

BOLTON BY BOWLAND, GISBURN FOREST AND SAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 31 MARCH 2025

HELD AT BOLTON BY BOWLAND VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM

Present: Cllrs A Yates (Chair) L Marsden, S Mitchell, A Murphy, R Veitch, S Whittaker, P Wilson, Clerk and three members of the public

1. To receive and approve apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr H Fortune and Borough Cllr Rosie Elms

2. To receive declarations of pecuniary or personal interest

Cllr Yates declared an interest in item 6, Planning Applications, Cllr Wilson declared an interest in item 7 Accounts (Tosside Community Hall) and Cllrs Veitch and Wilson declared an interest in item 9, B4RN.

3. Adjournment for public session

A brief explanation of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme established in Tosside was provided.

4. To resolve to confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25 February 2025

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2025 were approved and duly signed by the Chair.

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

Cllr Murphy confirmed the eight locations where it had been decided to locate grit bins and further advised that measures would be taken to ensure the grit bins could not be stolen. It was envisaged that the appropriate work would be undertaken in the summer months.

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

It was resolved that there were no objections to the following planning application:

3/2024/0940 Land off Hollins Lane, Gisburn
3/2025/0093 1,2,3 Skirden Lodge, Wigglesworth Road, Slaidburn
3/2025/0120 Corgill Lodge, Holden Lane, Bolton by Bowland
3/2025/0112 Laneside Farm, Settle Road, Bolton by Bowland

7. Accounts

To approve the bank balance as of 24 March 2025 of £50,070 Approved by all

To consider and approve any invoice payments due:

1. Mrs C A Holmes £202.84 February 2025 salary

2. Bolton by Bowland VH	£15.00	Room hire 31 March 2025
3. Sawley Village Hall	£1,000.00	Grant 2024/25
4. Bolton by Bowland CE Primary School	£150.00	VE Day donation

8. To consider requests for grants from Sawley Village Hall (2024/25 & 2025/6) and Tosside Community Link (2025/6).

The request for Sawley for £1,000 to contribute towards refurbishment costs was approved. It was stated that, in terms of 2025/6, the Hall need to first submit their specific requirements before the Council can discuss.

It was noted that a request for a grant of £1,000 had been received from Tosside Community Link which would be used towards the costs of the installation of solar panels on the building. Concerns from some of the Community Hall's Trustees, and Tosside residents, had been expressed to Cllr Murphy regarding the recent behaviours and actions by the Hall which were considered not to be following Charity trustee code of conduct. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that decisions on the Hall's grant request would be deferred pending direct discussions with their trustees.

9. To consider the adoption of a co-option of parish councillors' policy

A draft policy had been previously circulated to councillors. It was noted that the policy had included provision for potential candidates to be asked to speak in the public session of the meeting, but that this had been considered by some to be unfair on those who were uncomfortable with public speaking but could be suitable candidates in other ways. The Chair advised he had done some research and Nalc guidelines state that Parish Councils can interview potential candidates in private session only with subsequent discussion of candidates also taking place in the absence of the public. There was evidence of many other councils following this principle. The Chair distributed a revised version of the policy incorporating suggested changes and this version of the policy was agreed and adopted.

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

It was reported that the grant monies had been received from RVBC and transferred over to B4RN before the 31 March 2025 deadline. It was noted that the digging work required in Bolton by Bowland had been completed and that work was ongoing in Grindleton.

11. Matters brought forward by members – For Information Only

It was reported that a vote on whether to install CCTV on Tosside Community Hall had been scheduled to take place at a Trustee meeting held on 10 March 2025 but that the vote did not take place and had instead been deferred until the May 2025 meeting.

Cllr Yates provided an update on road safety matters, noting that Lancashire Highways were drawing up plans and costs for three gateways for Bolton by Bowland.

Lancashire Highways had also indicated they were considering a kerbside protector for the Copy Nook and a potential, official passing place on Holden Lane. Cllr Yates also advised that the Bowland Estate had verbally agreed to have the wall to be repaired as far as opposite the toilets of the Copy Nook but there would then be a slatted fence down to the actual junction. No progress had been made with repairs to the wall opposite the Copy Nook which was under different ownership to the field off Holden Lane.

Progress with purchasing another SpID was queried and Cllr Yates agreed that he would follow this up.

It was agreed that a donation should be made to Bolton by Bowland Tuesday Club towards a VE Day afternoon tea.

Cllr Murphy advised that a complaint had been received from a resident of Tosside regarding further advertising, considered intrusive, at Bowland Fell Country Park. It was agreed that the resident should be requested to approach Craven District Council directly.

12. Date and venue of next meeting

Monday 28 April 2025 at 7.30 pm Tosside Community Hall

The meeting concluded at 8.15 pm.