**Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting**

 **Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 15 February 2022**

**Present:**30

**Apologies:** Sue Aherne, David & Gaynor Badham, Jane Dexter-Smith Veronica Dunne, Eric Dunstan, David & Helen Goodman, Ian Henley, Richard Kettlewell, David Lis, David Nelson, Jackie Young,

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**–all present agreed these were a true and accurate record of the general meeting held on 27 September 2021.
2. **Matters arising**

**Oswaldkirk Bank Signage –** The Chair met with Mr Coyne, Highways Development Manager in relation to:

* Concerns regarding pedestrians crossing the road from and to The Terrace. Mr Coyne advised there are limitations as to what can be done with signage but agreed that a further ‘adult holding child’s hand’ warning sign would be placed on the left hand corner of the bank.
* Double yellow lines on the corner of Main Street. Mr Coyne agreed these could be installed to the edge of the Red House’s gateway to improve visibility for cars turning into the Main Street.He would not extend the lines further than this as it would only have the effect of pushing vehicle parking further along the street.

**Malt Shovel** – The repaired gate has now been returned. The Chair contacted Mr Butler who advised the Brewery remain committed to reopening the pub at some point in the future. He hoped that the planned building works to the kitchen would resume in the Spring.

**Telegraph pole replacement** –The Chair confirmed he had made enquires of the Freedom Group who are in regular contact with BT and Openreach, who are responsible for replacing the rotten telegraph poles along The Terrace. Once these are replaced Freedom Group will return to remove their remaining wire, currently helping to support the poles.

1. **Financial Update –** The Treasurer presented the Parish Meeting accounts and advised that expenditure had matched income. He expected to present a similar statement at the AGM, currently scheduled for 3 May 2022.

The Chair advised that an additional grant towards the Defibrillator had been awarded by AONB meaning the donation from the Freedom Group could be put towards other village expenses. He confirmed that of the £10,975 of expenditure over the past two years, £4,363 had been funded through grants.

1. **Planning Applications**–no planning applications had been received since the last meeting. The National Park had advised of notification to carry out works to a rotten tree at Thirty Nine Steps within the Oswaldkirk Conservation Area. No objection to this was made.

There were two planning applications considered at the last Parish Meeting (27 September 2021)-

Removal of 5no. Ash on eastern boundary of Oswaldkirk playground with the B1363

OS Field 4490, York Road, Oswaldkirk

Approved and the removal is complete.

Erection of first floor extension over existing single storey ground floor projection

4 The Terrace, Oswaldkirk

Approved.

1. **Planning Enforcement –**

**St Gregory’s** – The Chair summarised recent activity in relation to this. Following agreement at the last Parish Meeting he had written a number of letters to Ryedale District Council (RDC) Planning Department expressing the Parish Meeting’s discontent regarding RDC’s lack of enforcement of the planning conditions. A formal complaint has been lodged at Levels 1 and 2 of RDC complaints procedure. The most recent response to this refers again to sensitive issues and for the Council’s wish to proceed sensitively whilst being confident progress is being made. The Chair advised that although he has been advised that the next step of the Council’s complaints procedure is the Ombudsman, this route is only available to individuals and not to Parish Meetings (or Parish Councils).

Mr Wade updated the meeting on his efforts. He has submitted a complaint to the Ombudsman in relation to both RDC and Highways regarding their handling of the issues; describing each organisation saying it is for the other to action. The key element being that the provision of adequate off street parking, prior to occupation, was a condition of planning approval. St Gregory’s has now been occupied for two years and no action has been taken on behalf of the landlord or planning enforcement dept. Mr Wade also explained that the original plan for parking cars on the various parts of the site was totally impractical and the situation had been further compounded by giving the tenant in St Gregory’s Annex an assured tenancy until August 2023. Mr Wade was hopeful of a meeting with the Ombudsman in relation to his evidence.

**Shooting lodge in Collinson’s field**- The Chair updated the meeting on a request from Mr Elmhurst at Oswaldkirk Hall to examine the possible discharge of effluent into Spring Wood. As background, the Chair advised the meeting that a planning application for a shooting lodge, was considered by the Parish Meeting in May 2013, the meeting had supported the application on the basis that it was only to be used as a shooting lodge and should not be used as a residence. The planning application was approved on this basis.

Mr Elmhurst is now the owner of land adjacent to this shooting lodge. Mr Elmhurst has submitted a planning enforcement request to the council and following a visit to the site with the chairman asked if a planning enforcement request could also be submitted by the Parish Meeting. The Chair reported that it was evident that the shooting lodge is being used as a permanent residence and it also appears that a business is being operated from the site. In addition, effluent from the site is being deposited on Mr Elmhurst’s land. The Chair sought retrospective approval from the Parish Meeting for the submission of this enforcement request. It was wholeheartedly supported. To date the Chair has received an acknowledgement of his request but no further response.

1. **Chestnut Bank –** a proposal was submitted by Del Jenkins. A small working party had been formed to improve the appearance of Chestnut Bank. To do this the Parish Meeting was asked for funds amounting to not more than £300. The Parish Meeting agreed to support this funding.
2. **Queen’s Jubilee Celebration** – The meeting was asked for ideas with various suggestions being put forward. Shena Stewart agreed to co-ordinate a working party to organise a village celebration and a number of those present confirmed their willingness to be involved. Interested parties should contact Mrs Stewart at shena.caine@hotmail.com and a similar request would be made via the Grapevine.
3. **Mosey Certificate of Lawfulness –** The Chair advised that he had been informed through a Coulton resident that Mr Mosey has applied for a Certificate of Lawfulness (through Ryedale Planning Department). Reference RDC 21/01658/CLEUD. The basis for this being that the operation has consistently, for a period of 10 years, breached the 2011 planning conditions limiting his transport operation to specific hours. Despite numerous complaints made to the Council in relation to operating HGVs outside these hours no enforcement action has been taken. The application differs from a planning application in that it is determined on a point of law and if a continuous breach is proved, then permission must be granted. The burden of proof is with the applicant and documentation has been provided to RDC in support of the application. The Chair additionally advised that Jill Thompson, Planning Manager had determined this application would be considered under delegated powers, rather than by the Planning Committee, as ‘CLEUDS are determined on the basis of evidence provided and on the balance of probability’.

The Chair expressed his concern that the Parish Meeting had not been advised of the application by RDC. The Chair has been in contact with the Chair of Hovingham with Scackleton Parish Council who were also not informed. A good summary of the situation and supporting documentation has been provided and the Chair confirmed he would make this available via the Grapevine to help individuals send their own objections in to the Council.

It was agreed that the Parish Meeting would write to RDC Planning Department expressing its objection and also its concern with the lack of communication. Individual residents were encouraged to write using their own words and reasons for supporting or objecting to the application. The deadline for doing so is 25 February 2022.

1. **St Aiden’s Car Park -** Gerard Simpson confirmed that St Aiden’s had originally been built by local parishioners with no input from the College. The Abbott is now seeking ideas from the community as to what St Aiden’s might be used for, but it does need community input. If no decision is taken by the end of this month then it is likely it will be placed on the open market.
2. **Any Other Business –**

**Grapevine** - Caroline O’Neill reminded the meeting that not everyone in the village was signed up to the Grapevine/emails and therefore it is important to also use the Village Noticeboard and potentially leaflet drops for important information.

**Bus** – a reminder to consider/remember the bus service.

**Parking at west end of Main Street –** A number of residents highlighted increased parking on verges which impacted on their ability to exit their driveways safely and which also potentially caused visibility problems due to the blind bend. The Chair agreed to take this forward.

**Dog Excrement** – this is also becoming an increasing problem. The Chair agreed to put a further request on the noticeboard and via the Grapevine.

**Oz Oil** – Roger Wade reported that the scheme had achieved in excess of £200,000 of savings since 2009. In addition, the 40 people who had signed up to solar panels in 2011 will earn between them £1.2M, after the initial purchase cost. The scheme will end in 2036 (25 years). In addition, the 40 installations above will have provided for the owner, free electricity during daylight hours if required, whilst the owners will also receive an income for generating it for themselves in the first place.

**Village Hall Annual General Meeting –** A reminder this will take place next Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

**Date of next meeting** - The Chair confirmed the next Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting would be the AGM (followed by an Ordinary Meeting) on Tuesday 3 May 2022.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.