

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th August 2024.
Meeting held in the Oriel Room, St Ricarius Church, Main Street, Aberford,
commencing at 7.00pm.**

Present;

Councillors: Sarah Bradley (Chair), Nancy Griffiths, Phil Labbett and Ruth Reed.

In attendance: Clerk to the Council; Barry Riley.

1 member of the public.

Representative from Northern PowerGrid.

1.To receive and approve reasons for absence.

No apologies received.

2. Disclosure of Interests.

No interests were disclosed.

3. Minutes.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous Parish Council meetings, were approved and signed by the Chair Councillor Bradley.

4. Public Participation

Representative Jay Parmar (Customer Services Manager) from Northern PowerGrid was in attendance to provide an update on the work that had been carried out following comments made at the previous meeting. He also provided information on the ongoing efforts to improve the network such as pole replacements and conductors and to continue the ongoing communication with the Parish Council and with residents. He accepted that a recent communication had proved somewhat misleading, but the 'drop – in ' sessions had been well attended and they would be issuing winter information packs. He confirmed that the next planned interruption would take place on Thursday 29th August 2024, which would affect a small number of houses. Having been asked about those residents who were the most vulnerable, he confirmed that they were known to them and were being prioritised, comment was also made about the recent works on Cattle Lane which related to a power failure to a lift in Parlington House Care Home. The Parish Council thanked him for being proactive in dealing with the problems being experienced in Aberford.

a. A member of the public commented that she was not satisfied with the communication from Festival Republic regarding arrangements for the festival, it was noted that the Parish Council were also dissatisfied with the situation following representations made to them. Comment was made that the grass cutting near to Pump Hill was not being done completely. Upon asking why a payment had been made to the Arabian Horse, it was explained it was agreed at a previous meeting (see minute 15.h. 21st May 2024), in support of the Aberford Literature Festival.

b. No Ward Councillor in attendance.

5. Crime & Security.

a. The Clerk reported that the latest crime report on the Police.uk website for Leeds North-East, had shown fourteen crimes were reported covering the months of May and June 2024. These were for anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and arson, violence and sexual offences, theft and other crimes not specified. Of note was that the majority of offences occurred at the entrance of the village at its junction with the A64 and at the crossroads where Bunkers Hill meets Aberford Road.

b. The Clerk reminded members that the PACT meetings occurred every six weeks.

c. The link for reporting non-emergency crimes or Anti-social behaviour is

www.westyorkshire.police.uk

d. Community Alert scheme.

<https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/west-yorkshire-community-alert>

6. Projects update.

a. Having received the progress report on quotes issued to contractors and the one received to carry out work on the playgrounds, it was agreed that an order for the work be submitted to Playsound Services Ltd, but that the work to the rubber surface not be acted upon.

b. The Clerk had contacted the Secretary of the Horticultural Society about the flower beds on the land at Pump Hill which were still not yet planted, but had not received a response. Councillor Bradley commented that the Society had taken responsibility for the upkeep of the beds, but they had time restrictions to when any work could be carried out. It was agreed that quotes be sought for another organisation to maintain the area.

7. Traffic/Parking issues, Aberford Main Street.

a. The proposed amendments to the Aberford Main Street buildout scheme were those which had been requested, it was noted that those residents consulted were requested to comment on the scheme proposals by the 03rd September so that the amendments can proceed.

8. Correspondence received.

a. Having noted the concerns of the resident about HGV'S travelling through the village, it was acknowledged that there was little the Parish Council could do as it did not have the power to act. The power to act rested with Highways England, the Clerk explained that there was in place a diversion should the A1 be closed, but it may be negated by satellite navigation software that did not identify this. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the MP Alec Shelbrooke to make him aware of the situation. Comment was also made on the reason why there were so many issues occurring which caused road closures, it was explained that the road system may be the cause.

b. The Clerk would respond to the resident (see minute 6.b.), to seek suggestions on what should be planted on the Pump Hill flower beds.

9. Planning Matters.

a. The following applications and appeals were received and noted.

Applications

Planning Application /Appeal Reference	Address	Details
24/03712/FU	Yew Trees Main Street Aberford	Variation of condition 4 (opening hours) to previously approved Planning Application 33/344/01/FU (Change of use of dwelling to offices and 1m and 2.2m high wall and gates) to vary the opening hours to: 08.00 - 19.00 Monday to Friday and 08.00 - 17.00 Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday

b. The following decisions and appeals were received and noted.

Decisions

Planning Application /Appeal Reference	Address	Details
24/02848/LI	Priory Park Bunkers Hill Aberford Leeds LS25 3DF	Listed building application for replacement of all windows to the first floor glazed link corridor. Approved 10.07.24
24/02436/FU	Robin Hill Main Street Aberford Leeds LS25 3AW	Retrospective application for an outbuilding with proposed landscaping. Refused 23.07.24

10. To receive a report from the Clerk or Councillors on any new or minor ongoing matters.

Nothing to report.

11. Finance.

a. The report and content of the receipts, payments and balances was **RECEIVED** and agreed for appropriate governance.

b. The bank reconciliations as at 30.07.2024 were **APPROVED**.

c. With the exception of the Pennine Playgrounds invoice, the other invoices for payment and charges received were **APPROVED**.

The Clerk would send a response to Pennine Playgrounds stating the reasons why the invoice was not being paid.

Date prepared	Aug-24			
EFT Type	Details	Net	VAT	Total
BACS	B Riley- Clerk Salary	£458.50		£458.50
BACS	B Riley - Home Allowance /Mileage	£22.00		£22.00
BACS	HP Ink	£4.57	£0.92	£5.49
BACS	Giff Gaff	£10.00		£10.00
BACS	Hire of Oriel Room, St Ricarius Church	£20.00		£20.00
BACS	Pennine Playgrounds	£833.00	£166.60	£999.60
BACS	Leeds City Council	£854.17	£170.83	£1,025.00
D/Debit	HSBC - Bank Charges	£8.00		£8.00
	Total Payments	£2,210.24	£338.35	£2,548.59

d. Having given due consideration to the documented presented, it was agreed to approve and adopt a revised Financial Risk Assessment policy.

e. Following an assessment of the present number of bank accounts the Parish Council has (four), it was agreed to reduce the number of bank accounts to two and open a savings account with another organisation, to ensure that funds held complied with the FSCS (Financial Services Compensation Scheme), which guarantees an organisations money up to £85000 per institution (bank). Given the problems with the current bankers, it was agreed to change to another bank organisation.

f. The Clerk provided members with information concerning the reason to cease subscription to the HP Instant Ink service. Having considered the information, it was agreed that the subscription be cancelled.

- g. Following discussion it was agreed to accept the request for a donation of £50 for the provision of a Poppy Appeal wreath. Previous arrangements for acceptance and placing of the wreath were confirmed.
- h. It was agreed that the Clerk be given delegated decision making (LGA 1972 section 101), concerning financial payments should the Council not be quorate.
- i. Members duly noted that a grant application of £3000, had been approved by the County Durham Community Foundation administrators of the Banks Hook Moor Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund. It would be used to provide funding for the Christmas Lights.
- j. It was agreed that an application be submitted to the Community Fund scheme offered by Ridge Road Energy Ltd, to provide funding for the Christmas Lights.

12. Matters for Information.

The information provided within the discussion was duly noted.

13. Date of next meeting.

Resolved; that the next Parish Council meeting will be on 17th September 2024 at the Oriel Room, St Ricarius Church, Aberford.

14. Matters to be discussed at the exclusion of the public and press.

Discussion took place regarding Item 4.a. the wording on future Agendas would be revised to clarify that members of the public can only comment on Agenda items and that any agenda item requests should be raised with the Clerk by email or in writing.

Signed Date.....
Chair Aberford & District Parish Council

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.