

**Bolton-By-Bowland, Gisburn Forest and Sawley Parish Council Minutes of the meeting of
July 4th 2022 at Sawley Village Hall**

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

Also in attendance: H Maddock (Clerk & RFO), Cllr R Sherras and 3 Members of the Public

1. Apologies of absence received and approved
 - Cllrs P Wilson & H Fortune
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 19th April 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
 - 5a. Cllr Veitch has been in touch with LCC who confirmed that Old Skipton Road in Sawley was closed when the bypass was built. The ownership goes by default to landowners on either side. Cllr Veitch to respond to query in writing.
 - 5b. The new specification and price was approved for the new notice boards and will replace existing boards in Bolton-by-Bowland, Sawley, Tosside and Holden.
6. To consider an approach to publishing information about B4RN
 - A representative from B4RN attended the meeting to present the basics of the project. B4RN is a not-for-profit organisation who hope to bring reliable internet connection to the Parish. Subscription is priced at £33 per month for 1000MG per second and doesn't require a landline. B4RN are looking for (expression of interest) sign ups to be able to apply for funding to make the project go ahead, it is possible to opt out once the funding has been secured.
 - To make the project financially viable they need to gain 50% coverage (households) of the whole of the Bolton by Bowland area, however their definition of the area includes Gisburn, Chatburn, and Grindleton. Cllr Sherras to send details for surrounding Parish Councils.
7. To consider any response to be made to planning applications
 - No comments
8. To consider and approve the content for the 2022/23 budget
 - Budget was circulated and approved. The Chair was concerned over future funding and suggested that we take a more cautious and prudent approach to expenditure. Members agreed that the aim and ambition should be to both reduce the level of expenditure (below budget) and work harder to gain grants beyond those provided by RVBC.

9. To consider and ratify the Better Working Between Lancashire County Council and Parish and Town Councils: Parish and Town Council Charter 2022-24
 - Approved.

10. To consider the responses from RVBC, LCC and Environmental Agency regarding the flooding of Kirk Beck in Bolton-by-Bowland and decide on next steps of action
 - The problem is currently being monitored by Environmental Agency, but it isn't considered a big enough risk to do any works now.
 - Clerk to keep pushing for an onsite meeting with authorities and to liaise with Cllr Bunyan, so a letter can be written to keep the local community aware of progress.

11. To consider a response to RVBC's Local Plan
 - Discussed at agenda item 16.

12. To consider an approach to the way we work with neighbouring Parish Councils on issues that affect the wider community.
 - This agenda item was put forward in response to road cones being left as an obstruction in the road causing traffic, but no work being done and general highways maintenance . Cllr Yates attended the Ribble Valley Liaison Committee meeting where it was discussed that LCC are currently in disarray with staff leaving and information being lost so projects aren't being finished or co-ordinated very well. All Parish Councils will unify to place appropriate pressure via the Liaison committee.
 - At the same meeting organised crime was also discussed as organised with West Yorkshire gangs a targeting Sawley, Bolton-by-Bowland and Grindleton and a subsequent increase in robberies. A recommendation was made by the Police to invest in CCTV for villages as a deterrent. Barley already has CCTV in place that has been successful.
 - Clerk to liaise with Barley to assess and report back to members

13. To approve the bank balance of £45,236.74
 - Approved

14. To approved Clerk's expenses £63.74
 - Approved

15. To consider and approve any invoice payments due
 - Lengthsman £1881.28 Approved
 - Oaktrees Nurseries £900 Approved
 - Sawley Village Hall £30 Approved
 - Bolton-by-Bowland Village Hall £25 Approved

16. RVBC Local Development Plan forum 29th June

- Cllr Yates gave an update. This Local Plan will run 2021-2038 and is accessible via that RVBC website. There are currently no proposals to remove land of greenbelts or areas of outstanding natural beauty.
- Clerk to send link to Cllrs.

17. HARP Planning Consultation forum 29th June

- The meeting regarding the 10-year project running underground pipe works from the Hawes Reservoir to Manchester was attended by Cllrs Yates, Veitch and Clerk.

There was a general acceptance among attendees that - in order to ensure the future continuity of water supply - work to renew the now-ageing pipeline was necessary. However, most (if not all) of the parishes represented at the meeting had already submitted detailed responses to the planning applications submitted by UU; these had set out in detail their serious reservations about UU's current proposals and the impact they would have on rural communities, many of which are located within the Forest of Bowland AONB. These reservations are too lengthy to list again in full here, but as a bare minimum included:

- physical / structural concerns (damage to roads, bridges and culverts as well as to domestic properties, some of which – eg in Waddington - were listed and of historic significance);
- road safety issues (threats not only to car drivers but also pedestrians and cyclists);
- the ecological impact (with threats to wildlife).

At the special meeting, parish representatives reiterated their view that – despite the importance of the HARP project - UU's approach could not be allowed to ride roughshod over parish life, and the planning applications submitted to date had caused genuine and severe dissatisfaction amongst those parishes which would bear the brunt of the development. Some parishes (such as Newton in Bowland) felt that UU had not engaged with them to their satisfaction; others (such as Chatburn) had entered into dialogue with UU which they had found reassuring. However, even when – as part of these applications – UU had sought to mitigate the impact of their proposals on local communities, in many cases real concerns still remained.

Given the scale and duration of potential disruption to village life, parish representatives felt it only fair that they should be ambitious in their demands for an appropriate legacy. To compensate for this inconvenience, the HARP project was seen as a unique opportunity for local communities to secure benefits which would improve the lives of future generations of Ribble Valley residents.

Parish representatives discussed at length the need for a suitable financial mechanism to be found, one which would give a watertight guarantee of access to future funds (even if UU should at some stage find itself in financial difficulty). One suggestion was that any money identified by UU as a legacy fund could be underwritten by central government. Another was the establishment of a trust fund, to last for (say) 25 years and the interest from which could be paid out to communities on an ad hoc basis. Given that future phases of HARP would effectively render it a County-wide scheme, the question of mechanics here was a key one. Although no agreement on the precise method was reached, all present agreed on **the need to “future proof” access to the legacy fund.**

As well as the individual needs identified below, some more general issues attracted widespread support from a number of parishes:

- a) a program of traffic (and air quality) monitoring should be undertaken prior to commencement of the scheme, in order to
 - (i) give a baseline against which for future monitoring could be assessed;
 - (ii) determine “hot spots” in all affected parishes; and
 - (iii) enable the adoption of a proactive response to these issues.

All affected parishes feared that an already difficult traffic situation would be exacerbated by the building of c2000 new homes across the borough in coming years and requested that the LPA take into account the impact of HARP when considering whether to grant approval for new developments.

- b) roads impacted by heavy vehicles must be monitored and restored to an acceptable condition on an ongoing basis (not merely at the conclusion of a 10-year project); and

UU should ensure that it has an adequate insurance policy in place.

Although our Parish will not be directly affected by the scheme, vehicles are most likely to divert through the Parish to avoid congestions. Therefore, as a Parish we have requested speed controls in all the surrounding areas, in our case Sawley, Bolton-by -Bowland, Holden and Tosside. Where practical these should include “sleeping policeman”, or “traffic calming islands”. Due the increasing number of HGV’s consideration to also improving Junctions and protecting (not replacing) heritage stocks walls and railings.

18. Matters brought forward by members – please note for information only

- No comments

19. The date of the next meeting 1st August 2022 at Tosside Community Hall.

Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
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HMADDOCK