**MINUTES OF BLO NORTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY 16th JANUARY 2024 at 7 p.m.**

**VILLAGE HALL, BLO NORTON**

1. Attendance and apologies

Apologies from Marion Chapman Allen, Julia Curtis and Clifford Oliver

In attendance; David Mills, Shirley Grainger, Robin Barclay

11 Members of the public in attendance

1. Declarations of Interest – none declared
2. Minutes of 21ST November 2023 meeting were approved

**Matters arising**

1. **Purchase of Salt/Grit box**

Discussion re Darren Walmsley’s (NCC) email of 29th December. Chairman will go back to Mr Walmsley regarding his comments on gradient.

1. **Purchase of lap top from John Dyer charity**

Advised the meeting about Blo Norton resident with learning difficulties for whom a lap top was purchased through John Dyer Charity.

1. **Drainage and flooding –**

Current problem is on The Street. Chairman has been in touch with Highways. Basically unless there is a risk of water entering properties they will not treat as urgent. One resident is almost trapped in their property. It has been reported on the NCC reporting website and the more people who do report it may result in the drains being jetted sooner rather than later. The Chairman will email Stephen Askew to see if he can highlight the matter.

There was also a discussion re flooding in Middle Road, and around the Village Hall.

The Chair advised that all landowners have a responsibility if their land adjoins the highway and there is a ditch between their land and the highway, it is the landowners responsibility to keep the ditch clear and running. Any blockages should be cleared and the landowner may have a further responsibility if flooding from their ditch causes further damage on the road or to road users.

Question was asked as to whether there is a map showing where the ditches should be.

Clerk will contact the Council about responsibilities and who is responsible for what and whether there is any sort of map showing where ditches should be.

1. **Chestnut tree cost of works and quotes**

A tree survey has been done on the tree in front of the church and they made recommendations that 30% of the tree should be removed to rescue it. The Clerk will contact Chris Hunter to provide a further quote. An attendee recommended 3 Amigos and the Clerk will contact them both for alternative quotes.

**Any Other Business**

Trees which have been planted by iFarm but it is not clear who will maintain them. May need a local work party to look at what has survived and remove the plastic tubes. Councillor Grainger will speak to LOHP about whether they can assist.

Attendee advised they are intending to start a village newsletter (quarterly) so any events/meetings can be sent. Asked about financial assistance with copying from Parish Council.

Question raised about motorcross bikes. Advised landowner can permit this for approximately 21 days pa. It had been going on all day long last weekend creating a lot of noise. Suggested a video diary is kept and perhaps to contact the landowner.

Question raised about Glamping Pods on iFarm. No formal application has been made. There is a 60 day rule which came into effect recently which would make this easier moving forward.

Julian has not attended any Parish Council meetings for some time.

iFarm will need to apply for planning as they are on a flood plain for any camp site.

The Clerk will email Julian to invite him to a meeting with the village at the Village Hall. Will copy Patrick (village hall) into the email.

**Financial**

1. Approval is sought for the following

Clerk Salary (January 2024) £240

**Discussion made regarding 2024/25 precept which will remain at £5670 as previous year.**

**Receipts none**

Balance of Barclays account (31.12.2023) £13,580.02

1. **Planning applications**

**3PL/2023/062/HOU – Erection of cart lodge with ancillary accommodation above APPROVED**

Meeting closed at 19.50 p.m.

Next meeting 19th March 2024