

MICKLETON PARISH COUNCIL

Notes of a meeting of Mickleton Parish Council, held on Monday, 16 June 2025, held in Mickleton Village Hall at 19:00.

PRESENT: D Shepherd (Chairman), Mrs R Fowler, Mrs C Hartas, J Lonsdale and D Hancock. One Parishioner was also present.

25.81 APOLOGIES: P Anderson.

25.82 DECLARATION OF INTEREST: None.

25.83 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 19 May, 2025 – These had been circulated, taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed.

25.84 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, HELD ON 19 May, 2025 - These had been circulated, taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed.

25.85 TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES, NOT INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA – None.

25.86 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: With regard to the new planning application for the barn conversion which is on the site next to the shepherd huts. Mrs A Routledge drew to the attention of the Parish Council the issues connected to the planning application for the two shepherd huts. Before the shepherd huts could be used for accommodation, planning conditions attached to the planning consent, was that passing places had to be constructed on the access lane as well as a membrane placed on the lane surface for the protection of the trees and hedges. This work has not been carried out.

As a new planning application had been submitted to DCC for the conversion of the barn for holiday accommodation, as this barn is adjacent to the shepherd huts, the access lane would again form part of this proposed development.

25.87 PLANNING MATTERS

DM/25/0967/FPA – The erection of an agricultural building – still awaiting the planning decision.

DM/25/0555/FPA – Grassholme Plantation, West Pasture Road – new forest road – still awaiting the planning decision.

DM/25/01318/PN56 – Land south of Carlton House, Mickleton, Prior notice (ClassQ) for conversion of existing stone build barn to dwellinghouse (to be used as holiday accommodation).

It was noted that the DCC Landscape Officer had submitted observations regarding the proposal and one of the issues that he had raised was regarding access (the building being converted must have a suitable existing access to a public highway, no details have been provided, therefore it is not clear whether any trees and hedges will be impacted as a result of any proposed access).

The Parish Council agreed that before any comments could be made to this planning application the following actions to be undertaken.

- (a) Clerk to contact the DCC Planning Enforcement Officer (S Porter) to ask for clarification as to where DCC were in the enforcement of the conditions regarding the access track.
- (b) Clerk to write to Mrs J Atkinson to ask for clarification regarding the access track.
- (c) Clerk to inform the designated Planning Officer that the Parish Council were currently unable to comment until the Parish Council had clarification over the issues with the access track.

25.88 HIGHWAY MATTERS

Flooding at Icaron Lodge – work still outstanding

Yarker Lane – Salt Bin – still to be put in place

Bus Stop Markings/Cobblersgate Junction – Clerk reported that DCC had replied and this was to be investigated and the bus stop markings to be re-instated within the next 2 months.

Additional dog bins – Clerk reported that she had made the request for additional dog bins for Cobblersgate Lane and the railway walk. These requests had been closed owing to bins being currently in place. It was noted that there is no dog bin at the railway walk intersection with West Pasture Road – Clerk to follow up again.

25.89 PLAYGROUND

25.89.1 Quotations for the fencing

Clerk reported that 4 quotations had been asked for and 3 received, for the supply and installation of fencing.

Quotation A (A Atkinson) £5420.00

Quotation B (Middleton Forge) £5737.42

Quotation C (School Furniture) £9959.73 (supply of fencing panels only)

Quotation D (ABC Fencing) – unable to quote as outside their delivery area.

It was agreed to accept the quotation from A Atkinson – as being the lowest quotation with the proviso that he could undertake the job as soon as possible. If he was unable then it was agreed to ask Middleton Forge for their timescales for this job,

ROSPA Inspection – D Shepherd reported that the inspection would be undertaken shortly and any minor work that required to be done, would be done.

25.90 BUS SHELTER – The replacement guttering would be done at some point,

25.91 FINANCE

25.91.1 Current Financial Statement – This had been circulated,

25.91.2 Payments to be authorised - The following payments were authorised:

Clear Council (Insurance Policy Renewal) £780.12

I.C.O. (Data Protection Renewal) £ 52.00

25.91.3 Quotations for Playground Fencing – see above.

25.92 REVIEW OF COMMON LAND WITHIN THE PARISH – No further information

25.93 MICKLETON FIXERS - D Shepherd reported that there was no identified jobs that needed to be undertaken at the present time.

25.94 SWIFT BOXES

Mrs A Routledge reported that she had a box and was awaiting for someone to put it up for her.

If this project was successful, the Parish Council may look at supplying another 20 boxes for next year.

25.95 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – Clerk to pass the Staindrop Lights Committee contact details to D Shepherd.

25.96 WEST PASTURE ROAD POST BOX – Still being investigated.

25.97 CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence list had been circulated

Training – Clerk drew the attention to the number of training opportunities being advertised and if any Councillor wanted to attend any training session, details to be forwarded.

.gov.uk website – Clerk reported that every council must have a generic account hosted on a council owned domain for its 2025/26 audit.

CDALC had forwarded information regarding free .gov.uk domains from Parish Online.

Clerk to investigate further as well as other options available and the costings, etc.

Mickleton Parish Council Website – Cllr C Hartas stated that the current website is difficult to find owing to the fact that there are two Mickleton Parish Councils in England. The Mickleton PC (in the Cotswolds) currently has a .gov.uk website, so we may have to look at an alternative website address to identify that we are Mickleton in Teesdale. To be investigated within the change over to the .gov.uk domain.

Teesdale Mercury – A request had been received for information on Parish Councillor vacancies - Clerk to reply.

Rural Housing Event – Following this seminar held in Mickleton Village Hall recently, it had been identified that there was currently a lack of affordable housing for residents within Mickleton and the surrounding areas. The present Parish Council agreed that they were in favour of supporting affordable housing for residents, if any land became available for housing.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – 19:00 Monday 21 July 2025

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:15

Signed Date