

GARGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Closed Parish Council Meeting
held Wednesday 5 August 2020

Councillors: Janet Turner, Peter Ward, Janet Sugden, Martin Banks, Derrick Evans, Robert Marshall, Chris Blythe, Kath Ashby – Clerk.

Apologies received from Bryony Lebetter and Alan Robinson

1 Public Loans Board:

JT provided the meeting with examples of the terms and payments we could expect to pay for a loan through the Public Loans Board. The loan payments would be made twice a year for the duration of the loan agreed.
A Precis of steps to secure a loan were also handed out to the meeting for their information. It was acknowledged that the Council is only entitled to borrow money to finance capital projects as opposed to revenue ones. MB questioned whether the work on the wall qualifies as a capital project. RM considered the definitions provided by NALC and thought that the enhancement element of the project might be helpful. It was agreed that the Clerk would research the matter further.

If the Parish Council go ahead with this type of loan this would have to be placed on the website, Noticeboards and also placed in the Gargrave News section of the Craven Herald to make people aware.
It was agreed that all the paperwork which had been received from our Association would be sent out to all Parish Councillors to read through and understand.
MB provided other options of borrowing money which were discussed

2. Quotations for River Wall Repair:

The Clerk produced the three quotations which had been received, the fourth one had not been received in time.
RM opened each and read out to the meeting to discuss further.
It was decided that the quotation received from Thomas Moore Landscapes was the best option.
The Clerk to email advising him that his quotation had been successful but also asking for his assurance that the price would be upheld in 2021.
The reason being that the EA will only permit work in the river between 24 March and 1 October each year. It was felt that it was now too late for the work this year. It will also give the Parish Council to make a decision and arrange a loan so that finances can be in place prior to the work commencing next year.

3. Trees in River:

JT explained to the meeting she had recently spoken to the EA regarding the creation of gardens behind River Place and also the two fallen willow trees which have split, one above the top stepping stones, the other on Middle Green.
The EA have advised they feel the one above the top stepping stones could be the responsibility of Highways but they plan a site visit of both this area and River Place very soon when this will be confirmed one way or the other.

The tree on Middle Green is definitely the responsibility of the Parish Council and two suggestions were made of local residents who may be prepared to cut down and remove the tree. The Clerk to make contact later this week.

4. Audit and sign off:

MB advised the meeting that the internal Audit had now been finalised, however this cannot be officially signed off until an open Parish Council meeting, which is planned for September when this can be minuted accordingly.

AOB:

Due to the lockdown it has not been possible to hold an Annual Meeting this year. Peter Ward stood down as Chairman at the end of April 2020 and JT has stood in as acting Chairman since that time. The Clerk asked the meeting to propose and second our new Chairman. DE proposed and CB seconded, all in favour and accepted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.45 pm.

The Minutes were proposed by MB, seconded by JT, all in favour and accepted.