

Pannal and Burn Bridge Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in the Function Room of Pannal Village Hall
7.00pm on Thursday 13th February 2025

All meetings of the Parish Council are open to the Press and Public

Present: Cllr Cathy Burrell (Chairman) with Cllrs Andrew Farrar and Steve Cobb together with Ward Cllr John Man

1/02.25 To receive apologies for absence – to consider for approval reasons for absence submitted by councillors – apologies had been received from Cllr Helen Hayes (work) and Cllr El Sharkey (personal) with approval given. Cllr Cliff Trotter absent.

2/02.25 To receive declarations of interest in the matters to be transacted at the meeting – there were none.

3/02.25 To consider any applications by councillors for dispensation – there were none.

4/02.25 Opportunity for public comment for items not on the agenda – *Members of the public are invited to address the council on any matter over which it has power, for a maximum of three minutes. Those wishing to speak on an item which is on the agenda may be invited to speak at the beginning of that item.*

Cllr John Mann provided a verbal report from NYC's recent meeting and for which he was thanked, and which covered the following points:

- Increased demand for services especially those provided to older people but also for those children with Special Needs – including transport – the bill for which has risen from £20m (pre-Covid) to the current £50m. They report a consequential limit on home-to-school transport to the legal minimum.
- Financial situation remains dire with NYC opinion held that the Government has little understanding of the costs and pressures imposed on rural councils and particularly the immediate withdrawal of £14.3m rural services support which has hit North Yorkshire badly. NYC refute that the grant has been put into reserves and have mounted a legal challenge against the Government's "unsound decisions".
- Savings of approximately £40m have been made in combining 8 North Yorkshire councils with senior managers reduced and the continued disposal of unnecessary buildings.
- However, NYC will be raising Council Tax by the legal maximum of 5%.
- NYC are addressing the affordable housing crisis by allocating second homes council tax precept into housing schemes although a number of the Western Arc developer applications have reduced from 40% to 35% on the affordable house provision.
- NYC are challenged to source sites and then to deliver the new mandatory housing targets of over 4,200 houses / year – however if these sites are not identified NYC will incur a fine or cleave planning decisions into London.

5/02.25 To consider for approval the Minutes of meeting held 9th January 2025 – RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were duly signed.

6/02.25 Any update regarding potential allotment site – clerk sent email request to NYC 27th January 2025 regarding the considered site with holding response made by the Snr Estates Surveyor that the matter would be investigated shortly.

7/02.25 Progress to-date regarding the updating of the website i) councillor photos – councillors were asked to send their photos to the clerk for new website uploading. Unanimous agreement was made for the website format and with consideration given to any new / additional photos which could be included, including the Christmas lights. It is envisaged that its final format will

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be available for councillors' approval mid-March.

8/02.25 Communication – with parishioners – committed consideration was given to the means by which the Parish Council could increase its circulation of the newsletter – and particularly to those who don't have electronic accessibility. This would be further discussed and included in the March agenda.

9/02.25 Village matters:

- a) **Family Fun Day (Sunday 11th May)** – consideration of arrangements and provision: two councillors and a volunteer parishioner, in conjunction with the clerk, will meet to take the arrangements forward. Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the request to NYC to once again use Pannal Green and would order provision of the portaloos and waste bins. St Robert's church had given their permission for the event, which was much appreciated by councillors with relevant food stalls / bouncy castle / metal barriers to be organised. Councillors agreed – retrospective to the meeting – to make entertainment provision of a "Slackline" at a much-reduced cost of £750.
- b) **Speeds in the parish** - Additionally, the Chairman wished to inform councillors that at her request the NYPolice had visited Main Street to monitor traffic and that the January SID data would be supplied to them and the Traffic Bureau. She was told that if the 20mph speed was exceeded, ie 23mph, that they can send out a letter to those "offenders" with a surprising eight letters distributed and all to local residents. Prosecution can take place for those driving at 33mph or above in a 30mph zone. It was found that Spring Lane speeds are currently greater than those on Church Lane. The Chairman was reassured to be told that they will continue to monitor the parish situation closely.
- c) **Grit bins and waste bins** – Cllr Steve Cobb (and clerk) had undertaken a survey of grit bin placement in the parish and in response to helpful provision made by parishioners. A further "wishlist" placement will be made to NYC together with request for a couple more waste bins in the Walton Park area.

10/02.25 Law and Governance

- a) **Establish / confirm Local Plan Committee** (current members: Cllrs Cathy Burrell / Andrew Farrar / Helen Hayes / Neil Permain) with any consideration of NYC "Call for Sites" notification. Cllr Cathy Burrell confirmed that she would not stand on this committee and with Cllr John Mann welcomed to join it. It was hoped that ex-councillor, Dave Oswin, would preside on the committee given his considerable experience in addressing HBC's Local Plan.
- b) **Council insurance procurement and with consideration of Zurich quotation April 2025** - clerk had sought five quotations from alternative insurance providers, three had been received back based on the current insurance provision but none could match Zurich Municipal's new year quotation. It was RESOLVED to accept their quotation at a cost of £510 and which included a 3-year LTU discount (Long Term Undertaking).
- c) **Consideration of further year's provision by Breakthrough Communications** – it was RESOLVED to discontinue this provision.
- d) **Risk Management – annual consideration and with consideration to review and adopt the Risk Management Scheme** – with regard to general risk management, councillors recognised that potentially these were much reduced given that the council did not own / manage any buildings or property however councillors felt there were no new issues or developments and that
 - A Business Continuity Plan is currently being developed / updated by the clerk,
 - The adult gym equipment is inspected weekly by a councillor with annual inspections undertaken by an external provider,
 - Any additional Fun Day provision, such as a bouncy castle, is managed and supervised by the provider,

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- The provision of Christmas tree lights is managed by a professional and reputed company,
- It is difficult to take forward the Community Resilience Plan given that very little support has been offered by parishioners.

The Risk Management Scheme circulated to councillors was agreed and adopted.

11/02.25 Finance:

- i) The current account and bank statement at 13th February were approved by email and signed off by Cllrs Burrell and Farrar
- ii) The payment of invoices and expense claims received at 13th February were approved by email and signed off by Cllrs Burrell and Farrar and which included clerk's January salary £921.60 gross / reimburse clerk expenses for £39.81 / Directions Planning NP training invoice £955.26 gross / Avenue Printing House N Plan £140 / DefibShop replacement battery £360
- iii) Above invoices were signed off by councillors together with spreadsheet bank reconciliation
- iv) Approval of clerk Cloudy IT Microsoft 365 training £35 was given
- v) Consideration regarding any need for additional clerk's hours – none required.

12/02.25 Date and time of the next Council Meeting - Thursday 13th March at 7.00 pm

Jane Marlow
Parish Clerk
17th February 2025