**Present:** Cllr Tony Wood (Chair), Cllr Malcolm Foster, Cllr Ben Fargher, Cllr Sarah McIntosh, William Heyes (Clerk), Cllr Caroline Goodrick, Richard Darn (guest speaker)

1 resident(s) of the village

|  |  | Action |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **52.** | **Apologies**  Cllr Dario Elice |  |
| **53.** | **Minutes of the last meeting 29th July 2024**  Approved and signed by the Chairman as being a true and accurate record |  |
| **54.** | **Matters Arising**  The road signage before Bulmer Bank (the 1 in 6 sign) is not enough to stop HGVs from going up Bulmer Bank after more HGVs are getting stuck going up to the village. WH Get in touch again to ask for an update on reviewing the signage - cc Cllr Goodricke into the conversation.  The dog poo bag dispensers are working to reduce the dog waste in the village and down Wandales Lane.  A new bill has been received from N.Fargher for grass cutting in the Parish and will be paid asap. | WH  WH/TW |
| **55.** | **Declarations of Interest** none |  |
| **56.** | **Public Participation Session** none |  |
| **57.** | **Guest Speaker - Richard Darn, Dark Skies Friendly Village**  Richard is doing Project with Howardian Hill National Landscape (HHNL) to promote sensible lighting in rural areas. The project has no power to turn lights off but it hopes to inform and encourage local residents that when they do change external lights, they can be replaced with dark skies friendly light. The project is to reduce light pollution around the UK. Light pollution spoils the view of the stars and biodiversity - moths, insects, bats. HHNL is naturally a Dark Landscape, darker than North York Moors where the project originated.  Demonstration of lights - the lights shown where LED lights but with better colour of light than cheaper LEDs available at DIY shops.  Taking advice from Richard a project on village hall has been started and four small external lights and one large light have been purchased to be dark skies friendly. Eventually it will be fully funded by HHNL and the lights installed by 13th November. As a result the village hall will have much less glaring lights and the parking area will be much more uniformly lit. The scheme is also ideal for farms etc. North Yorkshire County Council is looking at policies to reduce street light levels.  It is nice to designate certain villages with Dark Skies status to try to raise public awareness, help inform Neighborhood plans and planners for future developments.  To gain dark skies status the village will need to complete an application form, show a community project (village hall project to be completed 13th November), complete an external lighting audit (completed on 17th October). Bulmer has done the first and second steps and completed the surveys and Bulmer is already compliant. Once village hall project has been completed we will gain status. HHNL may produce a small PR article and Bulmer may be used as an example for the other villages.  Farm and agriculture businesses may be eligible for grants from HHNL (they already do in North York Moors - HHNL don't have quite as big budget) but there could be room made if a local farmer would like to forward and complete a dark skies project.  WH to exchange contact details for Cllr Goodrick for NYC and the other cllrs for a potential agricultural project with Richard Darn and HHNL. WH to update the village website with Dark Skies news and information. | WH |
| **58.** | **Financial Update & Approval of Payments** |  |

|  |  | **INCOME** |  |  | **OUTGOINGS** | **VAT** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 25.07.24 | TW/DE |  | Village Hall | VAT Tax refund VH allocation | £387.33 |  |
| 29.07.24 | cheque | £5,640.00 | Village Hall | VH heating - Walker & Hutton invoices |  |  |
| 29.07.24 | TW/DE |  | Walker & Hutton ltd | VH heating | £4,140.00 | £690.00 |
| 29.07.24 | TW/DE |  | Walker & Hutton ltd | VH heating | £1,500.00 | £250.00 |
| 08.10.24 | TW/WH |  | Village Hall | VAT Tax refund VH allocation | £100.00 |  |
| 11.10.24 | online | £1,308.00 | HMRC VTR | VAT Tax refund 2023-2024 (summer) |  |  |
| 17.10.24 | TW/WH |  | Village Hall | VAT Tax refund VH allocation | £1,308.00 |  |

| **59.** | **Current Bank Balance -** £12,714.74 of which £6613.20 is allocated for the Neighbourhood Plan, |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **60.** | **Clerk as RFO -** WH can now access the accounts, make and approve payments. After a call from Barclays bank, WH is to take Cllr Foster off as signatory and will change business address to his home address. WH to attend Clerks induction training in December - £35 with small Parish Bursary | WH |
| **61.** | **Clerks Remuneration** - next year Clerk will be paid £1,260 |  |
| **62.** | **2024/2025 Percept** - Percept to raise to from £2,400 to £2,800, WH & TW to request new amount when applicable |  |
| **63.** | **Planning Applications -** none |  |
| **64.** | **Neighbourhood Plan** - A housing needs assessment final report and design codes report have been received and the steering group has commented on and returned them to the consultants, we are awaiting their reply. The invoice has been received from the Neighbourhood Planning consultant - £1,260.00 to be paid asap. The consultant will start to draft NP next month. | WH/TW |
| **65.** | **Bulmer Parish Council Website & Whatsapp Group**  No progress on merging both groups.  Cllr Elice has scheduled updates to the village website and they will be published soon. |  |
| **66.** | **Village Noticeboard and Telephone**  The village noticeboard has been oiled, though the ply is delaminating. There are two quotes to repaint the telephone box, many painters have refused to quote. We aim to complete the repairs and repaint in Spring. There is a plan to do it ourselves. |  |
| **67.** | **Defibrillator and VETS telephone service**  There is still no bill received from Community Heartbeat trust, and no reply re. VETS telephone service. | TW |
| **68.** | **Community Speed Watch**  There is a good group of volunteers now and they have caught a few speeding cars. |  |
| **69.** | **Road sweeping and pothole repair**  Area 4 road maintenance have been contacted - they said they would sweep the roads after harvest, this has not yet been done.  Ganthorpe road was going to be closed, and they have done some work but now stopped. They have laid a new kerbside but works are still ongoing. |  |
| **70.** | **Tree Maintenance**  WH phoned Castle Howard estates and was told that they know about the dangerous ash tree on the Ganthorpe junction and said it was not a problem, they will continue to monitor it. |  |
| **71.** | **Missing village sign**  WH phoned David Whitlock for a timescale, our new village sign in on his priorities but amongst other orders. It has been agreed that after the PC has purchased and installed the sign will be reimbursed by HHNL and NYC’s locality budget. |  |
| **72.** | **St Martin’s Church**  A letter of support has been sent as requested and the committee have made the application for National Lottery fund for £200,000. |  |

|  | **AOB**  In the new year our bins are going to change - all wheelie bins; one for paper, tin and ALL plastics, one for paper, one for general waste, and one for garden waste. Wandales lane share bins for five households, they may need to request bigger bins. |  |
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|  | **Future Meetings**  27th Jan, 28th April, July 28th, Nov 3rd  Meeting ended 20:40 |  |
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Signed Chair Bulmer Parish Council

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