

MICKLEFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr J L Auty, Cllr D Brown, Cllr J A Crossley and Cllr E A Robertson

ALSO PRESENT: Public (4) Cllr James Lewis, Leeds City Council and Cllr Michael Millar, Leeds City Council

In Attendance: J L Hebden, Clerk to Micklefield Parish Council

The meeting opened at 7.30pm and was chaired by the chairman, Cllr J A Crossley.

23/X9 – DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures of any disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011, s31 and Councillor Code of Conduct para 9 and Appendix B paras 4 – 9.

23/X10 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members received apologies for absence from Cllr N Duff, Cllr R M Czwarno, Cllr P Meir, Cllr G A Rycroft and Cllr G E Whysall.

23/X11 – DISPENSATION REQUESTS

No dispensation requests were received by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

23/X12 – NETWORK RAIL LETTER

Members noted the letter from Network Rail of 17 July 2023.

23/X13 – PREVIOUS OBJECTIONS AND COMMENTS

Members noted the Parish Council's objections and other comments in response to the previous consultation exercises undertaken by Network Rail, as set out by the Clerk.

23/X14 – THE NETWORK RAIL (LEEDS TO MICKLEFIELD ENHANCEMENTS) TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT ORDER

(I) PECKFIELD LEVEL CROSSING CLOSURE

Proposed by Cllr J A Crossley

Seconded by Cllr J L Auty

RESOLVED by unanimous vote that Micklefield Parish Council

- **Contends that in the event of the closure of the level crossing, pedestrian connectivity needs to be maintained, via a footbridge in the location and design proposed in Network Rail's scoping exercise. It is unacceptable for the Public Right of Way to be extinguished**
- **A footbridge is required to link the southern and northern parts of the village. This provides a non-vehicular route to access the local school, only local shop,**

doctors' surgery and workplaces from the south of the village (increasingly necessary due to the large housing development being built on Pit Lane) and for residents in the north of the village to access workplaces, including those within Peckfield Business Park, adjacent to the level crossing.

- The provision of a replacement bridleway is not required (in Micklefield Recreation Ground or elsewhere). The existing bridleway starts at the 's' bends on Great North Road and on one of Network Rail's proposals, the replacement bridleway exits onto Great North Road a few hundred metres south of its beginning. The same point can be reached by continuing along the Great North Road. This would avoid the need to make two of the right turns required to access and exit the bridleway and the associated danger of crossing the main road through the village.
- It is inappropriate to route a bridleway through a recreation ground and take away some of its land for spurious purposes. The proposed bridleway diversion is simply an unnecessary 'dog-leg' that offers no more than would continuing along Great North Road.
- A 10 acre recreation ground is not a suitable place to give horses and riders absolute rights, for the health and safety of both horses and riders and recreation ground patrons
- A bridleway in any part of Micklefield Recreation Ground will by its nature permanently remove part of the ground from use by the general public (and thereby interfere with the general rights of patrons to use any part of the ground freely) and reserve it permanently for defined users and their rights
- A bridleway in any part of Micklefield Recreation Ground will segregate what is essentially an open ground
- The proposed bridleway diversion crosses directly in front of, and will impede access to, the charity's property (4 and 5 Railway Cottages), which is used as a sports changing rooms and for storage.
- A footpath in Micklefield Recreation Ground, whilst acceptable in principle, would be rendered unnecessary as part of the scheme by the provision of a footbridge
- Supports the upgrade of Lower Peckfield Lane
- Posits that the last user survey was undertaken circa 2019/2020 and that since that time several large housing developments have arisen in the village, including at Pit Lane. The survey results are therefore out of date. Furthermore, Network Rail's reason for closing the level crossing i.e. that it is unsafe, is also the public perception, which reduces the number of people that use it
- The feasibility of an underpass as an alternative was never examined.

(II) DEMOLITION AND REPLACEMENT OF GRADE II LISTED A656 RIDGE ROAD BRIDGE

Proposed by Cllr J A Crossley

Seconded by Cllr E A Robertson

RESOLVED by unanimous vote that Micklefield Parish Council objects to the complete demolition of a grade II listed railway overbridge, which Network Rail itself acknowledges there are no other examples of, and cannot accept the extended closure of Ridge Road due to the demolition and reconstruction of the bridge.

(III) PHOENIX AVENUE TEMPORARY COMPOUND AND MICKLEFIELD TSC

Proposed by Cllr J A Crossley

Seconded by Cllr E A Robertson

RESOLVED by unanimous vote that Micklefield Parish Council has no objection to the Phoenix Avenue temporary compound location but that it needs 24/7 security staff and the site needs to be restored on vacating. The Parish Council also has no objections to the track sectioning cabin.

(IV) ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Proposed by Cllr J A Crossley

Seconded by Cllr E A Robertson

RESOLVED by unanimous vote to add to the Parish Council's consultation response the following: that the feasibility of an underpass was never examined.

23/X16 – T PUBLIC ENQUIRY OR HEARINGS

Proposed by Cllr E A Robertson

Seconded by Cllr J L Auty

RESOLVED by unanimous vote to authorise Cllr J A Crossley to speak on behalf of Micklefield Parish Council at any subsequent public inquiry of hearings into the aforesaid Transport and Works Act Order.

The closed at 9.24pm.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date:

Joanne Hebden
Clerk to the Council
Micklefield Parish Council

6 Churchville Avenue
Micklefield
LEEDS
LS25 4AS
0113 2875829
clerk@micklefield-pc.gov.uk