

LTON BY BOWLAND, GISBURN FOREST AND SAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 14 MARCH 2023

HELD AT BOLTON BY BOWLAND VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllrs A Yates (Chair), N Bunyan, P Jenkins, R Veitch, S Whittaker, P Wilson, Clerk

In attendance: Two members of the public

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Hayden Fortune, Borough Cllrs Rosie Elms and Richard Sherras

2. To receive declarations of personal or pecuniary interest

Cllr A Yates declared an interest in item 6 (i), planning application 3/2023~~2~~/0052 Holden Clough Nursery

3. Adjournment for public session

No comments from members of the public present.

4. To resolve to confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 06 February 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 06 February 2023 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

5. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the Agenda – For Information Only

Cllr Wilson apologised for not putting the Agenda on the Tosside notice board within the requisite timescale.

The Chair advised of the intended progress of the formation of a working party, composed of representatives of Ribble Valley villages and RVBC, which would discuss suitable safety initiatives and lobby Lancashire Highways for their implementation. The formation of the working party had been publicised to Ribble Valley villages by RVBC and, so far, expressions of interest had been received from several villages. The Chair requested that further publicity be given to other villages not yet signed up by word of mouth. The price of Speed Indicator Devices (“SpIDs”) was discussed but it was noted that any decision regarding whether to purchase a SpID or not would need to wait until the end of the financial year, when the Parish Council’s year end financial position would be ascertained.

The Chair advised the meeting that, due to the Decision Notice referred to in Agenda Item 1 of Part II of the meeting now being in the public domain, the matter could be discussed in Part I of the meeting and would be considered as the next item on the Agenda.

6. To consider the Decision Notice of Ribble Valley BC’s Sub Committee of the Account & Audit Committee held on 17 February 2023 (copy previously circulated to Councillors)

The Parish Council acknowledged and accepted the findings of the Sub Committee's meeting of 17 February 2023 and did not support the conduct of Councillor Fortune. The Parish Council further accepted that Councillor Fortune had made a statement at the Parish Council meeting on 14 February 2022 acknowledging that, at the meeting on 04 October 2021, he did not adhere to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and that, at future meetings, he would abide by the Code in its entirety. The Sub Committee had recommended that Councillor Fortune undertake Code of Conduct training. It was noted that, according to the Parish Council's Code of Conduct, all members were required to undergo training and that RVBC intended to provide appropriate training for all Parish Councillors following the local elections in May 2023. All members of the Council were duly reminded of this obligation to attend appropriate training and it was noted information regarding any RVBC training would be circulated when available.

7. To consider any response to be made to planning applications:

Planning Application 3/2022/0052 Holden Clough Nursery

Cllr Yates, having declared an interest in planning application 3/2022/0052, left the room and took no part in the discussion. Cllr Veitch was proposed and seconded as Chair of the meeting for this item and duly took the Chair.

The application was considered in detail and it was agreed that the Parish Council would object to the application. A suitable objection letter would be drafted and submitted to RVBC.

Cllr Yates returned to the room and re-assumed the Chair.

Planning Application 3/2023/0139 Meregill Farm, Holden Lane, Bolton by Bowland

There were no objections to this application.

8. To consider a request for a letter of support from the Parish Council in respect of the potential re-development of land adjacent to Southport House, Sawley

A draft letter of support from the Parish Council to the potential applicants had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was agreed, subject to certain grammatical amendments, that the letter could be released to the potential applicants.

9. Accounts

a) To approve the bank balance as of 13 March 2023 of £28,056.80 Approved by all

b) To consider and approve any invoice payments due:

1. Bolton by Bowland Village Hall Trust	Room hire	£25.00	Approved
2. James Waddington	Lengthsman	£1,058.40	Approved
3. Cathy Holmes	Clerk	£131.32	Approved
4. B T Johnson	Joiner	£2,120.00	Approved

10. To consider and approve any application for a Ribble Valley in Bloom grant 2023

It was noted that the Parish Council provided funds of £300 to each of the villages for the purposes of planting flowers and bulbs every year. It was agreed that this donation should continue and that

an application to RVBC be made for a RV in Bloom grant of £900. It was noted that any grant received would likely amount to 25% of the total applied for.

11. To consider the Parish Council's Asset Register

The Clerk advised that the most recent Asset Register she could find was dated 2019 so she had updated it. The contents of the Asset Register were noted and the Clerk advised that she would bring the revised Asset Register back to a future meeting for approval.

12. To consider the latest information available regarding the B4RN project

Cllr Wilson provided an update on the latest situation regarding the rollout of the B4RN in the locality. It was agreed that it would be investigated whether it was possible for a contribution to the project to be made by the Parish Council but it was noted that any such contribution could only be made, subject to there being funds available, at the end of the financial year.

13. Matters brought forward by members – For Information Only

The Clerk reported that RVBC's Policy & Finance Committee would be considering grants to Parish Councils for the Coronation at its meeting in late March 2023 but that the recommendation was for £250 to be awarded to each parish. There was the possibility of a counter-proposal of £500 for each parish also being raised. Regardless of the amount donated by RVBC, the Parish Council have previously committed a total contribution of £500 for each Village. The Village Hall and Church Committees need to decide how the donation is split. It was reported that Bolton by Bowland Village Hall Committee had suggested the possibility of commemorative trees being planted for the Coronation. It was agreed these could be funded from their share of the £500 received from the Parish Council.

It was reported that West Bradford Parish Council wished to set up a working party regarding the HARP project and had invited expressions of interest from parishes to be affected by the project. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the establishment of this working party and would participate in its meetings.

It was noted that two damaged signs in Sawley and one in Bolton by Bowland had been reported to Lancashire Highways but no repair work had yet been undertaken. It was agreed that the outstanding repairs should be brought to the attention of LCC.

14. Date and venue of next Parish Council meeting

Monday 17 April 2023 at 7.30 pm at Tosside Community Link