**Present:** C. Fenwick (Chair), S. Aspinall, C. Colton, E. Smith.

**In Attendance**: Parish Council Clerk, 3 parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** J. Hampshire (Covid +), C. Nichols (working), County Councillor A. Baker.

**Declarations of Interest:** NONE.

1. **Minutes of the previous meetings:** The minutes of the last Parish Council meetings held on 14 November and 11 December were approved and signed as a true record.
2. **Matters Arising:**
   1. **25 Year Environmental Plan:** No update available.
   2. **Neighbourhood Plan:** SA updated the meeting on the progress being made with the Husthwaite Neighbourhood Plan. Sonia Hunter and David Aspinall have joined the core project team. Keith Gittens and Michael Graham are assisting Sarah Harper in relation to the biodiversity audit. Sheila Mowatt has been appointed as lead for Communications and Engagement. Alison Sawalhi is assisting Chris Nichols with a new village website. SA has been in contact with the Parish Councillor leading on the Terrington Neighbourhood Plan and reported that they have recently closed their first survey and are reviewing the results but they only had approximately a 20% response rate. SA will share the Terrington survey with the Parish Council. The target date for release of the Husthwaite survey is 1 March 2024 and it is anticipated that more volunteers will be needed in March to assist with the collation of base evidence and to review results of the survey/audit. The Husthwaite village survey is expected to be primarily online, with drop-in sessions/clinics. However, there will be paper copies available and support given to those who would like it. The Neighbourhood Plan Project Group is aiming for a 50% response rate. An extraordinary meeting will be held on 19th February to approve the questions in the survey.

The Locality Grant covers the setting up of a Neighbourhood Plan site and quotes were requested from GoCollaborate, Bang the Table, Commonplace and Pickersgill. Following consideration of all the information received, Councillors unanimously accepted the quote of £1500 from **GoCollaborat**e (who will provide the platform for our first survey, information, analysis and summary of results, updates etc.). As requested, 50% of the total cost will be paid on receipt of an invoice prior to work commencing using the Locality Grant.

The Project Group sought quotes from three planning consultants, identified via the Locality website, to assist with the drafting of the Plan but only one reply was received. SA informed the meeting that the Locality Grant covers 5 days of work and councillors unanimously agreed to accept the quote of £450 per day from **PlanSupport** who will submit their invoices monthly. The Parish Council agreed to pay their invoices, as received, up to £2250 using the Locality Grant.

Two quotes were requested for a Biodiversity Audit but only one company was able to complete the task in the given timescale. Therefore, Councillors unanimously agreed to instruct **Wold Ecology** to undertake the survey and the invoice for £760 will be paid using the Locality Grant.

SA informed the meeting that we had been encouraged to submit an application for technical support to draw up Design Codes for all new development in the Parish. The deadline for applying for support is 26 January 2024 but once approved, the assistance can continue beyond 31 March 2024 (when any unspent grant monies have to be returned). The Technical support is provided by AECOM on behalf of Locality and Councillors supported the suggestion. **Action: SA**

* 1. **Lime Tree on the Village Green:** Forest Research have visited the village and taken further samples of the lime tree for testing. They also requested delaying the felling of the tree but, as no further correspondence has been received, it was agreed to submit a planning application to remove the tree.Quotes for the felling of the Lime Tree and removal of the trunk, limbs and root have been received from JC Trees, Rennison Tree Specialists, Ryland Horticulture and Greg Milburn. After consideration of all the quotes, Councillors asked for references for work undertaken by JC Trees before making a final decision. **Action: CF**
  2. **Communications Policy:** On-going.
  3. **Coronation Seat:** CC presented photos of potential designs for the proposed Coronation Seat. Newburgh Estate has agreed to clear the trees, etc. in front of the site and AONB have offered funding of £750 towards the bench. Installation costs and bench engraving or memorial plaque will be covered by the PC and Village Trust. **Action: CC**
  4. **Asset of Community Value – Plum & Partridge:** Further to the addition of The Plum & Partridge on the Register of Assets of Community Value, the owners have expressed an interest in disposing of the asset and have provided their email address should we wish to approach them to discuss. Unfortunately, the PC is not in a position to express an interest at this time but CC offered to contact the owner to discuss their future plans. **Action CF / CC**
  5. **Co-option for vacant Parish Councillor Position:** The Parish Council received two expressions of interest for the Parish Council vacancy. After hearing the nominations, John Law withdrew his application, so Keith Gittens was co-opted by majority vote and will be requested to sign the declaration of acceptance of office and complete the registration of financial and personal interests before the next meeting. **Action: CF**
  6. **D Day 80 Celebrations:** No update at this time.

1. **Matters that have arisen between meetings**:
   1. **Household Waste Recycling Centre Consultation:** Residents are encouraged to complete the Household Waste Recycling Centre survey before 31st January 2024 at [Changes to household waste recycling centres | North Yorkshire Council](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/your-council/consultations-and-engagement/current-consultations/changes-household-waste-recycling-centres) **Action: CF**
   2. **Local Transport Plan:** JH attended an online meeting and will give a report at the next meeting. **Action: JH**
2. **Planning:**
   1. **The following planning applications have been received:**

NONE.

* 1. **The following planning applications have been approved:**

**23/02203/CAT –** Juniper House, The Nookin, Husthwaite – Works to fell a tree in a Conservation area.

**23/02228/FUL -** Suncliffe Beacon Farm, Malton Street, Husthwaite –18 roof mounted domestic solar photovoltaic panels to serve domestic home fitted on barn roof.

* 1. **The following planning application will be discussed at a future planning meeting:**

**23/02015/FUL -** OS Fields 7456 and 6163, Amplecarr, Husthwaite –Installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) array / solar farm with associated infrastructure on land at Woolpots.

**6. Finance Report**:

* 1. **Current Account**:

Cheques / Monies Out

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14.11.23 | 18.72 | 101073 | North Yorkshire Council – Maps (including £3.12 VAT) |
| 14.11.23 | 50.00 | 101074 | Citizens Advice Bureau |
| 14.11.23 | 105.00 | 101075 | Husthwaite Village Hall – Neighbourhood Plan Hall Hire |
| 01.12.23 | 90.00 | 101076 | North Yorkshire Council – Grit Bin (inc. £15.00 VAT) |
| 06.12.23 | 9.00 | - | Bank Charges (15 Oct – 14 Nov) |
| 11.12.23 | 384.00 | 101077 | Farm & Land Services (including £64.00 VAT) |
| **TOTAL** | **656.72** |  |  |

Cheques / Monies In

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.12.23 | 6127.00 | Neighbourhood Plan Grant |
| **TOTAL** | **6127.00** |  |

Statement Balance on 31 December 2023 – **£22575.67** (inc £6127 restricted to NP)

Balance as at 16 January 2024 - £22420.67 (inc £6127 restricted to NP).

**Payments to be agreed:**

Repair to Cemetery Gate

L Grain – Clerks wages.

* 1. **Cemetery Extension Fund:**

Cheques / Monies In

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 15.11.23 | 19.09 | Interest |
| 15.12.23 | 18.51 | Interest |
|  | **37.60** |  |

Statement Balance on 15 December 2023 **- £11625.78**

1. Circulated Items that may be of interest to the Council:

**7.1 Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) consultation:** A link to the webinar and an online survey has been sent to all councillors to complete.

**7.2 Parish Online Mapping Webinar:** Councillors have been invited to attend an introduction and Q&A session via Microsoft Teams on 13th or 15th February. **Action: SA**

**7.3 North Yorkshire Plan Launch slides:** A link to the launch event held on 5th December has been circulated and written answers to all the questions asked is in the process of being compiled.

**8. Reports from Council Representatives:**

**Bier House:** Water ingress issues still on-going. CF will request that Farm & Land Services cut back the vegetation that is growing up the external walls to prevent damage to the guttering or tiles. **Action: CF**

**Communications:**

**Highways:** No further information has been received regarding the broken drain adjacent to the bus shelter on High Street. The water leak causing an ice hazard in the middle of The Nookin has been reported. Councillors have been invited to attend a Parish Workshop at the Thirsk Highway Area Office in February and were advised to book directly with the Area Office. Highways have asked Parishioners to report potholes using the following link - [Potholes and road condition issues | North Yorkshire Council](https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/roads-and-pavements/potholes-and-road-condition-issues) **Action: CF**

**Local Parish Forum:** Minutes of the November meeting have been circulated andthe next meeting is scheduled to take place on 12 June 2024 in Crayke.

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Two-factor authentication, 2FA, adds a layer of security when signing into websites and services and everyone is encouraged to activate this service on all online financial sites.

**Police**: Tim Forbar has been confirmed as the preferred candidate for Chief Constable of North Yorkshire. Police are investigating a criminal damage incident that occurred in East View between 9th and 11th December. Several cars have been damaged causing thousands of pounds of damage and police are appealing for information – Reference 12230236661.

**Public Footpaths:** JH has contacted AONB and the landowner regarding improvements to the footpath between The Nookin and Kays Bank.

**Recreation Area:** A tree from the banking adjacent to the recreation area has fallen and will be removed in the near future.

**Street Lighting:** All street lights are working at present.

**Village Hall:** The next planned event will be the Burns Supper. CC will circulate the latest Village Hall committee minutes.

**Village Railings:** Only one quote has been received for the painting of the village railings. Following discussions, councillors unanimously agreed to accept the tender from A Job 4 Rob and ask him to complete the work during spring / summer.

**Village Website:** The Neighbourhood Plan Group sought quotes from Bow House, Packhorse and Town & Parish Council Websites to create a new Village Website. Following consideration of the information received, Councillors approved the quote of £984 from Town and Parish Council Websites which will be partly funded by the Locality grant. As the grant only covers the creation of a new site, all costs relating to the transfer of old files/data from current website will be covered by PC.

**YLCA:** The next meeting will be via Zoom on Wednesday 14th February at 7:00pm.

1. **Report from County Councillor:** Cllr Baker sent the following report in her absence: - Northern Power Grid - If there is a vulnerable person in a property, they should register with NPG so they get help in the event of a major power outage.

The Home Upgrade Grant Phase 2 - This is available to homes that are not on mains gas and have poor quality insulation and inefficient heating systems. There are eligibility requirements that need to be met and information can be found on the NYC website [www.northyorks.gov.uk/hug2](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/hug2)

1. **Date & Time of next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 March 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.