

Meeting of Clayworth Parish Council

Minutes of **Clayworth Parish Council Meeting** held on the 20th Jul 2023 at Clayworth Memorial Hall, the meeting commenced at 6:30pm.

Council Members & Officer Present:	Cllr Edwin Rose	Chairman
	Cllr Eve Moralee	Vice-Chair
	Cllr Peter Wilkinson	Cllr Sarah Brack
	Ed Knox Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer	
Also, Present	3	Members of the Public
	County Cllr	Tracey Taylor

24/23 To Sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office Forms

Cllr Brack signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms together with the Proper Officer. Cllr Brack has 28 days to log on to the District Council website to complete their Register of Members' Interests General Notice of Registerable Interests at

<https://selfservice.bassetlaw.gov.uk/renderform.aspx?t=718&k=AD82EDB36916E03A0A9CE90ED5A1D3B6E569F926&refresh=1> to comply with the Localism Act 2011. **Action**, All Cllrs.

25/23 To Approve Apologies for Absence

None.

26/23 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

None

27/23 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

After discussion, Cllr Rose **Proposed**, Cllr Wilkinson **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting.

28/23 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

Dist Cllr McFarland: Dist Cllr McFarland gave an update to the PC on District Council matters via email, which included:

- Devolution I would like to thank everyone who supported me in May's local elections. Since getting elected to represent you on Bassetlaw District Council, I have been busy attending Parish Council meetings, supporting fundraising events and fighting your corner at Bassetlaw District Council.
- In May I met with the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon. Suella Braverman MP and Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Caroline Henry and raised concerns about rural crime including fly-tipping and speeding. I welcome the Speed Watch initiative and would encourage residents to join in their local efforts.
- On a visit to the new Skills Hub in Worksop, I attended a meeting with the Levelling Up Minister, Dehenna Davison MP. The Minister spoke about the huge opportunities available for rural communities across Bassetlaw to benefit from the Levelling Up Partnership status awarded to Bassetlaw District Council by the Government. I will be making sure our communities voice is heard and we get our fair share of this opportunity once the full details are announced.
- This opportunity to deliver Levelling Up is on top of the benefits available to our community from the STEP nuclear fusion project at West Burton. This multi-billion-pound project secured by Brendan Clarke-Smith MP and Nottinghamshire County Council will bring great opportunities across Bassetlaw.
- At my first full council meeting, I put forward a motion to tackle damp in social and private rented accommodation. It is important that all residents have safe and clean housing and that is why I proposed this important motion, which achieved cross party support and was approved by the Council - a rare achievement for an opposition councillor to change Council policy.
- In the coming weeks, I will be meeting with our local Member of Parliament, Brendan Clarke-Smith and my fellow local councillors to discuss the Pulverised Fuel Ash proposals near the Idle Valley. I strongly oppose these plans and would ask residents to join me in campaigning to protect the Idle Valley. The recent campaign against the solar farm proposals near Clayworth shows that together we can make a difference.

County Cllr Taylor: Cllr Taylor provided an update on County Council matters to the Council which included:

- Devolution has now been signed off they are currently recruiting for the new D2N2 structure
- The STEP fusion project is progressing with recruitment of the various skilled workers commencing. A planning application is in for West Burton to demolish the chimneys in the latter half of the decade.
- The public are encouraged to comment on the National Grid Pylon consultation which is currently live.

➤ Adjournment – (15 Minute max) Public Forum

The members of the public thanked the Clerk for arranging for the replacement of the noticeboard glass and the work undertaken so far. Cllr Rose thanked a member of the public for all their efforts in relation to the Toft Dyke flooding project which has now been completed. Cllr Rose discussed various highways issues with the public including speeding, parking and bus issues. County Cllr Taylor and Cllr Rose both reiterated that in the first instance, all Highways related matters should be reported directly by members of public as soon as possible, ideally via the MyNotts App with photos, or online, by email or phone. The issues with the road surface subsiding on Clayworth Common was discussed several times. County Cllr Taylor looked up the history on her laptop and the Highways Manager had inspected the road recently and replied to say that works had been ordered to take place by the end of October. Cllr Taylor advised she would chase the Highways Manager for clarification over the nature of the proposed works. Cllr Moralee discussed the Idle Valley minerals planning application with Cllr Taylor which closed recently. Cllr Taylor clarified that Clayworth Parish Council would not be notified about it as a statutory consultee automatically because the application wasn't within the parish boundary, however, should a further round of consultation open up, Cllr Taylor will let the parish council know so that it can send in comments.

29/23 To Sell/donate the PC filing Cabinet

After discussion, Cllr Rose **Proposed**, Cllr Moralee **Seconded** and the Council **resolved** that the Council donated the old cabinet to Cllr Wilkinson to use at home for storage.

30/23 To note progress on registration of the Wharf and the Green with HM Land Registry and its future valuation/use.

A file is now open at Jones & Co solicitors who are acting on behalf of the PC to register the land with HM Land Registry. Shortly before the meeting, the solicitors wrote to say that The Green is adopted highway of the County Council, however its ownership is unknown, the small triangle of grass is surrounded by road on all sides and features a tree, bench, flower bulbs and bin, which must have had Highways permission decades ago when they were installed. The solicitor explained that whilst the parish council have cut the grass and maintained the assets within this area for around 40yrs, it would be difficult to convince HM Land Registry of Parish Council ownership via Adverse Possession because it hasn't been totally enclosed by fencing excluding public access for 15 years or more. Therefore, it would be costly to try to pursue registration upon this basis and is likely to fail. However, it changes nothing about the current status quo, the parish council have maintained the area for 40 yrs and can continue to do so, the Lengthsman Agreement allows parish councils to maintain adopted highway, should they choose to do so, within 30mph zones. With regards to The Wharf, the solicitor has clarified that the rear 50% of the land which is closest to the canal was registered with HM Land Registry in 2010 by the Canal & River Trust as their land, the Solicitor advised that the Land Registry would not do this without having beyond all reasonable doubt proof of ownership so this cannot be challenged. However, the Parish Council did fence off 2 sides of the Wharf 40 yrs ago and subsequently has cut the grass ever since. With regards to the other 50% of the land adjacent the roadside, the solicitor clarified that registration would again be difficult under Adverse Possession reasons because the area has been open to the public and vehicles able to turn in this area for the past 40 years. After further discussion, Cllr Rose **Proposed** that the matter is carried over to the next meeting so that the PC members have time to digest all the information and make a final decision.

30/23 To discuss litter picking equipment and arrangements

Cllr Wilkinson advised the amounts of rubbish that have been collected in the roads leading to and from the village and suggested that every six months or so a community litter pick of volunteers continues. Cllr Wilkinson also advised the Emergency Plan has now been updated. After discussion Cllr Rose **Proposed**, Cllr Moralee **Seconded** and the council **resolved** for Cllr Wilkinson to purchase 2 extra sets of litter pickers and hi-viz's,

31/23 To agree to arrange Defib/CPR & 1st Aid Training

After discussion Cllr Rose **Proposed**, Cllr Moralee **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to arrange training via Retford Lions at Clayworth Village Hall.

32/23 Finance:

Monthly Income & Expenditure

After discussion of the Financial Information, circulated by email before the meeting, the council unanimously **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Clerk	Underpaid Postage fee for item sent to the PC	£1.30
Member of Public	Signed for Postage – Account Closure Barclays	£2.50

North Notts Landscapes Ltd	May Grass Cuts x 2	£163.20
North Notts Landscapes Ltd	Jun Grass Cut x 1	£81.60
North Notts Landscapes Ltd	4 th July Grass Cut (includes additional areas)	£187.20
Jones & Co Solicitors	Downpayment for Land Registration Process	£200.00
Total Payments		<u>£655.80</u>

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Barclays Bank	Final Interest & Complaint Compensation at Account Closure	£75
Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Precept 2023/24	£4,500
Bassetlaw District Council	2 nd ½ Concurrent Grant 2023/24	£5
Total Receipts		<u>£4,580</u>

Bank Balances

The Current Account Balance	<u>£19,229#</u>
Direct Debits and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE and Pension, all approved unanimously.	
#£10,000 ring-fenced as reserves.	

33/23 To request Speed Tube Recording in the Parish by Notts County Council

The Council has had comments from several members of the public about speeding, also that parking issues are causing problems to the bus service. Cllr Taylor clarified that evidence of the bus issues needs to be collated by local residents and sent to the County Council directly to enable anything to be potentially done about the issue, the public need to log a note of the times/dates and car registrations causing the issues and report this via the MyNotts App or online direct to Notts County Council with photos, or phone the County Council.

With regards to speeding, Cllr Taylor advised how the tube system works and its limited availability to share it across the County, therefore it would be best to agree 1 particular location for an initial assessment. After discussion it was **resolved** that the tubes should be requested for Town St near the bus stop at Toft Dyke. Cllr Taylor **agreed** to contact the Highways Manager to request the tubes.

34/23 To Note a Planning Responses by the Scheme of Delegation – National Grid & STEP

Since the previous meeting the parish council responded via the scheme of delegation as follows (italics from National Grid) and also discussed the following at today's meeting:

- **National Grid Consultation – North Humber to High Marnham Power Lines** - *National Grid Electricity Transmission is consulting on proposals for upgrading the electricity network between the North Humber and High Marnham.*

The existing power lines do not have sufficient capacity for all the new sources of electricity that National Grid expect to connect to the network over the next ten years and beyond. proposals include building approximately 90 kilometres (km) of new 400 kilovolt (kV) overhead electricity transmission line between two new substations – one to the north of Hull near Creyke Beck and one at High Marnham.

Between 1 June 2023 and 27 July 2023 National Grid are holding our first stage of public consultation on their early proposals.

New pylons and conductors (electrical wires) would be located along the route of the proposed new overhead line.

The route is not within Clayworth Parish, it is approximately 3.5km to the east of the village and comes to the East of North Wheatley and Gringley on the Hill. *National Grid are considering the use of traditional 400 kV lattice steel pylons, which are typically 50 metres in height, with approximately three pylons located per kilometre on a straight section of the route. The aim is for the proposed upgrade to be operational by 2031.*

National Grid have already have carried out engineering and environmental assessments to identify an emerging preferred corridor, within which the new reinforcement could be located. They have also considered aspects such as residential properties, existing overhead lines and sensitive features from a biodiversity and ecology, historical environment and heritage, and landscape and visual impact perspective.

National Grid want to hear directly from the public on their views, Feedback from this consultation, along with technical work and our ongoing environmental assessment, will help to shape their plans. National Grid will share updated proposals at a second stage of consultation planned for autumn 2024, where we will present more developed plans. Following this, they will finalise proposals and will report all feedback and on responses to your comments in a Consultation Report which will be submitted with National Grid's application for development consent. The consultation runs until 27th July. The public and Parish Councils alike are encouraged to send all their views and ask questions by contacting National Grid at:

Email contact@nh-hm.nationalgrid.com

*Postal Address: send a letter to **Freepost NH TO HM** (no stamp or further address details are required)*

*Phone: You can also get in touch to speak with a member of their team by telephone on **0800 051 4430**. Lines are open Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:30pm.*

If you feel your land may be affected by these proposals, National Grid's dedicated Land Team will be pleased to speak with you. You can contact the North Humber to High Marnham Land Team at Dalcour Maclaren by calling 01270 904929, writing to Unit 1, Staplehurst Farm, Weston on the Green, OX25 3QU, or by emailing NH-HM@dalcourmaclaren.com.

Please note all comments, questions, complaints & suggestions should go directly from the public to National Grid in the first instance.

The Council has submitted the following response to the consultation:

"The parish council understands that there are Two options - West – which is on the higher ground near Gringley and the other the East – which would run closer to Beckingham. As it is not an option to challenge the need/use of additional pylons and the PC can only comment on our preferred option. The Council recommends that National Grid chooses the Eastern route, as it is lower ground so less visible and is closer to an area of existing pylons."

After discussion, the Council **resolved** that Cllr Moralee will draft a further comment to the consultation in relation to the idea of underground cables. **Action**, Clerk to send in.

- **The STEP prototype fusion energy plant** has a home at the West Burton power station. The STEP project are accepting comments via their email address communications@step.ukaea.uk Cllr Moralee attended the event at Gainsborough on the 14th Jun, with regards to Traffic, access and servicing during the decade plus of construction– their team are wrestling with how they can get large components to site and are considering how to build everything on site. This would be an excellent outcome in terms of reduced traffic and disturbance and economic benefit. Regards Landscape and screening – there are large number of trees on site nothing special but they do partially screen the gas station. Their environmental consultation advised me to comment on the need for a detailed and comprehensive landscape and greening strategy. The Parish Council has submitted the following response to the consultation:

"The Parish Council writes with regards to the STEP consultation event on the 14th of June.

The Council welcomes this strategic infra-structure project to our area and note the enormous economic benefit this will have to our community. At this early stage we ask you to consider the following:

Traffic, access and servicing during the decade plus of construction – *The Council are concerned about the impact of getting large components to site via our village roads. We urge you to consider on site assembly and build to negate this potentially disruptive impact. This would be an excellent outcome in terms of reduced traffic and disturbance.*

Landscape and screening – *there are large number of trees on site which serve to screen the gas station, which will be retained. Given the scale of the site and extent of your proposals we ask that these trees are retained or are replaced and augmented as part of a comprehensive landscape and habitat strategy worthy of this strategic investment.*

Clayworth Parish Council looks forward to continued involvement in STEP as your proposals develop."

- **22/00122/ENF 3 The Grange Barns, Town Street – Unauthorised Building Works to a Listed Buildings** - Case assigned to a new Bassetlaw Planning Enforcement Officer to pick up and no further details can be disclosed publicly until the case is closed.
- **23/00166/HSE | Proposed Detached Double Garage Two Storey Rear Extension and Single Storey Sun Room, Front Porch and Widen Driveway | Beck Cottage Adjacent to Brewers Arms Town Street Clayworth DN22 9AD** – After discussion, the Council resolved to support the application, whilst this is a very large extension on a small house, most of the impact is at the back, out of sight of the village therefore the PC has no objection. The double drive might help alleviate a narrow passage left when cars are parked on the road in front of that cottage. The Council recommends that the Bassetlaw Planning Officer ensures any final approved plans are in line with the conservation protection on the village and done as sympathetically to the character of the original cottage as possible and that you work with the Bassetlaw Tree Officer to ensure that trees are not removed unnecessarily.

36/23 To Discuss the Lengthsman Scheme

Wiseton Parish Meeting declined to join the scheme with Clayworth. However, the Clerk has been successful in obtaining the annual street cleaning grant of £306 from Bassetlaw District Council and the Lengthsman Grant of £960 from Notts County Council. These together with the Concurrent Grant of £10 gives £1,276 a year towards a Lengthsman. In exchange for the grants the Council can arrange, litter picking, cleaning or reinstatement of road signs, removal of storm debris and tidying of pavements and verges, painting/cleaning of bus shelters, benches and similar street furniture and ironwork, clearing drains/ditches, and reporting other highways matters to the County Council. The cost of the Lengthsman would be £4,230 per year, less the £306 St Cleaning Grant, £10 Concurrent Grant and £960 Lengthsman Grant leaves £2,954 via the Precept. The annual cost of this would equate too approximately:

Total Precept	Council Tax Base	Annual @ Band A	Annual @ Band B	Annual @ Band C	Annual @ Band D	Monthly @ Band A	Monthly @ Band B	Monthly @ Band C	Monthly @ Band D
£2,954	142.65	£13.81	£16.11	£18.41	£20.71	£1.15	£1.34	£1.53	£1.73

After discussion, Cllr Rose **Proposed**, Cllr Moralee **Seconded** and the Council unanimously **resolved** that the Council would like to potentially appoint a self-employed Lengthsman, at £15ph, for an average of 6hrs per week for 47 weeks per year. The rate of payment will be inclusive of provision of own transport, fuel, necessary tooling and consumables, insurance (covering vehicle and public liability). Invoices and timesheets would to be presented to the Clerk to the Council, monthly and payment will be made electronically each month.

In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the following agenda items the council may vote to close the following item to members of the public due so that the Council can discuss information which is relating to an individual for example Contracts of employment, salaries, financial or personal business affairs of the individual. Minutes of the decisions made under this item will be open to the public.

37/23 To Discuss Grass Cutting Arrangements

The current contract with North Notts Landscapes is for £68 per cut, with 1 cut in March, 2 per month April to September and 1 cut in Oct & Nov. Cllr Rose recently walked the village and noted areas which could be added to the existing grass cutting contract to improve the appearance of the village. The Council discussed the additional areas of verges within the parish to potentially include on the contract and this would cost an additional £88 per cut. The total cost would be £156 per cut, for this the village would receive grass cutting/strimming at:

- Gringley Road Entrance to Village - Verge surrounding village sign
- Church Lane - verge surrounding public bench
- Church Lane - verge opposite houses down to church bend
- Town Street/Church Wall - Around front of church wall roadside near waste bin
- Wiseton Road Entrance to Village - Verge surrounding village sign
- Junction of Hall Drive Entrance/Town St - Small verge areas
- Town St – verge nr Kings Farmhouse to opposite Manor House Farm
- Village Hall – front, side & Rear
- Village Hall - Play Park/Playing Field
- The Green – Triangle of grass
- Verge nr The Green on junction of Beck Lane & Town St
- Verge opposite the Green on Town St between Petersfield and Beck Farm corner
- Verge from junction corner Town Street ‘Ruslings’ to the Junction of Wheatley Road
- Verge Town St down past the flooding container to the canal
- Grounds/access way from the roadside gate up to the front door of the Flooding Shipping Container
- Verge between junction of Wheatley Road at ‘The Smithy’ towards the canal
- Verges near the boat club on Clayworth Common Rd down past down past Bridge Cottage, Bridge Farm and the Clayworth Village sign on the village entrance.
- The area known as ‘The Wharf’ on Wheatley Road.

After discussion, Cllr Rose **Proposed**, Cllr Moralee **Seconded** and the Council unanimously **resolved** that the Council would adopt these extra areas and the new price of £156 per cut with immediate effect and arrange updated contract with North Notts Landscapes and factor in the extra cost of £1,320 into next year’s budget this equates too approximately:

Total Precept	Council Tax Base	Annual @ Band A	Annual @ Band B	Annual @ Band C	Annual @ Band D	Monthly @ Band A	Monthly @ Band B	Monthly @ Band C	Monthly @ Band D
£1,320	142.65	£6.17	£7.20	£8.23	£9.25	£0.51	£0.60	£0.69	£0.77

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 7:20pm.