**Scrayingham Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Scrayingham Parish Council Annual Meeting of the Parish**

**Held on Monday 15th May 2023**

**At 17:35hrs in Leavening Methodist Hall**

**Attendees:**

Phil Jones (Chairman) (PJ)

Jo Booth (JB) (Vice Chair)

Mervyn Stone (MS)

Carolyn Stone (CS)

Stuart Wood (SW)

Nigel Prewett (NP)

Hugo Hildyard (HH)

Caroline Goodrick (CG) North Yorkshire Council

Karen Bradshaw (KB)

JB thanked KB for attending and asked if she had any questions for us.

KB queried as to why there had been no minutes, accounts, or AGARS submitted for 6 or 7 years.

PJ explained that this was for a number of reasons.

* The website produced had become unsupportable due to software issues.
* PJ suffered illness and left the post for one year.
* COVID
* The previous Clerk had resigned, and a replacement could not be found.
* Issues accessing the requisite bank statements since the departure of the previous clerk and unavailability of signatories.

PJ regretted the fact that this had led to penalties and stated that a great deal of effort had been required to resolve the situation for which the new Chair should take credit.

KB responded to say that records of payments should still have been kept, and a mandate set up for another member to be co-signatory.

KB stated that the Chairman had not received the adequate level of support from the other PC members.

KB would like to see the PC being more engaging with the community by way of polls and surveys, and asked for the Parish Council to be more visible in its actions. The recent reinstatement of the website by the new Chair could in future incorporate a newsletter as well as carrying all of the required information, which had previously been available from Ryedale.

KB would like to see a public apology made for the 3.5-4k of fines received as this was unlawfully misspent. The precept should be spent on the community.

Discussions were held as to whether the defibrillators were required as they were costing a lot of money in upkeep and due to this, along with increase in other costs such as insurance, the precept would need to rise next year. General consensus was that everyone knew someone who was alive today because of a defibrillator and that they should be maintained. KB/ CG agreed with this.

KB criticised the attitude of a member of the PC.

KB was asked whether she would be prepared to serve the community in a role within the Parish Council but declined.

It was noted that all outstanding administrative matters had now been resolved and the PC would move forward on a firm footing with appropriate governance.

KB was asked how she would like to see precept money being spent and suggested community walks, social activities, something for health and well-being, and that there needed to be a clear separation between the 3 community groups, PCC, Friends and PC and their roles.

KB thanked the Parish Councillors for their work.