

MUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs B Williamson, high Hall, Yedmandale Road, West Ayton, YO13 9JP.

Tel: 01723 865033 Email: mustonpcclerk@gmail.com

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 in Muston Village Hall.

Apologies: N.Y. Cllr. M Donohue Moncrief, Cllr. J McClusky, Cllr. J Bailey.

Present: Cllr. G Owen, Cllr. F Warters, Cllr. J Brigham, Cllr. G Allanson, Cllr. R Hambridge, B Williamson (Clerk), 1 members of the public + 1 member of the public (part meeting).

Notice of meeting: Cllr. Owen declared public notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with Public Notice 1972 schedule 12 para 1-(2) of the Local Government Act.

Chairmans' opening address: 82/23

Cllr. Owen welcomed all to the meeting & thanked everyone for attending.

Declarations of interest: 83/23

Cllr. Warters – Planning application @ Mount Pleasant Farm.

Cllr. Brigham – King Hill footpath

Open Forum & action to be taken: 84/23

No comments made.

Reports: 85/23

a) Police Report: Circulated in advance.

- Appreciation expressed for recent assistance with Community Speed Watch in the village. Action being taken with the driver making offensive gestures during the activity.
- Burglaries increasing now that it is darker earlier.
- Scams requesting residents to withdraw money from ATM's to pay for work prior to work commencing. Work not taking place.

b) N.Y. Cllr. Donohue Moncrief:

- Unfortunately, the recent request for financial assistance towards bridge repairs cannot be met at this stage.
- Received regular updates from Highways relating to King Hill footpath.
- Suggested writing to MP again about the recent accident at the junction.
- In her opinion thinks it will be doubtful that Parish Council will receive the Model Agreement finance resulting in Parish Councils needing to increase their precept to meet running costs.

c) Clerks Report: Circulated in advance.

- Major issues are still being experienced with the website. Permission requested to seek alternative provision - granted. Requests have been made to gain the domain name and access logins. If this is not gained a new domain name & website will be required (this had previously been agreed as current one outdated). Will report back.

- Highways are the authority dealing with the King Hill project and it is not in the scope of Parish Council, Highways will keep the PC informed.
- Ecology report received & circulated. Actions reported later.
- Poppy wreath purchased.
- Consideration on recipients' of Trott's Charity required. Decision at next meeting.
- Annes Bridge has been closed for safety purposes – report later. The tape has been removed several times.
- Councillor cleared drain area.
- Decision on Christmas tree will be required. Financial restraints may need consideration on cost of purchase etc.

c) Chairmans report

- Expressed serious concerns about the financial situation of the Parish Council. Costs continue to rise in all areas so the need for prudence and only essential spending is vital.
- Financial pressure has increased due to two additional unexpected costs, Annes Bridge and the findings of the ecology report, both items in the agenda.

d) Other reports:

- Cllr. Brigham has attended recent training on becoming a councillor.
- Cllrs Allanson attended the recent Community Rail Partnership meeting.

To approve minutes of meeting held on 12th September 2023: 86/23

Circulated and assumed read. Proposed to accept- Cllr. Owen, seconded Cllr. Brigham. Agreed.
Signed by Cllr. Owen.

Finance Report: Circulated. 77/23

Income - £5827.29 – 2nd instalments of the Parish Precept and Model Agreement monies.

Outgoing - £1262.83.

Communication from NY Finance department today requests setting the precept for 2024 by December. There is a strong indication the Model Agreement money will not be paid, this amounts to approximately £3400 per year. This money is spent on maintenance of the Parish Clock at the Church and grass cutting in the church grounds.

Serious consideration is required on how this deficit in finance can be accommodated if these two payments are to continue. Increasing the parish precept is the only option the council has at this stage and to cut back on existing spending.

This will be an item on the November agenda and may require an additional meeting.

Proposed to accept Cllr. Allanson, seconded Cllr. Warters. All in agreement. Signed by Cllr. Owen.

Planning: To consider any applications received by the council. 88/23

ZF2301279/FL – Wood Cottage, Dog Boarding Kennels.

Discussed at length at previous meeting when letter and explanation received. No questions raised.
Vote taken – All in agreement to accept. Clerk will inform Planning Authority.

ZF23/01376/FL – Mount Pleasant Farm. Barn conversion to residence.

Cllr. Warters did not participate and left the meeting while this was discussed.

Plans examined and discussion on all aspects of the development. Concerns raised included the access as it already serves several properties on a difficult area of road. From the application it is not clear if the property is for local residency or holiday home accommodation. Councillors felt it was unclear if the property was to have any additional extensions.

Clerk will contact the planning authority for clarification. Decision deferred.

Ecology Report & Pond Maintenance:

89/23

Extensive report from Wold Ecology circulated. There are no great crested newts. Suggestions to improve the pond area made.

Councillors met contractor to discuss the report and gain estimates for the actions being suggested.

Gibson's have quoted - £990 + VAT to remove pond silt.

Remedial trees work of overhanging branches – £876 + planning permission fees.

Mr A Marsden has agreed for the silt to be put on his ground and used for fertiliser.

It was agreed to delay any tree work at the present time and give priority to clearing the silt. Cllr. Owen proposed to have the pond maintenance work done, seconded by Cllr. Waters – all in favour, **AGREED**. Cllr. Owen will contact Mr Gibson & Mr Marsden. Clerk will inform Mr Wilson.

Annes Bridge:

90/23

Concerns have been expressed about the safety and condition of the bridge. Cllr. Owen has spoken to Mr Stephenson who is in full agreement of the action being taken and that the bridge should be closed for safety of any users to avoid accidents. This has been done but the tapes removed each time by resident saying it was safe. It has been cordoned off again and pictures taken for insurance purposes, any potential accident would result in the person who removed the tape being responsible financially for any claims.

A comprehensive survey of the bridge has taken place and repairs are strongly recommended both for safety reasons and to ensure the bridge survives.

Cllr. Owen will seek costings on the suggested proposals but has already been advised costs will be high. The Parish Council will be unable to meet the full costs of repairs. Alternative funding being sought. Currently there is no available money in the Locality Budget. The Millenium Committee will be approached to see if they can offer any assistance. The idea of a whole village fund raiser was suggested all these ideas will be discussed at the next meeting for consideration and developing a possible maintenance plan.

Parish Issues:

91/23

Jubilee / Coronation Noticeboard – No update. Concerns expressed about costs. Carried forward to next agenda.

Road Sweeper: Will visit the village twice a year like all other villages. No additional money available to seek alternatives.

Final weed spray: Likely to take place within the next week if the weather conditions are right.

Trott's Charity: Councillors given details of previous recipients. Decision on candidates for this year's awards required at the November meeting.

Items for next agenda:

91/23

- Parish Precept / financial planning for the forthcoming year.
- Trott's Charity
- Dew Pond
- Jubilee / Coronation board project.
- Christmas tree
- Annes Bridge
- Possible Newsletter

Notify the Clerk of any additional items ten days in advance.

Date of Next Meeting:

TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2023 @ 7.00pm

Meeting closed @ 9.05pm