
Ellel Parish Council

Minutes of the parish council meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024 Dolphinholme Village Hall

Present: Cllr Booth, Cllr Collinson, Cllr L. Corkerry, (in the chair), Cllr S. Corkerry, Cllr S Hoggarth, Cllr M Jarnell, Cllr Mather and Cllr Pollitt

Steve Caswell - clerk.

2 members of the public.

Open forum

Issues raised during the open forum:

A question was asked regarding the use of political labels at Parish Councils

A question was asked regarding the reporting of issues to the Highways Authority and whether the Parish Council could also raise issues. The member of the public was informed that the Parish Council can, and regularly do, raise issues with the Highways Authority.

A member of the public asked if it was normal for a husband and wife to be Chair and Vice Chair of a parish council. The member of the public was informed that this was not against the legislation governing parish councils.

63/24 Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

64/24 Declaration of interests.

Cllr Booth declared an interest in any item regarding the village hall as a VH trustee.

Cllr S Corkerry and Cllr L Corkerry declared an interest in any item regarding the Galgate Action Flood Group as members.

Cllr L Corkerry declared an interest in any item concerning the Warm Spaces Group.

Cllr Hoggarth declared an interest as a member of the Galgate Children's Treat Day, and specifically in Item 69, where Cllr Hoggarth spoke but took to part in the voting thereon.

65/24 To consider and approve the minutes of the annual parish council meeting held on 13th May 2024.

It was resolved that the minutes be approved and signed by the chair.

Proposed by Cllr S Corkerry

Seconded by Cllr Charlesworth

66/24 Members Reports

Cllr S Corkerry reported that both he, and Cllr L Corkerry had suffered a rather distressing incident with the owner of a campervan on Galgate Recreation Fields. The incident had been reported to the police and a crime number recorded.

67/24 Clarification of the Chair's intent to lead the Parish Council with political neutrality.

In response to this item, the Chair, Cllr L Corkerry provided a written response:

Following the discussion of my political neutrality or otherwise at the last Parish Council meeting, I wish to reiterate, in writing, the assurances I made at the time.

I was elected to the Parish Council in May 2023 as a Labour candidate. The ballot paper clearly stated this and gave voters the opportunity to vote for me or otherwise, taking this information into account. I have never made any secret of my Labour Party membership or any of my political views.

All members of society have a political viewpoint, which they can choose to keep to themselves or make public. I strive to be open and honest in all that I do, and I can assure all members of the Parish Council and the residents of Ellel that I seek only to serve them equally and without prejudice of any kind. I have always put the parish's interests over any party line, and I will continue to do so.

If any parish councillors or residents of the parish wish to discuss with me any examples where they feel I may have been politically biased in my service on the council, I urge them to do so personally and I will be happy to have that discussion.

At the Parish AGM, I was re-elected as Chair in accordance with the PC Constitution; following a tied vote, I used my casting vote. Any other member of the council would have been entitled to do the same, were they in the same position as I was.

As council members, only last month, we all signed up to a Civility and Respect Pledge, and I would urge all members to re-read this as I think it is absolutely relevant to the way we administer our council business and interact with other councillors.

68/24 To consider matters of planning and development control.

The Parish Council considered the planning applications before them and had no comments to make on any of the applications.

69/24 To consider payments for authorisation.

Payments for authorisation:

Electricity Invoice	£ 177.52
M6 Media Ltd - monthly hosting fee	£ 46.80
NFU Mutual - Insurance	£ 95.10
Clerk's Salary	£ 1279.90
Lengthsman Costs	£ 678.92
Galgate Children's Treat Day Grant	£ 275.00

Authority to make the payments was granted.

Proposed by Cllr Mather

Seconded by Cllr Charlesworth

70/24 Galgate Recreation Fields Play Area

The Recreation Fields Committee found that there were a number of issues with the current state of the play area at the Recreation Fields, including: broken seat on the zip wire, broken fencing, gate missing, poor surfacing, missing dog waste signs, damaged car park signage, aggregate still not used for pot holes, waste bin not being emptied, poor one way signage, all of which need addressing.

Cllr Hoggarth suggested a survey to be held at the forthcoming Treat Day, to gather public thoughts on the current and future usage of the site.

71/24 Galgate Recreation Fields Barrier

The new barrier to be installed at the entrance to the Recreation Fields is ordered and the council are just awaiting a date for installation. The Code for the existing barrier lock has been changed and it was agreed that the code now be changed on a more regular basis, quarterly.

Proposed by Cllr Mather

Seconded by Cllr Hoggarth

72/24 Galgate Recreation Rooms

It was reported to council that the rooms had been used without anyone's knowledge and left in an untidy state. It was agreed that the key code be changed after Treat Day and then each month after that.

Proposed by Cllr S Corkerry

Seconded by Cllr Jarnell

73/24 Ellel Parish Council Constitution

The Parish Council Constitution was considered and any possible amendments discussed. The members agreed that if they consider that any amendments need to be made, they would bring them back to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

74/24 Reports, Correspondence and Crime Statistics

The Clerk reported on:

- A request for bus shelters throughout Galgate
- The mobile telecommunications mast proposal. A site has been found elsewhere, but should this site not prove suitable, the council may be approached again.

The Clerk reported the Police Crime Statistics for April 2024

- Antisocial behavior – 7 incidents
- Burglary – 3 incidents
- Criminal Damage & Arson – 2 Incidents
- Other Theft – 2 Incidents
- Public Order – 1 incident
- Vehicle Crime – 2 Incidents
- Violence / Sexual Offences – 11 incidents

75/24 Date and time of the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held at Galgate Recreation Rooms at 7pm on Monday 8th July 2024

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signed..... Date.....