**MINUTES**

**Myerscough & Bilsborrow Parish Council**

**Clerk: Laura Bolton**

**Chairman: Cllr Bill Collinson**

**Vice Chairman: Cllr Dan Bolton**

**Email: clerk@myerscoughandbilsborrow-pc.org Tel: 07803631556/01995640833**

**Thursday 27th July at 7pm Bilsborrow Church**

**Present**

Cllr Collinson (Chairman), Cllr Barker, Cllr Allan, Cllr Turner, Cllr Robinson, Cllr Sutcliffe, Laura Bolton (Clerk),

Members of the public Sarah Stuart and members of the village hall committee.

**Apologies**

Cllr Swift, Cllr Willacy, Cllr Pye, Cllr Bolton

**Public Participation**

In attendance, Sarah Stuart and members of the village hall committee. Sarah Stuart introduced herself and members of the committee and advised that they wished to listen to what the Parish Council had to say regarding the village hall, they did not want to discuss anything at that point in time.

* 1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting (Thursday 22nd June 2023) were checked and signed as a true and correct record of the Parish Council meeting held on the 22nd June 2023. Cllr Collinson confirmed with all councillors present that they had received a copy of the minutes via email and they were happy it was a true and correct record of the meeting. Proposed and signed by Cllr Collinson.

* 1. **Declarations of prejudicial interest in any of the agenda item interests and dispensations**

No declarations of personal or prejudicial interest in any of the agenda items were made.

* 1. **MUGA Update**

Cllr Collinson advised that the MUGA sub-committee (Liam Reynolds, John Blackley, Bill Collinson, Mark Sutcliffe, Jeff Finch and taking an advisory role Jan Finch) had met up to discuss the proposed MUGA. Jan Finch has experience of setting up a MUGA as she was involved in the one at Catterall. The proposed size is 20m by 30m and this size would be supported by Sports England. Jan Finch had advised the committee not to have too many different sports lines painted on the MUGA as it would get confusing for users. It is proposed that it would be used by John Cross School during school hours and then have an open access booking system. Three quotes will be required, and a legal agreement drawn up between the school trustees and the Parish Council on how grants will be spent. The MUGA will require regular checks, the Lengthsman at Catterall carries out regular checks on their MUGA. Funding for the project will come from Section 106 money and possibly Sports England and Lancashire County Council Environmental Fund. Fletchers Gardens & Driveways did the work at Catterall and he will be attending the site at Bilsborrow to do a quote. It is hoped that in 2-3 weeks there will be a further update for the proposed project.

**138.23 Bilsborrow Village Hall**

Cllr Collinson addressed the room and advised that since the Childrens festival the Parish Council had received several complaints regarding the village hall. Some people had said that they did not want to eat their food in the hall as it was so dirty. It was agreed at the last meeting that the PC would look into the workings of the village hall, who was on the management committee and who the trustees were. Cllr Collinson advised that there were several grants available for village halls, recently Claughton have been awarded £40,000 and Catterall £18,000. Bilsborrow has not received any funding as it has not applied for any, Cllr Collinson said that the Parish Council wanted to work with the management committee to assist with applying for funding as the village hall is a very important part of the village. The Parish Council have contacted Sarah Stuart by email and asked for the Trust Deeds and Constitution for the village hall. Cllr Collinson said that he attended a meeting at the village hall recently that was well attended and noted that progress on the village hall had been made since this meeting. Cllr Collinson asked the question – who owns the village hall? He also noted that there had not been any returns documented since 2017, no AGMS or accounts visible. The Parish Council has a responsibility to make enquires as to who owns the village hall and move forward from there. The Parish Council will look into details on the Charity Commission website.

As the public participation part of the meeting had passed members of the Bilsborrow Village Hall Management committee were not permitted to respond. Cllr Turner suggested that everyone was in the room that we put the meeting on hold and discuss with the management committee. Cllr Collinson agreed to temporarily close the meeting whilst a discussion was carried out.

**Meeting closed……….**

Sarah Stuart updated councillors on the works that had been carried out since the Village festival, the painter/decorator had been to paint the outside of the village hall, new windows have been ordered and the big mound of soil has been removed. The new fires doors are being looked into, Cllr Turner had advised that this is something that may be covered by a grant. Details have now been submitted to the charity commission and this is now up to date, an AGM has been booked for September. The three trustees have been in place for a number of years and Sarah discussed possibility of appointing new trustees at the AGM. A new noticeboard has been ordered which will have lots of information about who to contact regarding the village hall. The school have recently used the hall for their Summer play and it was very successful. It was also suggested that we add a link with details of the Village Hall and contacts to the Parish Council website.

Cllr Turner thanked everyone for coming and said we all wanted to help and work together.

Cllr Collinson also thanked the members of the Village Hall Committee for attending the meeting to discuss how to move forward with the village hall to help provide an excellent asset for the community.

**Meeting opened again……**

* 1. **Finance**

The clerk presented a reconciliation of accounts for the Parish Council community account and War Memorial account with the most recent bank statements. Cllr Collinson signed and dated the bank reconciliations. The following payments were approved following scrutiny and signing.

*Cheque 200286 Mark Cornforth Lengthsmans Wages 1st Quarter, April, May, June 23 £1500*

* *Cheque 200287 HMRC Employee Tax April- June 23 (Cheque void – error on cheque)*
* *Cheque 200288 HMRC Employee Tax April – June 23 £216.80*
* *Cheque 200289 Laura Bolton clerks wages April, May, June 23 plus expenses £940.45*
* *Cheque 200290 Barton, Bilsborrow & Myerscough War Memorial donation for 2023 £510*
* *Cheque 200291 Barton, Bilsborrow & Myerscough War Memorial VAT refund £15.00*
* *Cheque 200292 Corido. 2 new benches King Charles Coronation £1360.00*
* *Cheque 200293 Nurture grass cutting for July £490.78*
* *Cheque 200294 St Hildas Church Room rent for July 23 £20.00*

Cllr Barker and Cllr Allan signed the above cheques ready to be sent out

* 1. **Planning**

***Application Number: 23/00537/FUL Proposal: Creation of farm track and 5 gravel pitches for motorhomes Location: Oaktree 934 Garstang Road Barton Preston PR3 5AD***

Cllr Turner advised that a touring caravan had been on the land and it now seemed to have permanent gates and an entrance onto the A6. Enforcement have been out before to speak to the owner, now planning permission has been put in for a small caravan site, the creation of a farm track and 5 gravel pitches for motorhomes. There is already hardstanding on the land to the left of the entrance. Cllr Collinson has been through the application and put forward that he felt there were lots of issues with it. Is there planning permission for the access to the land from the A6? There have been temporary roadworks/ traffic management recently, Cllr Turner to look into what this was for? There are also concerns about the flood risk for the area, Cllr Collinson provided photo evidence of the area in question and how it looked after the recent rain. Cllr Turner advised that caravans are permitted on some flood areas . Cllr Collinson also noted some of the questions on the application did not look like they had been answered correctly and there seemed to be a few contradictions on the application. Cllr Collinson also provided the Parish Council with sales brochure from Richard Turner to show that the piece of land to the left of the access was sold as 0.25 acre plot of amenity land, guide price £55,000 and roadside access will be made available. Cllr Collinson also advised councillors that he had been informed by the farmer adjacent to the planning application that part of his land has been included in the plans, he also said there is a sewerage pipe within the planning application that was very shallow and only constructed of asbestos, he also stated that the area has flooded as long as he has known. Clerk to put forward concerns to Wyre Planning Department.

***Application 22/00612/OUTMAJ – land opposite Rockform***

Cllr Turner has emailed for an update and will advise councillors as soon as he has any further updates.

***Application 23/00525/FUL Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden, rearragned parking and erection of new detached garage.***

No concerns from councillors.

**141.23 Bilsborrow recreation ground**

Cllr Collinson advised that the containers are being broken into; there has been discussion about CCTV. The contractor who has been asked to quote has been unable to contact Cllr Swift to discuss options re power etc. Cllr Turner advised that we really need to do something as Cockerham Football Club maintain the recreational ground very well. Cllr Collinson advised that Neil Thornton had offered free electrics but that would be from the other end of the field. As soon as the contractor can speak to Cllr Swift he will be able to give us a quote, it is expected to be between £300-£500. Cllr Barker asked if there were any ongoing costs, Cllr Collinson advised that it was just the cost of the electrics and the football club had offered to pay this.

* 1. **Benches for the War Memorial**

This was from a suggestion by a member of the public, both Barton and Myerscough and Bilsborrow Parish Council have pledged £500 each. The total for the two King Charles III Commemoration benches is £1360 including delivery. LB has contacted Gill Billington Clerk to the War Memorial to confirm if they would be happy to contribute the remaining £360. LB to send off cheque asap so that we the benches are delivered and in place ready for 11th Nov.

* 1. **Lengthsman**

Cllr Turner mentioned the footpath that runs parallel to the railway line between Thorntons yard and the Nature reserve. The lengthsman had been asked to clear it as it is overgrown however has been unable due to the weather. Cllr Collinson said that he feels that it needs a tractor rather than just strimming back. Cllr Turner advised this may be something we could us the PROW grant for.

Cllr Bolton is due to have a meeting with Mark Cornforth, the parish lengthsman on Wednesday 2nd August to discuss the jobs that we need doing in the parish and any issues.

* 1. **John Nixon**

Cllr Bolton had invited John Nixon to the meeting so that we could say thank you in person for all his hard work for the village over the years. He did not want to attend but it was agreed the Parish Council will send a card to say thank you and all councillors can sign.

* 1. **Public Rights of Way Grant and Biodiversity Grants**

Cllr Turner advised us of Public Rights of Way Grants and Biodiversity grants available, Clerk has contacted Linda Andersen to give her updated details and there is an email coming out next week with information on how to apply for the grants. Clerk will apply.

* 1. **Graffiti on River Brock bridges**

There has been some graffiti drawn on the motorway bridge and the wall where people go swimming near Brockside. Cllr Turner said that we really need to get rid of it asap otherwise it will attract more graffiti. Cllr Barker suggested that the one by the motorway bridge was quite artistic. Cllr Collinson knows a sandblaster from Abbeystead and will get a quote for removal.

* 1. **Broken flags at Bilsborrow Lane planted area**

Cllr Collinson showed councillors photos of the broken flags. These need replacing as may be dangerous as they are all broken. This is too big a job for the lengthsman to do, Cllr Allan suggested that maybe Bannister Hall who planted the area may be willing to donate some flags, clerk to contact Bannister Hall to ask.

* 1. **Old Brock station footbridge access**

MP Motors have a lot of cars parked in the way of the footbridge making it difficult for pedestrians to get past and gain access to the footbridge. Cllr Turner gave clerk the email address of the person that we need to contact at LCC. Clerk to contact him. Cllr Barker also mentioned the cars and car transporters that are often parked on the A6.

* 1. **Layby – red advertisement van**

Cllr Turner has been dealing with this, Wyre council have been out to see this along with the police, the van is taxed and the owner advises that it is parked there for advertising. This will be up to highways authority to remove this. The owner had advised that it would be moved last weekend but as of yet it has not been removed. Update 30.7.23 – this van has now been removed

**150.23 Clerks Report**

Clerk read her report

* 1. **Any items for the next Parish Council meeting**

Trees on White Horse Lane - Cllr Allan mentioned the trees on White Horse Lane- some have Ash die back others overgrown but they are on private land. Wyre council would need to contact the landowners.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING 7pm Thursday 28th September 2023**