

BOLTON BY BOWLAND, GISBURN FOREST AND SAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 27 NOVEMBER 2023

HELD AT TOSSIDE COMMUNITY HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllrs A Yates (Chair), D Brady, N Bunyan, H Fortune, P Jenkins, L Marsden, S Mitchell, A Murphy, R Veitch, S Whitaker, Clerk

In attendance: Two members of the public

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr P Wilson

2. To receive declarations of pecuniary or personal interest

Cllr Alex Murphy declared an interest in the planning application concerning Ghylls House.

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 23 October 2023

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2023 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

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

None

6. To consider any response to be made to planning applications

It was resolved that the following comments be made in respect of the specified planning applications:

3/2023/0655 Bier Bridge Bungalow, Bolton by Bowland

No objections

3/2023/0718 Barn adjacent to Big Holme Farm, Anna Lane, Bolton by Bowland

No objections

3/2023/0775 Bowland Forest Farm, Settle Road, Bolton by Bowland

It was agreed that an objection should be filed with RVBC concerning this application and that this would be submitted when more information had been obtained.

7. Audit 2022/23

The Chair confirmed that additional information had been provided to the external auditor, as requested, but nothing further had been heard. It was explained that the additional work required could cost up to £2,500 per day as the work was carried out by an engagement lead and that this cost had to be met by the parish council.

8. Accounts

To approve the bank balance as of 20 November 2023 of £46,028.42 Approved by all

To consider and approve any invoice payments due:

1. Mrs C A Holmes	Salary	£191.12
2. Bolton by Bowland Village Hall	Room hire	£25.00

All payments were approved.

To consider opening a bank account with another provider

The Chair explained that, despite months of liaison with Barclays Bank over the provision of information, Barclays had suddenly closed the account and issued a cheque for the proceeds to the parish council. The preferred option was to open a new account with another provider and the Clerk had started the process of opening an account with Lloyds Bank. It was noted that this process could take up to six weeks whereupon all outstanding payments could be finalised.

9. To consider the budget for 2024/25 and the precept request to RVBC

The Chair and Clerk provided information on income and expenditure to date for 2023/24 and projections for 2024/25 were explained. It was agreed that a precept of £20,000 should be requested from RVBC.

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

The meeting was advised that only 10 more sign ups were needed in order to have the full complement of sign ups necessary to progress to the next stage of the B4RN project with £60K of investment also being needed to hit the necessary financial target. B4RN had started to promote the project in Grindleton and Sawley and interest was believed to be considerable.

11. An update on the possible construction of a pedestrian track from Holden to Bolton by Bowland

The working party advised that they had walked a possible route for the track which involved crossing land belonging to several landowners, which could prove more problematic than another route which would only require consent from one landowner. It was agreed that the initial priority should be to get a track in place from the village to the Settle Road and that obtaining consent for the route which only crossed land belonging to one landowner should be attempted first. It was also noted that this intended route was in part along an existing public footpath which could make matters easier.

12. Matters brought forward by members – For Information Only

Cllr Bunyan raised the issue of dog fouling which had become an increasing problem in the village. It was noted that some of the offenders were visitors, although certain residents had also been seen not picking up after their dogs. It was reported that dog fouling was the most common complaint received by RVBC and that the Borough Council had initiated a campaign to tackle the issue. It was agreed that, rather than try and provide more bins or signage, the parish council should support the borough council in their initiatives to stop dog fouling.

It was explained that it was hoped to start issuing the parish newsletters again. In order to issue these via email data protection legislation would need to be complied with, which could be administratively onerous to begin with. The possibility of using the village Facebook page for publishing the newsletters was suggested and Cllr Mitchell confirmed that the page currently had over 800 followers, although not all of these were local. The Chair cautioned that if the newsletters were started again they needed to be published on a regular basis.

A letter of support from the parish council had been requested from a resident at Ghylls House, Tosside who wished to plant a 300m hedge on his land to create a wildlife corridor. It was agreed that a letter of support should be provided.

Cllr Murphy advised of unsavoury practices concerning the shooting of deer in an area of Gisburn Forest traversed by two public footpaths. It was suggested that Cllr Murphy contact the police's Rural Task Force before making contact with the landowner.

An update on suggestions for speed reduction/limitation measures which could be taken at the gateways to the villages was provided.

Cllr Veitch advised that the war memorial in Sawley required cleaning and re-lettering and it was believed the memorial was the responsibility of the parish council.

Cllr Mitchell queried whether refuse from the blue recycling bins ended up in the same place as refuse from the burgundy bins as the refuse collectors had been sent emptying both bins into the same lorry. It was agreed that the question be asked of RVBC.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday 22 January 2024 in Bolton by Bowland Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.