

# Burton Fleming Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting No 2 – 2024/25 held Tuesday 09 July 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

**Present:**

Parish Councillors: B Southwell, S Wells, A Marr, T Stansfield, K Mercer, E Hayton, S Kirven

Members of the Public: Mr R Knowles

Wards Councillors/Police: None present

Jennifer Hobson (Clerk) recorded the minutes

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**58/24 To Receive and Approve Apologies for Absence**

Cllr S King, Cllr C Skelton

It was noted that Cllr C Skelton had now missed 3 meetings. As Cllr Skelton's reason for absence was recovering from operation, the Parish Council unanimously agreed that this was an acceptable reason for absence.

**59/24 Code of Conduct (01 July 2012)**

(a) To record Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests. Members declaring interest should identify the agenda item and state which interest is being declared.

(b) To note Dispensations in Respect of Agenda Items Below

**60/24 Public Participation**

The Chair invited members of the public to speak. Mr R Knowles raised two queries, the first being the piece of land that houses the flagpole at the end of Back Street and the second being the street furniture outside the old pub. Mr R Knowles offered to tidy up the piece of land that houses the flagpole but wished to know if he was at liberty to do this. It was agreed by all that the Parish Council would welcome this offer with thanks. With regards to the street furniture outside the old pub, it was noted that this was a danger and so should be removed. It was agreed that the Parish Council would ask highways again to remove it and write to the owner of the Care Home and the Pub to ask if they would have any objection to the furniture being removed.

**61/24 To Approve the Minutes of Previous Meetings – 07 May 2024**

**RESOLVED:** (all those present at the previous meeting in favour)

(1) that the minutes of the meeting on 07 May 2024 be approved and signed as a true and correct record.

**Proposed by Cllr B Southwell and Seconded by Cllr K Mercer**

**62/24 Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

- **Gypsy Race**

There was nothing to report on this subject at this time.

- **Cemetery Extension**

Cllr S Wells confirmed that he had mown the grass once but would do it again and would remove the fence shortly.

**ACTION BY CLLR S WELLS**

It was noted that the footpath had not yet been repaired so it was requested that the Clerk contact the contractors again to sort this.

**ACTION BY CLERK**

- **Rustonville & September Cottage**

ERYC's area building inspector had provided an update to say that promises made by the owner had not be upheld, so he was to meet with the Council's consultant engineer and if the building is deemed dangerous then action would be taken in the form of applying to the magistrates court for a dangerous building order which would mean financial penalties for the owner if they did not comply.

It was further reported that a letter was seen poking out of a broken window at the building as the letter box was boarded up which raised the question as to where exactly the council were sending their correspondence.

**RESOLVED:** (all in favour)

- (1) that the Clerk ask the Building Control Manager to confirm where exactly mail is being sent as the letter box at September Cottage was boarded up so mail should be sent to the Post Office (or both addresses) to ensure receipt.
- (2) that the Clerk ask Building Control for a timeline of next steps and to confirm whether any of this is reliant upon a response from the owner before proceedings can commence, if not then please proceed.

**Proposed by Cllr S Kirven and Seconded by Cllr K Mercer**

**ACTION BY CLERK**

- **Mere Pond Working Group**

A draft report was presented detailing the discussions that had taken place and actions agreed by the working group. Cllr S King would circulate the report to the rest of the group for approval and make any necessary amendments. It was agreed that another meeting would be held of the working group in August to finalise the expression of interest for some available funding for which the deadline is September.

- **Speed Watch Group**

Cllr Stansfield confirmed that the group was still doing well. Since beginning the group, 148 vehicles were recorded as speeding, with the highest speed recorded being 52 miles per hour.

The Chair brought forward the discussion over an item of correspondence received asking for expressions of interest in a trial of 20mph zones across the East Riding.

**RESOLVED:** (3 For, 4 Against)

- (1) that the Parish Council did not wish to proceed with an expression of interest

- **Scenic View**

Despite receiving an email from Scenic View stating that they had been advised by Yorkshire Water that it was their pipe at fault, it was still felt that the current system was feeding into the wrong pipe and ultimately needed sorting.

Queries were raised about the number of caravan plots now at the site and whether this is in line with the various planning applications.

It was further reported that there had been suggestions that the site was applying for an alcohol licence with a view to holding various evening events. Whilst this was just hearsay at the moment, the Parish Council thought it wise to find out what permissions were already in place with regards to noise and operating hours in case of problems arising in the future.

**RESOLVED:** (all in favour)

- (1) that the Clerk write to Planning and ask how many plots the site has permission for
- (2) that the Clerk write to Planning and ask about permitted operating hours and noise conditions imposed at the site

**Proposed by Cllr S Kirven and Seconded by Cllr K Mercer**

**ACTION BY CLERK**

- **School Pond Duck House**

The attempts to remove the old duck house were still delayed due to geese, but as soon as the geese leave the matter would be dealt with.

- **Loose livestock**

The Parish Council had received an email from Mr O Donoghue asking them to discuss the following points at this meeting:

- a) Will the Parish Council consider my purchasing that strip of land to the front of my property sufficient for the installation of a Wrought Iron Fence modelled on that already installed around my property.

b) Will the Parish Council erect a suitable fence line on their Parish land to the front of my property that effectively stops the egress of escaped livestock onto my property.

c) Will the Parish Council give permission to my erecting (when and as necessary) a temporary fence of Bunting on the strip of Parish land to deter escaped livestock from accessing my private property.

d) Action by the Parish Council to mitigate &/or compensate private property owners for any damage by escaped livestock to private property.

The Parish Council were confused by this request as they are not the owners of the piece of land in question. The Parish Council feel that the title deeds should clarify Mr O Donoghue's land which would allow him to construct a fence as he sees fit.

With regards to the escaping livestock, this is not a Parish Council matter, but they would encourage Mr O'Donoghue to report the incidents to the Police each and every time the animals are on the highway, as then action can be taken to prevent these incidents.

It was agreed that the Clerk will reply to Mr O Donoghue's email advising of the above discussion.

#### **ACTION BY CLERK**

- **PC Communication Strategy**

A Parish Council Communication Strategy was presented for approval.

**RESOLVED:** (all in favour)

- (1) that the strategy is approved
- (2) that the Clerk publish the strategy on the Parish Council website

**Proposed by Cllr S Kirven and Seconded by Cllr E Hayton**

#### **ACTION BY CLERK**

#### **63/24 To Receive Correspondence**

**10.05.24** – Email received from Mrs Turner complaining that Mr James Skelton had ripped her signs down from the School Pond railings. Mrs Turner implied that the Parish Council had put Mr Skelton up to this which the Parish Council refute, as they did not. As such this matter is not a Parish Council matter.

Mrs Turner went on to say that she had also been the victim of bullying tactics, slanderous comments and threats by various members of the Parish Council. Again, the Parish Council refute these accusations. Mrs Turner stated that she had made the complaints to the Standards Committee, and it was agreed by all that as and when the Standards Committee get in touch, the Parish Council would welcome their views on the allegations.

Mrs Turner also raised the subject of signage again asking why the Parish Council had reneged on their decision to add signage about feeding ducks at the pond.

**RESOLVED:** (all in favour)

- (1) that the Clerk respond to Mrs Turner to confirm that the matter with Mr Skelton was nothing to do with the Parish Council
- (2) that the Clerk confirm the chain of events surrounding the decision made about the signage and once again confirm with Mrs Turner that the Parish Council stand by their decision not to have any signage at School Pond
- (3) that the old hedgehog sign be removed

**Proposed by Cllr S Kirven and Seconded by Cllr E Hayton**

#### **ACTION BY CLERK**

**13.05.24** – Text message received from Mr J Coulson to Cllr A Marr asking if the Parish Council had removed his traffic cones from around the School Pond. Cllr A Marr text back to confirm that the Parish Council had not removed the cones nor knew who had or where they were.

**14.05.24** – Email received from Ms P Bolam asking where her partner's traffic cones were, as she believed the Parish Council had removed them. Email forwarded to councillors. Response sent to confirm that the Parish Council had not removed the cones nor knew who had nor where they were.

**16.05.24** – Email received from Ms A Braithwaite to advise of her transferring some fundraising money to the Parish Council to go into the Newsletter printing kitty. Ms Braithwaite also asked if the Parish Council would consider an educational sign at School Pond if she was to organise some fundraising to cover the cost.

**20.05.24 to 07.06.24** – Email correspondence between the Parish Council and Ms P Bolam who has expressed her disappointment in the Parish Council by stating: “I would like to address Andrew’s comment with regards to the “Parish Councillors doing their best for the village”. I dispute this and would suggest a more accurate statement would be that the majority of the Parish Councillors are doing what is best for themselves and their own agendas. I have rarely witnessed a group of more self-serving individuals. The actions of the Parish Council are creating discord, disillusionment and division within the village when they should be a force for good creating engagement and community.”

“So next time before the PC decide to support planning applications which are to the detriment of village life and in conflict with the wishes of the majority of the village, or award repair work to PC family members without obtaining quotes to ensure competitiveness, call public meetings for issues which only impact a member of the PC, fail to budget appropriately to maintain village amenities, make derisive comments about residents being “townies” it may be prudent to consider these principles and whether their actions are reflective of them.”

Following these allegations referencing the majority of Parish Councillors, the Parish Council confirms that the only action taken has been to refute these claims and seek advice from the Standards Committee. The Parish Council take these allegations seriously, therefore in the interest of public transparency the Parish Council welcomes Ms Bolam to detail the specifics of her concerns to the appropriate body. Without such action, it is difficult to implement any change. But for transparency and to attempt to understand these accusations, the Parish Council discussed the matters raised and again expressed their willingness to an investigation by the standards committee if deemed appropriate.

The Parish Council forwarded Ms Bolam’s email to the Standard’s Committee and asked for them to undertake an investigation but had received a reply to say that Standards Committee can only deal with complaints made against an individual councillor rather than the PC as a whole i.e.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council only has the jurisdiction to look at complaints submitted by complainants about individual councillors in relation to their activities and the Code of Conduct. This is done through the office of the Monitoring Officer. It does not have a roving role of investigating a parish council’s collective role, nor to conduct investigations into allegations against it.

With this in mind the Parish Council invited Ms Bolam to make a more specific complaint(s) accordingly, which will be forwarded to the appropriate body for their consideration upon receipt.

The Chair confirmed for the meeting that as elected individuals, the Parish Council were to make decisions about various matters within the village. It goes without saying that some of these decisions may not always suit every member of the village. As such, when the next elections take place, if residents are unhappy with the actions of the Parish Councillors, then that is the chance to elect others. It was agreed by all that the comments made by Ms Bolam were derogatory, upsetting and wholly untrue. The Chair sought to discuss each point made by surmising the possible events that Ms Bolam was referring to.

It is assumed that the comment made about supporting planning applications which are to the detriment of village life was aimed at the decision made by the Parish Council over the West Lane pig shed application. At that meeting the Parish Council voted in favour of the application by a majority of just 1 – with 4 votes for and 3 against, so by no means were the whole of the Parish Council in favour of that application and despite the verdict not being to the liking of some villagers, that was the decision made. It was acknowledged that as well as being Parish Councillor’s, the members are also residents of the village with their own views and opinions which may well differ to the Parish Council’s decision.

The comment made that repair work was awarded to PC family members without obtaining quotes to ensure competitiveness, again, it can only be surmised that this is referring to the repair work done to “BlackJack” after the car accident, which was undertaken by James Skelton. Not only was this work funded by the insurance company (so not actually public money) but the Parish Council sought 3 quotes for this work, the first one from Mr R Thompson was unable to give an exact figure and included more work than was recommended/required. The second one from Mr Skelton arrived in time for the meeting and the third one (from Sam Underwood) didn’t arrive until the Clerk had returned home from the meeting that night. This quote was more expensive, but the Clerk circulated this to the councillors seeking their agreement to stick with Mr Skelton’s quote which had been accepted at the meeting. The insurance company were sent both quotes and they instructed the Parish Council to proceed with Mr Skelton’s quote. So again, the Parish Councillors refute the allegation made by Ms Bolam.

The suggestion that the Parish Council only call public meetings when they impact a member of the Parish Council is again refuted. Assuming this may refer to the wind turbine application by Cllr S Wells which impacted Cllr C Skelton, the Parish Council had to call the meeting as the deadline for comments fell outside of the usual pattern of meetings. All planning applications are discussed at the next available usual meeting except where the deadline date falls outside of these. Also worth noting is that the Parish Council as a whole actually voted in favour of the application, so any suggestion that this meeting was held purely to aid Cllr C Skelton's cause is nonsense. The Parish Council also feel that if they had not held a public meeting for such a large and visible development they would have been criticised for not seeking the views of the residents. Finally, this meeting was very well attended in comparison to normal PC meetings therefore it was felt that calling an exceptional meeting was the correct approach.

Accusing the Parish Council of failing to budget appropriately to maintain village amenities is another puzzle as the Parish Council produce a budget every January to make sure all the necessities are covered and then set their precept accordingly. It is often frowned upon when the Precept is increased so the Parish Council try to be realistic whilst keeping the increase as low as possible. If Ms Bolam is suggesting that the Parish Council ought to have included an amount each year to cover the once every 30 or so year occurrence of dredging the Mere Pond, it is considered more appropriate to deal with this remedial works at the appropriate time considering the length of time and changes in regulations and costs. Furthermore the PC have queried the responsibility of maintenance with ERYC who have confirmed that they have not budgeted for this and there current resource to complete this work. Consequently this allegation was refuted.

Consequently the PC agreed that the allegations Ms Bolam has raised were incorrect.

**21.05.24** – Email confirming the D Day 80 Community Grant application was successful. This money was allocated to the D Day event held at the Village Hall. The money will be received once the End of Grant Report has been submitted.

Cllr K Mercer confirmed that she had handed the End of Grant report to the Clerk to be submitted but only half of the money was being claimed as on the day of the event, the marquee had to come down due to strong winds, so this cost was not realised on the day. The Clerk would report this when making the claim.

#### **ACTION BY CLERK**

**22.05.24** – Email from Mr Anderson enquiring about details regarding interment of his late mother's ashes. Response was emailed back.

**22.05.24** – Letter received from planning enforcement to advise the decision on the West Lane shed planning application. Email forwarded to councillors. Permission was refused but the applicant was given 12 months on order to clear the existing livestock appropriately.

**27.05.24** – Email from Wold Newton Parish Council offering Burton Fleming Parish Councillors to join them on some defibrillator training. They also asked if BFPC would be interested in joining forces over the Speed Watch group. Email forwarded to councillors.

Cllr T Stansfield confirmed that she had been in touch with Wold Newton Parish Council regarding the Speed Watch Group and had offered to assist wherever possible by making volunteer numbers up but that it wasn't feasible to join forces due to lack of people and resources.

It was confirmed that a few of the Parish Councillors had attended the training session.

**28.05.24** – Email from Ward Councillor Charlie Dewhirst to advise he is stepping down from ERYC in order to put all his energy into the General Election campaign as the Conservative Party Candidate for the new Bridlington & The Wolds constituency. Email forwarded to councillors.

**31.05.24** – Email from the Police and Crime Commissioner advising of their plans and details of an online consultation link which they asked us to share. Email forwarded to councillors and link published on website.

**04.06.24** – Email from Mrs Lindley to say how disappointing it was to see one family parking cars on the village green. The same family often put their boat mast there in the summer too. Email forwarded to councillors. It was agreed that a response be sent to Mrs Lindley to say that it is the understanding of the Parish Council that this incident was a one off and had been done as a result of street cleaning taking place.

#### **ACTION BY CLERK**

**13.06.24** – Email from ERYC containing a Town and Parish councillor's bulletin. Email forwarded to councillors.

**02.07.24** – Email from Parish Open door received, asking for expressions of interest to undertake a trial of 20mph zones across the East Riding. Matter discussed earlier in the meeting.

64/24 To Approve Transactions and Finance Statement for May & June 2024

Description	Current A/C	Money Man A/C	Total
Opening Balance	£1585.81	£10851.61	£12437.42
PWLB – Cemetery Extension Loan Repayment	(£678.24)		
P Hope – Return of Pest Control Funds	£60.00		
Village Hall Hire – Speed Watch Group	(£30.00)		
Newsletter Printing	(£58.50)		
Newsletter Sponsorship	£30.00		
Website Fees (DD)	(£3.60)		
A Braithwaite – Fundraising for Newsletter	£255.00		
Bank charges	(£8.50)		
S King – Funraising for Village Ponds	£308.15		
Clerk’s Wages	(£423.28)		
Weightman’s Solicitors – VAT Element	(£150.00)		
Website Fees (DD)	(£3.60)		
Bank Charges	(£8.50)		
Eon Next – Electricity	(£57.09)		
Clerk’s Wages	(£423.28)		
Bank Interest Received		£41.14	
	£394.37	£10892.75	£11287.12

Burton Fleming Parish Council				Year End Forecast		
Financial Statement for the Period Ending Jun-24				Additional transactions	Total (Actual + F/Cast)	Variance to budget
Income & Expenditure Statement				2024/25	2024/25	2024/25
	Actual 2024/25	Budget 2024/25	F/C Variance 2024/25			
<b>Receipts</b>						
Precept / Council Tax Grant	5,142.50	10,285.00	- 5,142.50	5,143	10,285	0
Bank Interest	41.14	150.00	- 108.86	100	141	(9)
Rent from Land	-	40.00	- 40.00	40	40	0
Cemetery Fees	50.00	-	50.00	0	50	50
VAT Reclaimed	-	-	-	0	0	0
Grants	-	-	-	0	0	0
Other	60	-	60.00	0	60	60
Newsletter	285.00	280.00	5.00	0	285	5
Village Pond Fund (Flora & Fauna Fundraising)	308.15	-	308.15	0	308	308
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>5,886.79</b>	<b>10,755.00</b>	<b>- 5,176.36</b>	<b>5,283</b>	<b>11,169</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Administration	1,440.34	5,500.00	(4,059.66)	4,100	5,540	(40)
Open Spaces	-	2,500.00	(2,500.00)	2,500	2,500	0
Electricity	54.37	350.00	(295.63)	300	354	(4)
Village Improvements	-	500.00	(500.00)	500	500	0
Defibrillator Annual Support	135.00	150.00	(15.00)	0	135	15
Repairs & Renewals	215.22	300.00	(84.78)	85	300	0
Website Subscription	9.00	50.00	(41.00)	47	56	(6)
Newsletter Printing	58.50	280.00	(221.50)	265	274	6
SLCC Membership	-	120.00	(120.00)	120	120	0
Insurance	-	275.00	(275.00)	275	275	0
VAT Paid	181.52	-	181.52	0	182	(182)
Cemetery Extension	-	-	-	0	0	0
Cemetery Loan Repayment	678.24	1,350.56	(672.32)	672	1,351	0
Donations (\$137)	0.00	-	0	0	0	0
Other inc Election Costs	-	-	-	0	0	0
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>2,772.19</b>	<b>11,375.56</b>	<b>(8,603.37)</b>	<b>8,864</b>	<b>11,587</b>	<b>(211)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>3,114.60</b>	<b>(620.56)</b>				
<b>Bank Reconciliation</b>				<b>Forecast Bank Balance</b>		
	Jun-24 YTD			Year End 31 Mar 25		
Balance b/f from 31st March 2023	8,172.52			£	8,172.52	
Plus: Receipts	£ 5,886.79			£	11,169.29	
Sub-total	£ 14,059.31			£	19,341.81	
Less: Payments	-£ 2,772.19				(11,586.79)	
<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>£ 11,287.12</b>			<b>£</b>	<b>7,755.02</b>	
Reconciled to:				£	320.70	Newsletter
Balance Current Account	£ 394.37			£	5,968.13	Cemetery Extension
Balance Deposit Account	£ 10,892.75			£	1,158.04	Reserves
					308.15	Village Pond Fund
Less: Unpresented payments				£	7,755.02	
Plus: Unpresented receipts						
<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>£ 11,287.12</b>					
<b>Cemetery Extension Transactions</b>						
Receipts	19,975					
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Trial Trenching Work	5,485					
ERYC Planning Fee	58					
Hedge and fence work	2,062					
Seat	370					
BDA Footpath Work	7071.32					
VAT reclaimed	-1178.55					
6 x Wooden Crosses	119.1					
<b>Balance c/f</b>	<b>£ 5,968.13</b>					

**RESOLVED:** (all in favour) that all accounts submitted are approved.  
**Proposed by Cllr S Kirven and Seconded by Cllr B Southwell**

**65/24 To Receive and Consider Planning Applications and Approvals as Listed Below**  
(and subsequent plans received following publication of agenda)

There were none to consider at this time.

**66/24 Ground Testing**

Cllr A Marr had asked the Clerk to get a price for some ground testing to be done at Thwing Hill Field. The ground testing presented was aimed at analysing the soil nutrients with regards to sheep grazing rather than showing any contamination. It was agreed that Cllr T Stansfield would speak with one of her neighbours who was an agronomist for further advice.

**67/24 Any Other Business**

- Cllr B Southwell reported that there had been a recent planning application at a local farm which did not require any planning permission due to rules surrounding agricultural buildings. It was felt that due to the size of the development, the Parish Council ought to have been informed of this and the Parish Council had questions over why this development didn't require planning permission and because BFPC was detailed on the planning application. It was requested that the Clerk write to the Planning Officer with these queries.
- Cllr S Kirven reported that the signpost at Fordon crossroads had been hit by a vehicle and needed reporting to ERYC.
- Cllr S Kirven reported that she had contacted dangerous buildings about the fallen building at Hall Farm which was posing a danger to the public.
- Cllr T Stansfield was pleased to report that the area around the bin at the cemetery layby was now much tidier after adding the CCTV signs to the bin.
- Cllr S Wells reported a pothole on Hunmanby Road at the opening of Hill Farm – the Clerk would report this.

**68/24 Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council will be Tuesday 10 Sept 2024 at 7pm

**69/24 Close of Meeting**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting finished at 9.00pm.

Chairman's Signature: ..... Date: .....