

**Draft**  
**Minutes of Lastingham Parish Meeting**  
**Darley Memorial Hall**  
**7pm Tuesday 17th October 2023**

**Present:** Stewart Bray (Chair), Brian Miller (Clerk), David Barraclough (Treasurer), David Hepworth (Vice Chair), John Edwards, Rob and Andie Cattle, Alex and Jane Donaldson, Gill and Neal Collis, Sandra Snowden, Jim Bailey, Jane Bray Maggie Miller, John Hobcraft, Kate Kiernan, Nadine and John Cooper, Jenny Stephenson, Johanna and Clemens Heinrichs, Keith Barber, Robert Halstead, Clarissa Napier, Janet Richardson, Paul Fellows (NYMNPA), Tom Stephenson (NYMNPA), Julie and Paul Marks, Mike and Iris Worker, Rob Laycock, Rachel Grace, Heather White, Neil Davidson.

**Apologies:** Jeremy and Mary Parker, Greg White, Norma Tueart, Mike and Mo Matson, Shelia Hepworth, Christine Haddon-Reece, Catherine Lockwood, Miles Richardson, Jennifer Tetlow, Lydia Preston, Ali Moran, David Grace

**1. Chair's welcome to the Meeting**

Stewart Bray welcomed all to the Meeting including Tom Stephenson and Paul Fellows from the NYMNPA

**2. Minutes of the Last Meeting and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the AGM meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2023 were approved with no issues or queries being raised. **Proposed by Julie Marks and Seconded by John Edwards.** This was approved by the meeting

There were no matters arising other than those to be covered within the Chair's and Clerk's reports.

**3. Chair's Report:**

a) Litter Bins

Stewart confirmed that the two additional litter bins were due to be installed shortly at the agreed sites (adjacent to the dog waste bins outside the Village Hall and Matson's Wood) by Streetscene.

b) North Yorkshire Council Salt Bin Review

Following this review NYC had notified us that three of the five salt bins on the High Street were to be removed. Stewart contacted NYC and pointed out that all of the salt bins on High Street had been purchased by a village resident and were therefore our property and not the Council's. NYC have therefore agreed to fill all five bins with salt during this winter period and subsequently continue to fill the top and bottom of the five bins each winter thereafter. NYC could fill the middle three bins twice each year after this winter period at a cost of £75 per bin.

c) Parish Meeting Future Projects

The only response from the last meeting was from Peter Ibbetson who asked that the Parish Meeting consider the removal/thinning/reduction of some of the alder trees on "The Green" side of Eilers Beck (between "The Green" and "St Cedd's"). Stewart confirmed that he had met with George Winn-Darley who was happy for work to be carried out on the alders at no cost to him. Stewart also met with Nathan McWhinnie, the NYMNPA Tree Officer, who suggested that a couple of the alders could be removed but that it would make little difference from an aesthetic point of

view for many years. After discussion the meeting confirmed that the alders were not our responsibility and, as such, that no monies would be allocated from Parish Meeting funds. **Proposed by Paul Marks and Seconded by John Cooper.** This was approved by the meeting.

Nathan also confirmed that the ash tree adjacent to “The Green” has Ash Dieback and will need to be taken down within the next 12 months or so. Stewart confirmed that George Winn-Darley was aware of the condition of the tree and will take this action forward.

#### **4. Clerk’s Report**

##### **a) Court Leet**

Brian confirmed that he had been notified in early October of the successful application to the Court Leet for a Grant of £250. These monies will go towards future village maintenance and caretaking activities. An email of thanks had been sent to George Winn-Darley.

##### **b) Village Maintenance**

Voluntary maintenance work had been very limited this year mainly because of the particularly wet weather during July and August. Some ongoing work has been carried out including weeding the triangle garden, treating the wooden benches on the green, strimming some roadside grass verges and regularly cutting the Village Hall grass. A big thank you to all within our community who have given their time during the year to help keep our village looking fantastic for ourselves as well as tourists. Stewart agreed to treat the wooden bench at the Victoria Cross with preservative during 2024.

##### **c) Heritage Road Signs**

One sign has been installed at the junction of High St/Low St/Front St and the other sign outside the Village Hall has been partially installed. The sign at the top of Lidsty Hill has yet to be straightened.

##### **d) RA Jackson Memorial Stone**

We have no news about the memorial stone on Jackson’s Bridge being replaced as yet.

##### **e) Repairs to road edge and kerb stones outside the Village Hall**

This work was completed earlier this year together with all white lining being refreshed on each road junction in Lastingham and new white lining outside both entrances to the Village Hall.

##### **d) Dog Poo Bin contacts at NYC**

It has been noticed that on a couple of occasions during the year that one of the village’s dog poo bins hasn’t been emptied. If you notice this please contact either Joe Kent on [joe.kent@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:joe.kent@northyorks.gov.uk) or Sarah Whalley on [sarah.whalley@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.whalley@northyorks.gov.uk) at NYC who will make the appropriate arrangements for the bin to be emptied.

e) The gullies and drains in the village need clearing of debris. Brian will raise this concern with NYC and ask that notice be given to residents so that vehicles can be moved in order that the work can be carried out.

f) Kate raised the concern about skips and other large vehicles driving over the bridge down Low Street and having great difficulty turning, eventually having to use the private land at the end of the street. Kate has written to Brian about this, who, in turn has written to Highways about this concern. It was noted at the meeting there is already a Highways “No Through Road “ sign located by Jackson’s Bridge. No response from NYC as yet and Brian will follow up.

## **5. Treasurers Report and Accounts including Precept for 2024**

### a) Half Year Accounts and Provisional Budget for 2023/2024

David confirmed that we had received a payment of £1770 from NYC which represents the Precept for the year 2023/24. From this we paid an annual grant of £1220 to the Village Hall to assist with management and maintenance costs. Costs for the half year to 30th September 2023 totalled £1703.79 which leaves a surplus of £66.21.

The Provisional Budget for the year 2023/2024 could leave a deficit of £413.57.

Approval of accounts. **Proposed by Clarissa Napier and Seconded by John Edwards.** This was approved by the meeting.

### b) Precept for 2024/2025

The Precept has remained unchanged at £1770 for several years. There was no appetite to change the Parish Meeting grant to the Village Hall or increase the Precept therefore both will remain unaltered. **Proposed by Neil Davidson and Seconded by Rob Halstead.**

This was approved by the meeting.

## **6. Sustainable Lavington**

### a) Update - Neil Davidson

Neil confirmed that Sustainable Lavington has 11 committee members, has established a bank account and already received grant funding from NYC. He encouraged those not already in the Hub to consider joining by contacting Johanna Heinrichs. Those already in the Hub have found it very useful when support has been needed for domestic emergencies and hearing about other things happening in the village.

A grant of £70,000 may be available from the NYMNPA for everyone in the village to have a survey of their property which will show what individuals can do to make their homes more comfortable and more carbon neutral.

### b) Tom Stephenson and Paul Fellows (NYMNPA)

As Head of Climate Change for the NYMNPA Tom confirmed that there is a push to achieve the ambitious target of Net Zero by 2034 and that the NYMNPA is committed to help local communities reach this. Lavington has been chosen as it is quite representative of many small communities in the area as it is largely old housing stock and located in a frost hollow. The project grant of £70,000 will be used to employ a specialist consultancy to survey each property in the village and identify what can be done to each household to enable them to become carbon neutral. Tom and Paul confirmed that the NYMNPA is the applicant for this large grant and as such will determine the choice of consultancy who will carry out the surveys and manage all spend connected to the project.

Neil added that should the grant application be successful it would need to be spent by March 2024.

Heather White added that although Greg White is our Local Councillor and Executive Member for Sustainability therefore, the ambitious Net Zero Strategic Plan falls under his responsibility. He had no part in the grant application and so there is no conflict of interest in the village being awarded the grant.

Stewart thanked Tom and Paul for masterminding the project and for giving their time to our meeting this evening.

## **7. Any Other Business**

a) D-Day 80 Anniversary Celebration

After discussion the meeting felt that the village would not formally celebrate this anniversary.

b) Village Hall

Nadine Cooper reminded the meeting that the Village Hall is run as a charity with the Management Committee organising events in order to raise funds to keep the building well maintained. As well as the Management Committee, only five other people attended the most recent AGM which was disappointing. The Village Hall does need more people who are willing to become involved in helping out at the various events being planned, as well as attending and contributing at meetings and supporting events. Nadine confirmed that there is currently no representative from Spaunton on the Management Committee, to which Jim Bailey added, that he will do what he can to find someone to represent them. Nadine also said that we may have to consider the future of the Village Hall and possibly end the Lease early if more support is not forthcoming. Stewart added his support by encouraging people to become involved, help out or contribute to the Village Hall.

c) Potential Fire Risk to the Village

Rob Cattle referred to the many wild fires seen across the world earlier this year and was concerned about a potential fire risk to Lavington. He added that we have many trees in and around the village and that just about all properties had oil tanks located close to our homes. Rob added that he was particularly concerned about properties at the bottom end of Low St saying that this wooded area on the hillside had not been looked after for about 50 years. He raised his concern, prior to the meeting, with Brian, asking him to contact George Winn-Darley, the owner of the woodland. Brian wanted to bring Rob's concern to the meeting. After discussion it was agreed to make further enquiries about the potential fire risk of the woodland and also contact GWD regarding any plans for tree felling/replanting.

d) Matson's Wood update

Mike and Mo were unable to attend the meeting and therefore sent us an update. A container is now in place adjacent to Ings Lane which garages the ride on mower and other materials and tools. Mike and Mo apologised for any inconvenience caused whilst the container was being delivered and lifted/lowered into place. Unfortunately they have to report that three crab apple trees together with stakes and protection tubes were stolen from the woodland which is upsetting as this is a community project. They are pleased to report that a water supply has now been connected with a tap and dog's drinking trough.

Stewart thanked all who had attended the meeting and the meeting closed.

**Date of Next Meeting:  
7pm Tuesday 16th April 2024 at the Village Hall.**

**Signed.....  
Stewart Bray (Chair).**

**Date.....**

