	Insurance	0.00		
1600.00	Clerks salary	0.00		
400.00	PAYE	0.00		
200.00	Playground	65.10		
600.00	VAT	30.02		
7000.00	Total Expenses	883.08		
140.20	Actual Surplus/Deficiet	5362.72		

Finances approved by Cllr Carlisle, seconded by Cllr Tipping

5 **Planning**

Nothing to report.

6. **Correspondence**

Durham County Council have brought to our attention the official controls regulations 2020 (Plant protection products). They stated that councils using contractors can reasonably expect that they comply with such requirements. (CDALC e-mail 1st June 2022)

Cemetery & Village maintenance

Traveller have caused issues throughout the village and we have had several complaints from parishioners. Clerk to write to the CEO of Durham County Council and the Chief of Police as follows:-

Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UQ
FAO John Hewitt CEO

18th June 2022

Dear Mr Hewitt,

Bowes Parish Council re Appleby Fair traffic.

As a stop over site, Guide Post corner at Bowes, should have had portable toilets supplied for use, these didn't turn up. This is not acceptable. There are no other facilities available in Bowes and you can only imagine what has happened as a result. We would like confirmation that this will not happen again.

For some unknown reason there was a great influx of 'travellers' at the top of the village, occupying the bus turning circle and the approaches to it. This resulted in obstruction of access, difficulties in manoeuvring for buses, including the school bus and abuse of local residents. Again, the absence of toilets on which is not now an authorised stop over point resulted in some disgusting messes in the surrounding area.

Residents have questioned whether they would in fact have proceedings taken against them if they decided to park vehicles in the bus circle during the year?

In recent years local residents have gone some way to accepting the influx of 'travellers' connected with Appleby Fair but incidents like this will only serve to reverse the situation.

We shall be contacting Durham Police regarding several incidents that took place in this period and hope that you can assure us that we will not have any of the same problems again next year.

Chief Constable Farrell
Durham Constabulary Headquarters
Aykley Heads
DH1 5TTQ

18th June 2022

Dear Chief Constable Farrell

Bowes Parish Council re Appleby fair traffic.

We enclose a letter we have sent to John Hewitt, the CEO of Durham County Council and would like to amplify a few points regarding the occupation by 'travellers' of the bus turning circle at the West end of Bowes and the blocking of access to domestic and commercial premises, then the refusal to move when asked politely by residents.

Your officers attended the site on Saturday 4th June both am and pm. As far as we aware they did nothing on their first visit and on the 2nd occasion they spoke to the affected parishioner and then to the travellers, reporting back that the travellers would sort out access themselves!! Of course, they did not, and the officers had left. Meanwhile two local residents were threatened and verbally abused by a traveller that said he had just done 4 years inside! The victims of this abuse will be contacting you directly. The Parish Council wishes to know what powers the police have to remove vehicles obstructing a public highway, the bus turning circle and it's approaches.

Consequently, we hope in future that Durham Constabulary will use these powers to prevent such disturbing activities in the future.

A Parishioner has been given permission to put on a sign that reads 24 hour access needed on the gate at the west end by the bus turning circle.

Clerk to contact the gardener and ask if he can weed half of the red plants out of the flower bed to allow other plants to grown.

8 **Allotments** –

Clerk to contact the next parishioner on the list as plot 8 has become vacant. Next incumbent to take the plot on as seen due to the circumstances.

9 **Play Park**

James Young has sent the SLA for 2022-23. Four inspections costing £66.72.

Play park inspection completed by Cllr Redfern.

We have received a complaint from a parishioner regarding the rotting wood on a piece of equipment and a tree branch that the children have been hanging on and wrapping around another piece of equipment. The work to replace the wood has already been scheduled in and the Councillors will take a look at the over hanging branch at the same time.

10 **Parish Paths**

Nothing to report

11 **AOB**

Clerk to contact Durham County Council – the grass verge on low road has not been cut on either side at all this year. DL12 9HX.

Meeting closed at 8.26

Section 17 Law & Disorder Act. It was felt the above would have a positive effect.