

Austwick Parish Council
Meeting 4 2023-2024 – Monday 4th September 2023
Minutes

The Parish Council allocated a reasonable period of time at the start of the meeting to allow registered electors the opportunity to ask questions and / or make statements that relate to the work of the Council.

Public Participation:

Lawkland Parish Meeting representative Mr Cairns participated in connection with item 4.3: Austwick pumping station discharges to watercourse.

Mr Holloway of Far End Laithe, Wharfe, asked if the Council would consider supporting his plans for an additional plantation of indigenous trees for which funding by the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust has been provided, adjoining the drive to Far End Laithe and Austwick Road.

Mr Hickson, owner of land off Austwick Road, Wharfe, also asked if the Council would consider supporting his plans for a plantation of indigenous trees in the field opposite Mr Holloway's proposal adjoining the drive to Jop Ridding and Austwick Road. The Council **agreed** to support both proposals. Ms Brown participated at item 4.7a.1: planning application at Fleet Barn.

Mr Hickson participated at item 4.7b and asked if the Council would consider contacting the YDNPA regarding the time-frame within which barn conversion planning applications are determined.

Mrs Thompson and Mr Cleverly both participated at item 4.7c.5: breach of planning consent at development off Pant Lane.

Mr Cleverly participated at item 4.3: Austwick pumping station discharges to watercourse and item 4.9d: to trim the verges on Graystonber Lane.

4.1 Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting.

a The Council had **received** advice from the YLCA that the giving of apologies for absence is a courtesy only and that the Council should approve the reason(s) for absence. The Council **agreed** to adopt this procedure as best practice

Present: Cllrs Peter Goold (Chairman), Barbara Tibbatts, David Dewhirst, and Mark Robinson.

In attendance: Parish Council Clerk Marijke Hill and seven members of the public.

Apologies for absence given in advance of the meeting by Cllr Kate Smith.

b Members of the Council have been notified of the reason for absence of Cllr Smith and **approved** the reason given.

4.2 Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests.

a. Councillors did not **record** any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or other interests in relation to items on this agenda.

b. No requests were made for dispensation in connection with items on this agenda.

4.3 Austwick Pumping Station Discharges to Watercourse

The Council had been **contacted** by Clapham cum Newby Parish Council regarding a proposed joint approach, also with Lawkland Parish Meeting and Bentham Town Council to discuss the continual, unacceptably high discharges from the Austwick Sewage Pumping Station.

The Council was **informed** that a £13 million approved scheme to build Clapham Waste Water Treatment Works in Clapham and to install new pipelines between the Austwick and Clapham sewage works has been in operation since 2011 and that the Austwick Sewage Pumping Station now lies in the parish of Lawkland. According to the Lune River Trust website the sewer storm overflow from the Austwick Station spilled 75 times for a total of 1516 hours or about 63 days non-stop in 2022, mostly into Fen Beck and then the river Wenning, in Clapham and thence Bentham parishes. United Utilities has informed concerned residents in Bentham that storm overflows are a safety mechanism to prevent flooding of properties upstream and, due to the large infiltration of groundwater and surface water, the storm overflow often operates beyond the actual rainfall event until residual flows are back to dry weather flow. Mr Cleverly informed the Council that it would appear that there is a lack of

storage tanks at the ASPS rather than a lack of pumping capacity.

The Council **noted** the absence of representatives from Clapham cum Newby Parish Council and Bentham Town Council and Members expressed disappointment for non attendance, particularly by a Member of Clapham cum Newby PC, which initiated the matter, was invited to attend and agreed to do so. The Council **agreed** to write to the Clapham clerk to ask whether they have any interest in taking this issue further.

4.4 Police, District and County Councillors Reports:

The Council had **received** the written police report, which contained 7 incidents in the parish and in the surrounding area during the period between 1st July and 1st September 2023, all of a minor nature.

Cllr Robinson **reported** the circumstances of a theft of a large umbrella from a resident's garden causing considerable anxiety to the person concerned. The Council **agreed** the need to be vigilant and to share information concerning such events.

There was no report from the North Yorkshire Council Councillor.

4.5 Minutes of Meetings

The Council **resolved** that the Minutes of Meeting 3, held on 3rd July 2023, should be **confirmed** and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Goold, as a true and accurate record.

4.6 To receive updates on Matters from previous meetings not otherwise included on the Agenda

The Council **noted** that there were no updates on Matters from previous meetings reported.

4.7 Planning

a. Applications

1. C/04/705 Full planning permission for conversion of barn to 4-bed dwelling for local occupancy, together with installation of package sewage treatment plant at Fleet Barn, Wharfe Road, Austwick. The Council **agreed** to notify the YDNPA that, whilst not objecting to the application, and welcoming the intended preservation of an important landmark building in the parish, the Council had three observations to make regarding the glazing, the flood risk, and vehicle access to Wharfe Road. The Council **asked** that these observations are considered by the Planning Authority when processing the proposals.

b. Decisions

1. C/04/704A Full planning permission for conversion of barn to provide short stay accommodation; installation of sewage treatment plant; installation of ground source heat loop and associated works at Dam House Barn, Wharfe, Austwick. **Not yet decided.**
2. C/04/64H Section 73 application for variation of Condition 2 of C/04/64G (Full planning permission for conversion of barn to single dwelling with local occupancy/holiday let restriction) in respect of installation of two additional windows to west elevation as required to conform to building regulations at Lawsons Barn, Wharfe, Austwick. **Not yet decided**
3. C/04/708A Householder planning permission for addition of open sided porch to front door, replacement of existing windows with new aluminium clad windows, enlargement of three windows to form window seats, replacement of one window on the rear elevation with French doors, replacement of sliding white uPVC patio doors on the rear elevation with French windows, relocation of utility room door, substitution of existing SW slate roof with Solar Tile solution, re-roof of NE roofs using existing materials, substitution of large Velux roof window with glass roof within lean-to roof pitch, addition of new Velux roof window, removal of existing oil fired boiler and oil tank and installation of air source heat pump at Scar Close Farm, Kiln Hill Lane, Feizor. **Not yet decided**
4. C/04/60E Section 73 application to vary Condition 2 (design details to retain shippon to form stables including re-roofing; raise roof of outbuilding and extend to the north) & Condition 10 (owl nest box – barn owl nesting box to be provided to main barn) of C/04/60B (Full planning permission for conversion of barn to form local occupancy dwelling or holiday let) at Newfield Barn, Wharfe, Austwick. **Not yet decided.**
5. C/04/706A amended plans to full planning permission for change of use, extension and

alterations of former agricultural building to form local occupancy residential use and short term holiday-let, together with installation of package sewage treatment plant at Roadside Barn off Clapham Road, Austwick. **Not yet decided.**

6. APP/C9499/D/23/3319220 Appeal made against the 'Refused' decision for C/04/709 Householder planning permission for erection of single storey extension to from entrance hall at Fechs Sheiling, Kiln Hill Lane, Feizor. **Appeal dismissed.**

The Council **noted** the considerable disquiet expressed by some members of the public in attendance that items 1, 2, 4, and 5, all barn conversion proposals, registered between September 2022 and February 2023, are awaiting a decision by the Planning Authority, and **agreed** that the Chairman, Cllr Goold, write to the YDNPA Head of Development Management asking for an explanation concerning such unsatisfactory delay in determining these proposals in a timely manner.

c. Additional and other planning matters

1. NYC: Definitive Map Modification Order Application CRA-2001-02-DMMO to upgrade Bridleway 05.2/39 to Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT).
The Council **ratified** notifying the NYC Definitive Map Officer that the Council has no information nor objections to the proposals, as the bridleway in question no longer lies within Austwick Parish.
2. NYC: street naming and numbering application for the development off Pant Lane.
The Council had **received** a request from the developer, in conjunction with NYC, to suggest a name for the street at the development off Pant Lane and **agreed** that the new street name should have a connection with the locality and with the past. The Council **resolved** to suggest to name the new street 'Pant Copy', as the field in which the new development is being built is named 'Pant Head Copy'.
3. Planning application received C/04/709B Section 73 application for variation of Condition 2 of C/04/709A (Householder planning permission for erection of single storey extension and alterations to existing annex and plant room to form garden room) relating to installation of 2 No inset solar panels to plant room roof at Fechs Sheiling, Kiln Hill Lane, Feizor, Austwick.
The Council **agreed** to notify the YDNPA that it had no comments to make.
4. Planning application received C/04/84E Householder planning permission for construction of patio to front of house at Victoria Lodge, Town Head, Austwick. The Council **agreed** to notify the YDNPA that it had no comments to make.
5. The Council had **received** representations of a planning breach on the development off Pant Lane at the start of building works. Contractors had worked outside the prescribed working hours to take down one of the chestnut trees and branches of this tree and had blocked Pant Lane on several occasions. The Council was **informed** that the developer's project manager has apologised and will visit the site in the next few days to reassure the residents. The Council **agreed** to monitor the situation closely in order to ensure the developer complies with the planning consent.
6. The Council had **received** an enquiry from a resident asking whether the Council would consider responding to a Dry Rigg Quarry planning application to discharge conditions, C/04/609B/DIS2. The Council **agreed** to reply to the resident that the Council is not consulted by the YDNPA on such applications, nor are any other statutory bodies, as the process of satisfying conditions imposed by planning consents is regarded as a detailed matter. The Council **noted** the resident's responses to the Planning Authority, objecting particularly against the 'relaxation' of preventing dust from being deposited on the public highway and surrounding area, including Swarthmoor SSSI.

4.8 To note reports and updates regarding parish and parish council matters other than maintenance

a. memorial bench at the pinfold at the bus shelter

The Chairman, Cllr Goold, **reported** that the new memorial bench at the pinfold at the bus shelter has been installed by the lengthsman who has re-located the 'spare bench' back to the Parish Hall forecourt.

- b. NYC new approach to managing speed limits
The Council **noted** correspondence received from the NYC Executive Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr Keane Duncan about a more strategic approach to consider speed limits in all areas. NYC plan to review all locations over the coming years, based on a speed management strategy to be prepared and approved.
- c. NYC Parish Charter
The Council has **received** the NYC finalised and published Parish Charter, which sets out the relationship between North Yorkshire Council and all Town and Parish Councils. The Council **noted** that the NYC Charter 'Review Group' will be monitoring and developing the Charter as and when required.

4.9 To note actions regarding parish maintenance matters:

- a. issues relating to NYC Highways
The Council **noted** that no issues relating to NYC Highways were reported.
- b. stile damage on Pennine Bridleway near Flascoe Bridge
The Council had **contacted** the YDNPA Area Ranger that a stile on the Pennine Way near Flascoe Bridge has failed, asking that a repair be carried out as quickly as possible as this stile is on a very popular local walking route. The Council **noted** the reply that the Council's request has been passed onto the Access Rangers covering this area who have to prioritise work across their area and are always busier in the summer months. The Council **agreed** to monitor the situation and report back at the Parish Council meeting on 4th December.
- c. other issues relating to YDNPA
The Council was **informed** that the damage to the footpath at 'Little Bridges' has been repaired.
- d. lengthsman duties or parish maintenance matters
Cllr Dewhirst **reported** that the project to allow any wildflowers to grow on the village greens by not mowing the entire village greens for a trial period of 2 months has been brought to an end. The Council **agreed** to not pursue this project next year.
Mr Cleverly asked if the Council would consider strimming the conservation verge on Graystonber Lane in the near future and to especially cut the Rosebay Willow Herb, before its seeds spread to a wide area. The Council **agreed** to ask the lengthsman to carry this out and that Cllr Dewhirst could arrange a small working party to assist the lengthsman if requested.
Cllr Dewhirst **reported** that the Pinfold area, behind the bus shelter, should receive some maintenance and the Council **agreed** to ask the lengthsman to carry this out.

4.10 Finance

- a. The Council **noted** the total balance of the HSBC current account on 31st August 2023 as £13,016.75.
- b. The Council **noted** the External Auditor's notification of the Council's exempt status.
- c. The Council **approved** payment of £67.50 to Charlotte Wilkinson for 9 weeks of bus shelter cleaning.
- d. The Council **noted** the Lengthsman Services Report – comparison of budget versus actual costs to 31 August and **noted** that the budget allocations for maintenance on the village greens and the village verges are nearly spent, due to the exceptional year for grass growing. The Council was **informed** that the lengthsman had suggested to need a further £600 to maintain the greens and verges in the village this year. The Council **agreed** that the lengthsman should use the allocated budget amount from the 'Other Lengthsman Services', which remains unused. The Council also **agreed** that it will allocate the remainder from elsewhere in the Annual Parish Council Budget as well as tailor the Outlying Areas work according to the amount of money left in the budgets towards the end of the year.
- e. The Council **ratified** payment to Craven Garden Care of £474.20 for maintenance on village greens; £750.15 for maintenance on village verges; and £69.30 for maintenance on outlying areas, all for May.

- f. The Council **approved** payment to Craven Garden Care of £487.20 for maintenance on village greens; and £654.60 for maintenance on village verges, both for July.
- g. The Council **approved** payment to Austwick Parish Hall Council of £30.00 for hall hire on 17th April and 22nd May; and £10.00 for agreed annual contribution to electricity running costs of the defibrillator.
- h. The Council **approved** payment to the clerk of £334.80 per month as salary for July and August.
- i. The Council **approved** payment to North Yorkshire Council of £118.51 for 3 boxes of dog waste bags.
- j. The Council **noted** two other financial issues. It **approved** payment to Craven Care of £608.20 for maintenance on village greens; £456.20 for maintenance on village verges; £103.95 for maintenance on outlying verges; and £91.20 for work on benches, all for August and it **noted** receipt of £156.50 from NYC as credit.

4.11 Correspondence received

The Council **noted** it had not received any correspondence.

4.12 To note and respond to items of information

- a. The Council **noted** the NYC review and renewal of NYC subsidised local bus services consultation until 6 September; and the Local Transport Plan consultation to 11 August.
- b. The Council **noted** the YDNPA Parish Forums Presentations notes and briefings, spring 2023.
- c. The Council **noted** the YLCA White Rose Bulletins 14/7, 31/7, 11/8, 25/8; Annual Review 2022-2023; Law and Governance bulletin July and August; Craven Branch meeting 5 October; training programme October to December.
- d. The Council **noted** the flyer by the YDNPA about the Yorkshire Dales Cheese Festival, 6 to 9 October 2023.

4.13 Date and time of the Parish Council

The Council **confirmed** the date of the next Parish Council meeting as Monday 16th October 2023 to be held at Austwick Parish Hall at 7.30pm.

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed this meeting at 21.36.

Marijke Hill
Clerk to the Council