



Bewerley Parish Council  
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**MINUTES OF BEWERLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.**  
**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at Colbeck House, Church St, Pateley Bridge, HG3 5LB**

Present: Cllr. G. Spooner (Chair) Cllr. D. Marshall (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. E. Hancock Cllr R, Dutton  
Cllr. M. Dawson NYC & Parish Cllr. A. Murday  
W Hickson (Clerk)

1.	The meeting opened at 7.04 pm All councillors were present.
2	No Declarations of Interest received.
3	<p>One Member of the Public (MotP) was present who asked to speak about some issues at the village green, Greenhow Hill:</p> <p>1) During the recent heavy snow some residents of Greenhow Hill who live at the village green borrowed a digger from the quarry to clear snow from the track across the village green. After the snow melted it was apparent that in clearing the snow the exact line of the track had not been followed causing some damage to the green, which will be repaired. The MotP asked councillors for permission to use temporary stakes to mark the line of the track to prevent the problem from happening again. The MotP brought an example of the type of stake he was proposing to use; a slim pole, approx. 1.5m long with reflective markings and a pointed tip for inserting into the ground.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> The parish council permitted use of the stakes to mark the line of the track.</p> <p>2) The MotP asked for clarification about cattle grazing on the village green. Since this matter was already on the agenda (item 8c) the MotP agreed to wait for that item.</p>
4	<p><b>Minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024.</b></p> <p>Councillor Hancock <b>proposed</b> the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 be accepted as a true record, Councillor Marshall <b>seconded</b>.</p> <p><b>CARRIED.</b></p>
5	<p><b>Clerk's report to Bewerley Parish Council</b></p> <p>1) Damaged wall at Bewerley Green.</p> <p>I have reported twice to Highways to enquire if they will take responsibility for repairs (as instructed by councillors at the November meeting). My email and online report were acknowledged but I have not yet received an answer.</p> <p><i>Noted</i></p>

	<p>2) Damaged toilet door</p> <p>The door to the gent's public convenience at the Recreation Ground was found to have been vandalised on 05/01/2025. The lower panel of the door was smashed. I reported the damage to North Yorkshire Council and the police. This coincided with the toilets being locked. NYC told me that branches had fallen, obstructing the building, possibly caused by weight of snow. These have been cleared and the door repaired.</p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> <p>3) Tree branch, Recreation Ground</p> <p>At the end of November I was advised by parishioners that one of the large conifers beside the embankment at the Recreation Ground had an alarming looking crack in a large branch over the footpath. I reported this to NYC who have since removed the branch.</p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> <p>4) Payment for Xmas gifts</p> <p>Cllrs agreed, last October, to make a donation of £75 towards Santa's gifts at the late-night opening. The organisers sent me bank details for payment in December and asked for £70 which I have paid.</p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> <p>5) Monthly DD for phone</p> <p>The O2 offer for a low monthly payment by Direct Debit is not available for business accounts.</p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> <p>6) Survey of residents regarding swing on Bewerley Green, updating email Dodo membership, and appealing for new councillors.</p> <p>I have not drafted a letter yet.</p> <p><i>Noted</i></p> <p>7) Dates for joint committees;</p> <p>The Pateley Bridge Town Council clerk intends to call a meeting of the new Emergency Committee on Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Jan, and a meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> February</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Cllrs Dawson and Hancock will attend the former, with Cllr Dutton sending apologies</p> <p>Cllrs Dawson, Marshall, and Spooner will attend the latter.</p> <p>8) I have been advised via the police Community Messenger that there has been a rise in thefts from vehicles in the Pateley Bridge and Nidderdale area. The thefts are said, by the police, to have occurred night and day and to have been opportunistic in nature. The police are advising motorists to be particularly vigilant when parking in isolated areas, for example when dog walking, and to avoid leaving items on display in parked cars.</p> <p><i>Noted</i></p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>North Yorkshire Council</b></p> <p><b>1. Report form NY Councillor Murday</b></p> <p><u>Parish portal</u></p> <p>The parish portal is being discontinued to be replaced with a customer portal in early December*. I have reported the problems that his has created to the parish liaison officer. This has created a particular problem for the report of a potentially dangerous drainage problem in Glasshouses.</p>

*\*Note from clerk; the parish portal was discontinued in December 2024 and the customer portal is now operating.*

A59 closure

The landslip onto the A59 has caused concern that further landslips present a hazard to traffic. The current planned road closure for further works to shore up the bank are scheduled for three weeks, but the timing is dependent on the weather.

NYC public lavatory policy consultation

NYC have drawn up a draft policy document for management of the public lavatories under the auspices of the authority. I have circulated this to the parish and town clerks.

NYC budget for 2025/26

The budget setting meeting is being held later in February. I have attached a briefing document which sets out some of the problems facing the council.

Shoppers parking permits

The parking permit scheme for local residents will be continued for a further year.

*Cllr Murday also summarised an NYC budget briefing document he had circulated.*

*Noted*

**7 The Council received the following planning applications:**

- a) Planning consultation NY/2024/0187/FUK; installation of Air Source Heat Pump compound at Nidderdale Recreation Centre

**RESOLVED:** The council has no objections.

- b) Planning application ZC24/03862/FUL; general purpose agricultural building and associated groundworks (part retrospective). Land comprising field at 412977 464497.

**RESOLVED:** The council has the following objections:

The applicant began groundworks at this site – which until that point had been an open field with no agricultural or industrial activity – in about 2020. The applicant had been parking machinery in the field and then began constructing a bund to hide the vehicles and extracting minerals. Bewerley Parish Council reported this to both Harrogate Borough Council and NYCC a number of times, both directly and via our County Councillor. The issue was also raised by the then Nidderdale AONB, given the location of the site and visual impact of the works. We were advised that no enforcement action would be taken as planning permission was not required. It is surprising, therefore, that the applicant is now seeking retrospective planning permission for the earthworks. Presumably the original enforcement decision was mistaken.

The proposed development (earthworks and building) is in an open field in an exposed, highly visible location within the protected area of Nidderdale National Landscape. It is across the road from a scheduled monument (Toft Gate Lime Kilns) and in full view of the highway (approaching on higher ground from the west), other public rights of way, and a significant visitor attraction, namely the Coldstones Cut sculpture. The development will have a significant adverse impact on this protected landscape and damage the visual amenity of this important section of Nidderdale. The proposed building (approx. 7m tall from plans in the application documents) will be visible from the residential housing in the valley north of the site. The development will sit on the horizon of these properties and will have a detrimental effect on their outlook.

The Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment was completed in January 2025 and based on a survey done on 9th December 2024. It acknowledges this is outside the optimum months for habitat surveys. Given the exposed location and its altitude, the weather conditions will have made survey work difficult at this time. Migratory species will have been absent and some herb species much

harder to detect. As noted above, development on the site was first observed by residents in 2020 (when no planning permission had been obtained). The survey will not have accurately measured the state of the habitat prior to development. As such, it is misleading at best.

The application states that use and storage of hazardous substances will not take place. It also states 'n/a' in relation to how foul sewage will be disposed of and that there will be no effluent or trade waste. The building is described as 'General Purpose Agricultural'. In fact, the site is currently used – and will presumably continue to be used – for the storage of agricultural machinery for the applicant's agricultural contracting business. This means oil and fuel for these vehicles and machinery may be expected to be used and stored on site. The agricultural questionnaire details livestock owned by the applicant and refers to storage of feed. If livestock are to be housed, and feed stored, there will be animal waste to dispose of and products involved in husbandry, treatment or prevention of disease, and control of pests and predators may also be expected to be present. The planning application does not address any of these issues. To say 'n/a' is not acceptable. There cannot be agricultural activity on site and there be no provision for full management of hazardous substances and waste, sewage, or effluent involved. The site is in a protected area of National Landscape. To the north of the site there is grassland containing wildflowers together with associated mammals, birds, and invertebrates. Machinery use, storage and maintenance will result in spillage and runoff, having an adverse effect on wildlife and biodiversity.

The application and supporting documents, including the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment, have been completed as if this is a further development of an existing agricultural and semi-industrial site. In fact, this application should be treated as a wholly new development in a greenfield site in the Nidderdale National Landscape. Had an application for development in such a visible and sensitive part of the NNL been submitted back in 2020 when it should have been, the Council is confident it would have been rejected. The Council believes this application should be rejected now, and that the groundworks already undertaken should be removed.

**The Council noted the following:**

- c) Planning decision notice ZC24 03673 FUL; demolition of porch and construction of new one, Bowscale, Greenhow Hill
- d) Planning decision notice ZC24 03734 TPO; fell sycamore at Bewerley House
- e) Planning decision notice ZC24 03459 FUL; demolition of conservatory and erection of extensions at Ravensgill House, Peat Lane
- f) Planning decision notice ZC24 03976 FUL; erection of pitched roof to existing flat roofed extension, High Fold, Glasshouses.

**8 The Council received updates and reports on Council Business and correspondence:**

a) Caretaker tasks

The Caretaker has quoted £145.80 to replace rotten timbers on the bench at Bewerley Green. The clerk has instructed him to proceed.

At the end of November parishioners reported a broken branch hanging over the path by the picnic table on Cow Pasture Lane. The caretaker has removed it.

Cllr Spooner reported that the area around the Youth Shelter and entrance to the Recreation Ground is looking untidy with accumulations of leaves and litter.

**RESOLVED:** Caretaker to be instructed to tidy up this area.

b) Playground inspection reports.

The inspection at Greenhow highlighted two previously reported but unresolved issues with the swings:

- 1) Excessive wear in shackle bushes on junior swing; replacement recommended.

2) Rust on uprights of toddler swing; de-rust and repaint recommended.

Both graded as medium risk

**RESOLVED:** caretaker to be instructed to quote for carrying out these repairs.

c) Greenhow village green.

The clerk has received emails from a resident of Greenhow Hill enquiring about the legality of cattle grazing on the village green. The member of the public present wanted to ask for clarification on this subject and was invited to join the discussion.

Councillors were concerned about potential consequences due to any illegal activity on the green and the liability of the council and livestock owners.

The clerk stated that he had reviewed documents held in parish archives which had been passed to him when he became clerk last year, It is clear that this subject has been considered by the parish council previously in 2009 and 2014 from when there are records showing that legal advice was sought. The clerk has not found any documents recording actual advice received.

Cllr Dawson stated that he has a file of documents relating to this subject which he will pass on to the clerk.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to locate and review legal advice previously received by the council. Council then to consider what action needs to be taken.

The member of the public left the meeting after discussion of this item.

d) Toft Gate car park and paths.

Cllr Dutton reported that funding is potentially available from the Greenhow Endowment Fund which could be used to part pay costs of using stone from the quarry to resurface the car park and paths at Toft Gate. The fund's management committee next meets in March.

Some of the paths are on the leased area containing the lime kilns and Nidderdale National Landscape will have a view on repairing paths in a way which is sympathetic to the heritage of the site.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to contact NNL staff for their advice on any proposal to resurface paths.

e) Quarry liaison meeting.

The parish council has been invited to send a representative to a meeting of the Coldstones Quarry liaison group on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 18.00

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Murday to attend

f) Joint Liaison Committee minutes from meeting held on 03/12/2024

Councillors discussed a draft service plan for public conveniences received from NYC which the JLC will want to consider.

The clerk reported that four parishioners have sent in comments about the proposed fence around the bowling green, three in favour, one against.

**RESOLVED:** the following recommendations of the JLC were all approved:

Notify parishioners about the bowling green fence proposal (already done)

Accept revised JLC terms of reference (already done)

Emergency Committee to meet as soon as possible with Cllr N Thompson as chair and consider adoption of updated emergency plan.

To post redacted copy of revised emergency plan on parish website.

To mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day by lighting a beacon at Coldstones Cut.

Not to take responsibility for NYC run public conveniences in the parishes.

The parish council considered the JLC recommendation to change the official name of Bewerley and Bishopside Recreation Ground to The Recreation Ground.

**RESOLVED:** There should be no change to the name.

g) Highways Asset Management; funding for 'urban grass cutting'

Councillors considered NYCs offer of funding (£211.04) for the parish council to take responsibility for cutting certain verges beside the B6265 at Street Lane and Greenhow Hill.

**RESOLVED:** The council should not accept funding to carry out urban grass cutting.

h) Cemetery field.

Councillors noted that the parish council has received a payment of £8,645 following completion of the sale.

i) Joint Advisory Committee for Nidderdale National Landscape.

Councillors considered an invitation to nominate a councillor to fill a vacancy on this committee.

**RESOLVED:** The parish council nominated Cllr Hancock.

j) Toft Gate lime kilns

The project manager from Nidderdale National Landscape has reported that an interpretive consultant has been appointed to design a new interpretive panel and signs for the site. The repointing work has recommenced after the snowy weather.

A more detailed update has been promised but not received yet.

k) Toft Gate lease

The owners of the land at Toft Gate have signed a temporary extension to the present lease until December 2025. The council must have in place a new long-term lease by then.

The council will have to consider what it can commit to. It can undertake to carry out routine maintenance and provide insurance cover, but it cannot be liable for heritage works.

**RESOLVED:** Clerk to review previous lease and bring details for councillors to consider at next meeting.

l) Update on two long standing highways problems in Bewerley.

Blocked gully outside Larchwood, Bewerley.

Stonework on Turner Bridge.

Both are scheduled for work but have been given a low priority. Water from the blocked gully recently caused hazardous road conditions with ice on the hill up into Bewerley. The clerk has contacted Highways asking them to reconsider the priority given to the blocked gully.

a) Update about the campaign for fixed speed cameras in North Yorkshire.

The council has already agreed to be a signatory to the campaign's letters. The campaigners are encouraging parish councils to lobby the NY deputy mayor at forthcoming road safety surgeries.

**RESOLVED:** The parish council does not want to participate in the surgeries.

**9 Finance**

9.1 Councillor Hancock **proposed** the Council approve the following accounts for payment, seconded by Councillor Dawson.

**CARRIED.**

	<p>9.1.1 R Langley invoice A2211 £142.50</p> <p>9.1.2 Memorial Hall invoice 11.11.24 £75.00</p> <p>9.1.3 TP Jones invoice TPJ/P1859 £59.40</p> <p>9.1.4 TPSL Eset Internet Security renewal inv 103374 £45.99</p> <p>9.1.5 Clerk's expenses £65.06</p> <p>9.2 Councillors noted:</p> <p>9.2.1 Clerk's salary (1- 30th November 2024) inc Tax and NIC</p> <p>9.2.2 Clerk's salary (1-31st December 2024) inc Tax and NIC</p> <p>9.2.3 Clerk's additional hours for Nov 2024</p> <p>9.3 The Council received a bank reconciliation to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</p>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>10.1 The Council received the following new correspondence:</b></p> <p>10.1.1 Email received about survey for NYC assessing need for traveller accommodation in the county which is part of preparation for the new NY local plan.</p> <p>Councillors considered the survey questions</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to complete the survey.</p> <p>10.1.2 Email received from NYC parish liaison about public release of 'call for sites' submissions.</p> <p>Councillors noted there are some sites within Bewerley parish.</p> <p>10.1.3 Message from owner of Whitewoods (aka Fishpond Wood) notifying councillors about a recent article on the Gov.UK website about Whitewoods and the benefits of opening the woodland to the local community.</p> <p><b>10.2 Information exchange</b></p> <p>There was no new information to exchange.</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting</b></p> <p>Toft Gate lease</p> <p>Greenhow Hill village green</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 7 p.m. at Colbeck House</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm</p>