

**Bolton-By-Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley Parish Council Minutes of the meeting of
August 1st 2022 at Tosside Community Hall**

Councillors present: Cllrs. A Yates, N Bunyan, S Whitaker, P Jenkins, P Wilson

Also in attendance: Cllr Sherras, Cllr Elms and 2 Members of the Public

1. Apologies of absence received and approved
 - Cllrs R Veitch & H Fortune, H Maddock (Clerk & RFO)
2. To receive declarations of pecuniary and personal interest
 - No comments
3. Adjournment for Public Session
4. To resolve and confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 4th July 2022 (circulated & on website)
 - Minutes had been circulated to members and resolved that the minutes be approved and duly signed.
5. Any Matters arising from those minutes not covered on this Agenda – for information only
 - No comments
6. To consider any response to be made to planning applications
 - 6a. 3/2022/0648, Nethergill Barn Main Street Bolton-By-Bowland BB7 4NW
 - No comments
7. To approve to claim exemption from the external audit. The Parish Council are eligible to claim exemption as the income/expenditure for 2021/22 was not greater than £25,000.
 - Approved by all
8. To pay the approved £1,000 Jubilee Grant for Sawley Village Hall
 - Approved by all
9. To approve the payments for each of the 2022 Village Hall Grants
 - Payments of grants were approved subject to the grant forms being duly completed with a minimum of 2 quotations.
10. To discuss and approve the amount of Grant for Planters in each ward
 - Approved by all
11. To approve the bank balance of £42,306.72
 - Approved by all
12. Matters brought forward by members – please note for information only.
 - Clerk has tried to contact LCC again regarding the fallen wall near the Copy Nook. It has now been logged by LCC as a fault report, reference 484083. Clerk will continue to chase.
 - Cllr Bunyan to write a newsletter promoting B4RN.
 - The Chair raised the point that the recruitment of Parishioners for the Safety Committee was not complete. Two had been recruited from Sawley, with both two each still outstanding for both Tosside and B-by-B. Members were reminded that we are ideally looking for a diverse

group of volunteers. Members agreed that we need to have a full committee in place before the next meeting.

13. The date of the next meeting 12th September at Bolton-by-Bowland Village Hall.
14. The Parish meeting is an opportunity for all Parishioners and local organisations to discuss Parish affairs and ask questions of Council members, limited to those items that the council has power to act. Unfortunately, on this occasion no parishioners nor local organisations attended the meeting. Below is the Chairmans report.

“Chairmans Report - Annual Parish Meeting 1st August 2022

As my tenure only started in February it will be a relatively short report.

As previously commented in the financial audit, last year was a turbulent period for the Parish Council.

We started the year with 11 experienced councillors, however we unfortunately had 6 resignations by the end of August and a final one in April. During the same period, we also lost a very experienced Clerk.

Whilst we have recruited 3 new councillors (including myself) and a new Clerk, we are all new to the role and it will take time for us to settle into our new responsibilities.

The disruption had affected the effectiveness of the Council, but current members are committed to do their very best for the Parish and its community.

Key to that will be to always maintain good open and transparent communication.

During the past year the Parish council, on behalf of the community, has given its views on local planning applications and responded in support of Tosside residents in the opposition to the proposed Puppy Farm on Knotts Lane.

The Council also made its representations in the Local Development Plan, in the provision of local services, schools and healthcare to support the plan. Also, representations with the HARP project in the provision of speed controls such as “sleeping policeman”, or “traffic calming islands” in the parish to improve road safety with the potential increase in traffic.

The council members are truly appreciative of the very active support of volunteers around the parish with both Church and Village Halls. The wonderful organisation of the Jubilee celebrations provided superb community events in each village which were both well attended and much appreciated by all. The Council continued to provide its annual grants for each Village Hall, and additional Jubilee grants to support the celebrations. A grant was also provided to Bolton-by-Bowland School to support their own celebrations.

Furthermore, the Council has commissioned new Notice boards for each village to replace existing ones. These will hopefully be erected by the end of August.

From a financial position, with the many changes that have taken place it was deemed sensible to engage a professional certified accountancy practise (Bennet, Kirkhope, Smith) to conduct the internal audit. The conclusion of the audit was that there were 11 regulations that have not been met. Whilst they stated that these instances of non-compliance did not affect the true and fair view of the Parish Financial information - the Council have accepted their findings and agreed to follow their recommended solutions.

It's also worth noting that due to the financial strength of the balance sheet and (at the time) the absence of planned projects, the Council did not take any Precept from the council this year, which residents may have noticed on their recent council tax bills.

Finally, the Council has launched a new community initiative, which it hopes that residents will actively support. The creation of a Road Safety Committee, made up of a large cross section of parishioners and two council members. Its remit will be to

- Review safety in the community and make recommendations to the Council which if ratified will be presented to the appropriate authority.
- Liaise with local planner and highways on community safety matters and concerns e.g. HARP project.
- Encourage and support the community in their own safety initiatives throughout the Parish.

On behalf of all members, I would like to thank all parishioners for their patience, understanding and support and hope that we can provide some real value in the coming year.

Andrew Yates

Chair"

Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
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HMADDOCK