

Camblesforth Parish Council

Looking after your village, together

Parish Chairman: Neal Yates

Parish Deputy Chair: (Vacant)

Date of Meeting Wednesday, 19th April 2023

Time of Meeting 1900

IN ATTENDANCE:

Parish Cllrs Cllr Neal Yates (Chair); Cllr Neil Ball; Cllr Kevin Wild; Cllr Denise Kempton;
Cllr Dave Falcus; Cllr Joyce Boyes.

North Yorkshire Cllr Cllr Mike Jordan

Parish Clerk Andrew Crabbe

1. Present and Apologies (*Clerk to advise apologies, Chair to confirm quorum*)

Chair noted no apologies and that there was full attendance of Cllrs.

Resolved Chair confirmed quorum and welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Declarations of Interest – relevant to the agenda for the meeting (*Chair*)

Resolved Chair (Cllr Yates) noted a pecuniary interest in the Item 8.4. No other declarations were made by Cllrs relevant to the meeting

3. Chair to check Cllr agreement of previous minutes / approval of minutes (*Chair*)

Chair asked Cllrs if they had read and agreed with the summary notes of the March 2023 meeting.

Resolved No amendments were requested by Cllrs, and the minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

4. Financial Report and Accounts (*Clerk*)

The Accounts Spreadsheet and Financial Officer Report had already been presented to Cllrs and Clerk asked if there were any questions from Cllrs – none were tabled. The financial reports can be found as **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 1a**

Resolved Cheques presented at the April meeting were approved by Cllrs and duly processed.

5 Session for members of public to speak / District Cllr Report

5.1 North Yorkshire Report

Cllr Jordan advised that transfer of Selby District Council to the new Authority had 'gone relatively smoothly' – the Council Offices on Doncaster Road still existed and residents were encouraged to visit as normal if they had concerns / issues they wished to raise. The new authority had a new telephone number which could be found in the Selby Times and the NYCC website - this was a single contact / number and would be charged at standard rate. All Council services were still operating as should do and a new logo is about to be rolled out.

Cllrs asked what was happening to the revenues held by the old SDC – Cllr Jordan advised these had all been transferred to the new authority. Four million had been earmarked for charities in the Selby, Snaith and Goole areas. Cllrs asked what was happening with the revenue from Drax power station – Cllr Jordan replied that this had been used previously to bridge a pension fund deficit, which in turn kept local rates low as without the Drax money, then the deficit would have had to come out of local rates. Drax pay nine million in business rates to the Government and they determine where this goes – with regard to what was happening with this year's business rate payment from Drax, this would not be known until 5th May.

Finally, Cllr Jordan advised that his Locality Grant of £10,000 was available for applications.

5.2 Members of the Public Chair asked members of the public attending if they had anything they wished to raise. A member of the public made a statement with regard to the proposed solar farm at Carlton asking Cllrs to object to the application.

6. Any correspondence requiring discussion. (Clerk)

Clerk referred Cllrs to a communication sent prior to the meeting with regard to the allotments which confirmed the plots were now all taken and the schedule of payments had commenced. No questions were raised by Cllrs.

Clerk also referred Cllrs to a letter from Camblesforth Hall requesting a £10 increase in the monthly rent due to heating cost increases.

Resolved Following due discussion, Cllrs agreed to this request.

7. Planning applications (Clerk / all)

Resolved The planning application report for the April meeting and Cllrs agreed observations can be found **Appendix 2**. With regard to the application for a ground-mounted solar farm on land South of A645, Wade House Lane, Drax, Cllrs noted a report presented by the Clerk which can be found as **Appendix 3**

8. Matters arising – to consider on-going and new issues and decide further action if necessary:

Ongoing Matters

8.1 Update on ideas / projects for the CiL award / P3P Gift including update on improvements to the Memorial Garden – installation of new fence and gate / benches / new flagpole (All)

Clerk advised Cllrs no progress had been made with regard to a new fence and gate due to current heavy workload. Chair advised he had spoken to a resident who had offered to put the gate back on as a temporary measure.

Ongoing Deferred to May Meeting

8.2 Update on issue of trees on A645 and responsibility for maintaining these – request for copy of minutes of Liaison Meeting (All)

Clerk advised he had not received the requested minutes.

Ongoing Cllrs agreed that a formal letter of complaint should be issued to Drax on this matter.

8.3 Update on draft budget for financial year of 2023/24 – Cllrs to sign off budget for the new financial year (All)

Cllrs noted the final version of the 2023-24 budget and the comments of the Financial Officer that as the forecast surplus was considerably lower than previous years, then it was important the budget was observed in the forthcoming financial year. In addition, for the first time in many years it may be necessary to increase the precept for the 2024-25 financial year.

Resolved Cllrs approved the budget for the financial year of 2023-24

Clerk noted that he believed the reserve was still too high and recommended that some of this should be used to finance project spending such as the flagpoles – he noted that the external auditor was currently commenting on high reserves and that Parish Council should not be sitting on monies for years which should be spent for the benefit of the community. In response Cllrs Wild and Ball advised they felt the reserve should be maintained at its current level to enable the Parish Council to deal with any emergency situation

Ongoing The Chair advised that the question of the reserve level would be considered at the AGM in May.

Ongoing Cllrs agreed to discuss the status of land owned by the Parish Council at the May meeting and if there were any revenue opportunities which may be gained from this land.

New Matters

8.4 Cllrs to consider applications for grants under the Community Grant / Edward Atkinson Fund (All)

Procedural Note As Chair of the Community Events Committee, Cllr Yates left the meeting and Cllr Wild assumed the office of Chair for this item.

Cllrs discussed and considered at length applications from the Events Committee and unanimously agreed the following:

Resolved A grant of £450 from the Edward Atkinson Fund to pay for the children's activities at the forthcoming King's Coronation celebrations. Councillors noted that the Committee had applied for £400 but felt it was appropriate to meet the full cost of these activities.

Resolved A grant of £400 from the Community Grant Scheme towards the purchase of a marquee.

8.5 Cllrs to consider if they wish to adopt the NYCC code of Conduct or remain with own version (all)

Cllrs were referred to a correspondence sent by NYCC with regard to a new Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils in light of the new Authority, and asking if this could be adopted to ensure consistency across the County. Cllrs however agreed that this Code was unnecessarily complicated and 'wordy'.

Resolved Cllrs unanimously agreed to retain the Parish Councils own version which although simplified, still contained the Nolan Principles which were a set of behaviours expected of public servants.

8.6 Cllrs to consider arrangements for the Annual Parish Meetings – confirm dates and purposes (All)

Cllrs discussed the arrangements for the two Annual Meetings required at length.

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting was for reports to be made by the Chair and Financial Officer, a report with regard to the Edward Atkinson Fund, and for the offices of Chair and Deputy Chair to be determined for the year.

The Annual Parish Meeting was NOT actually a Parish Council meeting and its purpose was for residents to meet and discuss what they wanted the Parish Council to focus on. Ideally residents should organise this meeting themselves and the only Parish Council involvement would be for the Chair or Clerk to go along and make note of the points raised. However historically speaking there was little interest in the Parish Meeting and the Council had organised this and even then, there had never been any attendance.

Resolved Cllrs unanimously agreed that both annual meetings would be held immediately prior to the May (ordinary) meeting unless residents advised they wished to organise the Parish Meeting – notices to be posted by the Clerk towards the end of April.

8.7 Cllrs to consider the arrangement for the Annual Audit Return – confirm key dates and process to be observed (All)

Cllrs were referred to an earlier report sent by the Clerk detailing the timetable for the Annual Return. Cllrs were asked if they had any questions on this – none were tabled.

Ongoing The Clerk advised updates on the annual return would be tabled at future meetings leading up to its submission.

Ongoing In order to ensure the Parish Council Asset Register was up-to-date, Cllr Wild to send approx. value of the land owned by the Parish Council and the Clerk to contact NYCC to request copies of deed for the land so that the Parish Council had records of this land.

8.8 Cllrs to consider arrangement for the flower displays for the village (Cllr Kempton)

Cllr Kempton noted that two of the lamp post planters had come down last year due to damaged brackets and asked if these two planters could be placed on the frame in the Memorial Garden.

Ongoing Noting there was uncertainty what had happened to the brackets Cllrs agreed to locate these before proceeding. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to contact Adams Nurseries and ask when the displays would be ready.

9. Any other Business / Matters raised by Cllrs (not to be voted on) (All)

9.1 Cllrs noted that the roadside of Camela Lane were still in poor condition and needed urgent attention. Clerk to contact Highways again.

9.2 Cllrs noted the double yellow lines outside of park were now barely visible and cars were ignoring these - Clerk instructed to contact highways to request the lines were repainted

9.3 Cllr Boyes noted that the street light was not working outside of the beauty parlour and the Clerk was asked to report this to NYCC – Clerk to post a reminder that residents can report faulty street lights themselves

9.4 Cllrs noted the Parish Council safe was still stored in a resident's garage and this needed resolving as it was not sure what was in the safe, if anything. Cllrs agreed to discuss at the May meeting

No other matters being raised the Chair closed the meeting at 2038

Date of next meeting Wednesday, 17th May 2023

Signed as a true record... *Neal Yates* Date... *May 2023*
Neal Yates – Parish Chairman

Appendix 1 **Financial Officers Report for the April 2023 Parish Meeting for Camblesforth**

Headlines

At the end of February 23 our **actual** bank balance was £15,989 and at the end of March 23 (the end of the financial year) the **actual** balance (after all banked transactions), was £14,607. Taking into account all liabilities, (cheques to be approved at the April meeting – there are NO uncashed cheques) our **forecast** balance for the end of April 23 (the first month in the new financial year) is £ £11,494.

The balance does include the CiL amount of £7,961 which cannot be used for general budget spending – this does mean that the Parish Council must stick to the budget in the new financial year, especially if Cllrs wish to avoid an increase in the precept for next year.

Cheques to be approved at the April 2023 Meeting

- The first grant of the year under the Atkinson fund is presented for approval.
- Cllrs should also note the first payment to Mr Marshall as we commence the grass cutting season.
- There is also a payment to Harrison Flagpoles for the two poles (for the Memorial and Millennium Gardens) – it is recommended that this cost is met from the reserve as there is no budget for this.
- The other payments for approval are budgeted for – Clerks salary, payroll costs and website management costs

Reserve Account

The reserve account (as of 31st Mar.23) stands at £13,428.35 following an interest payment of £62.73. This of course includes £2,831 Atkinson Fund

Summary

At the end of the financial year of 2022-23 and the commencement of the new financial year of 2023-24, the Parish finances are in a robust, stable and solvent position, with no identifiable risks or threats.

Appendix 1a

Camblesforth Parish Council

Presented at the April 2023 Meeting For the Month of

March 2023

From: Parish Clerk
To: Parish Councillors

Box 1

Community Account (666)

Opening Balance as of end of Feb.23 (Statement No. 249) £15,989.40

Transactions in Mar.23

Debits

Date of Spend	Cheque No.	Paid to	Reason	Amount
08-Mar-23		Direct Debit	YU Energy - Standing Charge	£19.60
08-Mar-23		Direct Debit	YU Energy - Electricity for Street Lighting	£134.33
17-Mar-23	876	Wild, Kevin	- reimbursement for repairs to the lawnmower as agreed by Cllrs at Feb.23 PC Meeting	£211.18
20-Mar-23	871	Crabbe, Andrew	- reimbursement of painting scaffolding in the Memorial Garden	£230.00
20-Mar-23	873	Crabbe, Andrew	Salary for March 2023	£694.00
21-Mar-23	869	Mr & Mrs B Ward	- Rental of Camblesforth Hall for Feb.23	£25.00
21-Mar-23	870	Mr & Mrs B Ward	- Rental of Camblesforth Hall for Mar.23	£50.00
31-Mar-23		Bank Charges		£18.00

Credits

Date of Credit	Reason	Amount

Summary = Bank Balance as of end of Feb.23 = £15,989.40
Total spend in Mar.23 (presented) = £1,382.11
Credit Received in Mar.23 = £0.00
Standing bank balance end of Mar.23 as per Bank Statement 249 = £14,607.29

Box 3

Cheques to be issued in April.23 (to be approved by Cllrs)

	Amount
Diane Westwood - Annual fee for housing CCTV and server on premises - As agreed with Cllrs in 2019	£309.38
Crabbe, Andrew - Salary for March 2023	£694.00
Autela Payroll - Clerk's payroll for January - March 23	
	£71.58
Netwise - Domain and web management annual charges	£396.00
Marshall, David - Grasscutting - village 1 of 12: Allotment 1 of 6: 1041 1 of 6: Litterpick 1 of 6	£555.00
Crabbe, A Reimburse for payment of 2xFlagpoles, as agreed by Cllrs at the March 2023 Parish Council Meeting	£1,087.14

Total cheques to be issued & approved at the April.23 Meeting = £3,113.10

Box 6

No.2 Account: High Interest Account (682)

Balance as of 30th Sept.22 =	£10,492.71	
Amount transferred from Edward Atkinson Fund 30th Sept 23 =	£2,831.20	
Balance as of 30th Oct.22 =	£13,323.91	Including £2,831.20 E Atkinson Fund
Balance as of 30th Nov.22 =	£13,323.91	Including £2,831.20 E Atkinson Fund
Interest payment =	£41.71	
Balance as of 31st Dec.22 =	£13,365.62	Including £2,831.20 E Atkinson Fund
Balance as of 31st Jan.23 =	£13,365.62	Including £2,831.20 E Atkinson Fund
Balance as of 28 Feb.23 =	£13,365.62	Including £2,831.20 E Atkinson Fund
Interest payment =	£62.73	
Balance as of 31st Mar.23 =	£13,428.35	Including £2,831.20 E Atkinson Fund

Box 2

Outstanding Cheques	Amount

Outstanding cheques to be cashed / presented = £0.00

Box 4

Summary of PC Accounts until end of April.23 (Actuals & Forecasts)

No.1 Account: Community Account (666)



a	(Actual) Bank Balance at end of Feb.23 (verified by Bank Stat 249) =	£15,989.40
b	(Actual) Total Spend in Mar.23 (cash) =	£1,382.11
c	Uncashed Cheques (Actual)	£0.00
d	New Cheques issued at April.23 meeting (Actual)	£3,113.10
e	Forecast total spending for end of Apr.23 (which is box b, c and d added) =	£4,495.21
f	Credit Payments made in Mar.22	£0.00
g	Forecast of Bank Balance for end of April.23 (which is box e deducted from box a, added to box f) =	£11,494.19

Box 5

CIL Spending Report Parish Council was awarded a CIL amount for housing development on Croft Road - figure is earmarked in the main account (666) = £7,961.38

Appendix 2 Camblesforth Parish Council

Planning Application Report for the April 2023 Meeting For full details of applications, use the public planning portal at SDC <https://www.selby.gov.uk/view-applications-public-access>

Location & Applicant:	Planning Ref:	Observations / Comments:	Observations
Land South Of A645, Wade House Lane, Drax	2023/0128/E IA	Development of a ground-mounted solar farm including associated infrastructure	 <p>Land South Of A645, Wade House Lane, Dr.</p> <p>The Parish Council is submitting a neutral observation following a vote of Cllrs</p> <p>5 – neutral 1 – supporting</p> <p>The grounds for this neutral observation are as follows</p> <p>1 a report presented to Cllrs by the Parish Clerk identified that out of a population of over 1700 people in the Camblesforth Parish, only 10 objections had been received by the Parish Council. Cllrs noted that 54 people had written to NYCC objecting to the application, however most of these were not from the Camblesforth Parish. In light of this, and noting the principle that it is important that the Parish Council represents the views of it’s residents the Parish Clerk recommended there were no grounds for the Council to oppose the application.</p> <p>2 A Cllr advised that he had spoken to young people in the village on this matter, and many had expressed support of the need for renewable energy in the future.</p> <p>3 The fact none of the Consultatory Bodies such as the Environment Agency, Highways and most importantly Natural England and NYCC Heritage had not objected to the application. Cllrs accepted the recommendation that this was a very important factor in the matter, as these were bodies with expertise and their views had to be considered.</p>
Land Used For Storage, Honeypot Farm, Common Lane	2023/0141/F UL	Demolition of existing building and construction of new building; conversion of existing building; and other associated work	 <p>Honeypot Farm, Common Lane Planni</p> <p>Cllrs agreed there was no further comments and the previous observation of objection to the proposal stood</p>
25 Millfield Drive, Camblesforth	2023/0154/ HPA	Erection of a two storey rear extension following demolition of conservatory and garage & erection of a two storey front extension LOCATION:, Selby	Noting the observations of a number of neighbouring residents and that these objections appeared to be valid material objections, Cllrs agreed the application appeared to intrusive and out of character with other residences in the area. In summary, the Parish Council agreed to recommend this application should be sent to Committee for further examination.

Proper Officer Report for the Parish Council relating to Planning Application 2023/0128/EIA - Proposed solar farm, south of A645, Wade House Lane, Drax

As of today, 19th April 2023, there are 54 objections and 1 support from the public listed on the NYCC Planning Portal – NYCC accepts all objections and does not make the distinction between residents and non-residents as the Parish Council does. I have checked the location of the objections and found the overwhelming majority are not Camblesforth residents – most are from Carlton but there are also objections from as far as Goole and Eggbrough.

The Parish Council has received 10 objections to the solar farm.

I note that the statutory consultants including, Natural England, HSE, NYCC Heritage, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, Highways have NOT objected.

It is my view that the main points of objection from the public relate to two arguments:

1 a) the belief that agricultural land will be lost and b) the impact on wildlife - this is disputed by the developer and more importantly bodies which it would be reasonable to suggest are more qualified to comment - noting the letter from NYCC Heritage:

The site is predominantly arable farmland or species-poor agricultural grassland, so impacts on priority habitats and protected species are expected to be low.

Also, Natural England

Based on the plans submitted, Natural England considers that the proposed development will not have a likely significant effect on the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and has no objection.

2 the disturbance (visual and noise) caused by the solar farm.

There is no evidence to suggest this disturbance will be any worse during the development stage than any medium scale housing development and no evidence at all to suggest once established they will prove to be disturbance to residences.

In summary, it is my recommendation as Proper Officer that the Parish Council submits a neutral observation - this is based on the principle that the Parish Council should, wherever possible, represent and reflect the views of its residents. If this is accepted by Cllrs, then it is entirely reasonable to suggest there are no large-scale objections to the application from residents of Camblesforth (a population of more than 1,700) – only 10 residents have approached the Parish Council itself and there are only a total of 54 objections submitted to NYCC, and most of these are not residents of Camblesforth.

Noting the principal planning decisions are not made on volumes of support or objection, I also consider that objections submitted in the case of this particular application, do not constitute sufficient material grounds for objection which would fall under the framework of planning legislation. The perceived loss of agricultural land may be a political factor, but the Parish Council should not consider this as grounds for either supporting or objecting to the application.

Finally, I believe (in so far as if the matter was considered objectively) then there are actually strong arguments to support the application as there is a financial 'gift' available from the developer which would be used entirely to benefit the Parish Community.