

Minutes of Byland with Wass and Oldstead Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21st September 2015.

1. Attendees.

Cllr. P. Gilruth, Chairman. Cllr.P. Gibson, Vice Chairman. Cllr. C. Bradley. Cllr. R. Statham. Cllr. H. Metcalfe. Andrea Robinson..

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2015.

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr. P. Gilruth.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1. Grass Cutting.

Wass: The residents of the village will cut the grass on the verges outside their homes except for the grass verge on the corner opposite the Wombwell Arms and a section of Wass Bank which is to be cut by the Highways Department. There is to be no charge to the Parish Council for this grass cutting.

Oldstead: The Highways Department will cut the grass verges in three locations where a clear line of sight is essential for safety. However, over the summer period the grass verges were cut, possibly by S. Kidston who has cut the verges for a number of years in the village. No invoice has been received for this grass cutting.

Cllr. Gibson stated that the verges along the road from Byland to Oldstead were overgrown and in an unacceptable condition, obstructing sight on a road which is, to all intents and purposes, single-track. However, the Parish Council should not pay for these verges to be cut – this service should be provided by the Highways Department as a public service, essential for safety.

3.2. Grit Bins.

Wass. The grit bin near Crieff Farm on Wass Bank is to remain and will be maintained and filled by the Highways Department. Cllr. Statham pointed out that Hambleton Lane becomes dangerous for both cars and pedestrians in icy weather.

Oldstead. The grit bin near the Black Swan pub will remain and will be filled and maintained but no other bins will be provided for Oldstead despite the incline in gradient on two approaches to the village. Cllr. Gibson has communicated with the Highways department, outlining the potentially hazardous nature of the roads in Oldstead in the winter, with oil tankers in particular struggling to deliver fuel.

With regard to the question of whether the Parish Council should pay for replenishing grit bins, the Parish Council felt that this responsibility should rest with the Highways department and that the Parish Council should not be expected to fill the gap in a public service.

3.3. The introduction of Superfast Broadband.

Cllr. Statham informed the Parish Council that the M.P., Kevin Hollingdrake, has recently met with the firm responsible for extending Superfast Broadband into rural areas. In summary, the government has provided extra funding for Openreach to extend the Broadband service but there are no details with regard to which factors will be taken into account when deciding which area will receive the service. It is impossible to get any information.

Cllr. Statham estimates that a privately-funded installation of Superfast Broadband will cost not less than £10,000. The Parish Council do not consider that Parish funds should be used to fill a possible gap in the provision of a service which the government had promised to provide.

3.4. Mobile Telephone Infrastructure Project.

Jenny Clarke, Parish clerk, spoke to Mr. Mark Hill at the North York Moors National Park Authority on Monday 21st September.

In summary, in October 2015 the government will withdraw funding for the erection of telephone masts which have not received planning consent. The mast which would have provided a mobile telephone signal for Byland with Wass and Oldstead has not received planning consent and will not therefore be erected. Arqiva, the company which is responsible for the erection of mobile telephone masts, cannot afford to erect these masts without government funding – it is not commercially viable.

3.5. Orienteering Event, Saturday 26th March 2016.

The revised plans have been submitted by the event organisers and it is clear that, apart from Wass Bank being closed to traffic on the day, there will be minimal impact on the village or on Lund Farm.

There is therefore no need to hold a village meeting to discuss the event.

Action: Parish clerk to inform the organiser that the Parish Council is happy with the organisation of the event.

3.6. Bus Services.

There is a consultation process with regard to the reduction of the service of the 31X Service and the Passenger Transport Section of NYCC would like a representative to take part in the evaluation of services. Cllr. Statham agreed to be the representative for the Parish Council – documents will be sent to the Parish Council from the week beginning 28th September and these will be forwarded to Cllr. Statham.

3.7. The Implementation of the new Transparency Code.

Ryedale District Council will publish the agendas, minutes and information regarding financial matters on its own website so that the Parish Council does not have to set up and maintain its own website. Cllr. Statham proposed that that details of what was to be placed online should be recorded at each council meeting to conform with the Transparency code. It was agreed that the draft minutes of this meeting would be sent to Ryedale District Council for publication on their website.

Action. Parish clerk to send draft minutes to Ryedale District Council and also to write to Bridget Skaife at Ryedale District Council to thank her for her help which has been invaluable in helping the Parish Council to conform with the new legal requirements of the Transparency Code.

4. Finance.

4.1. Balance. The balance in September 2015 was £4,029. 24.

4.2. Precept. The precept stands at £810.00 per annum. In view of the fact that the Parish Council might have unforeseen expenditure to fill the gap caused by government cut-backs, the Parish Council will not apply for a reduction in the Precept in the next financial year.

5. Planning Applications.

Wass. There were 3 planning applications since the last Parish Council Meeting in May 2015 – all were passed with no objections by the Parish Council. They were:

1. Melrose Cottage. July 2015.
2. Lowna. September 2015.
3. Lund Farm. September 2015.

Oldstead. There was 1 planning application to which the Parish Council objected.

1. Eden Cottage. May 2015. The objection was raised because of the removal of the septic tank which will mean that foul water/sewage will flow into a drain which previously only carried water. This drain has a sharp bend in it and will therefore almost certainly become blocked. Nonetheless the North York Moors National Park Planning Department has approved the removal of the septic tank – a letter is to be received with an explanation as to why approval was given despite the objection raised by the Parish Council.

6. Any Other Business.

6.1. Condition of Wass Bank.

Wass Bank has been damaged because of heavy traffic during the time Sutton Bank was closed. Heavy rain has also caused damage, particularly to the gullies.

Action. Parish clerk to contact Mr. Graham Ward of the Highways Department to ask him to repair the damage.

6.2. Signs at the bottom of Wass Bank.

Cllr. Statham has received a request from residents that the signs at the bottom of Wass Bank which are now no longer needed should be removed.

Action. Parish clerk to contact appropriate department to request that signs be removed.

6.3. Repair of road from Byland to Oldstead.

Cllr. Gibson said that repairs to this road had still not been carried out – he will contact Mr. Graham Ward about this matter.

6.4. Fracking in the Parish.

Cllr. Gibson pointed out that the Parish is in an area in which fracking might take place. However, no definitive survey has been carried out yet, but this is a matter which might need further attention in future.

6.5. North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

There are proposals to change the way the Fire and Rescue Service operates. As part of the consultative process, a survey is available online. Cllr. Statham will fill in this survey.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting.

This will take place on Monday 18th January 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the village hall.

Jenny Clarke.

Parish clerk.