

**Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th April  
1998 at 7.30 pm.**

**Business**

Minutes of the 1997 Public Meeting  
Matters arising from those minutes  
Councillors' attendance  
Council's report  
Any other business

**Present**

Councillors P. Bell, Chairman, J. Fletcher, Mrs J. Imeson, Mrs M. Stevens, L. Groves, R. Kirk, B Winn.

21 electors attended.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the last Annual Public Meeting were read approved and signed.

**Matters Arising**

Cemetery Extension Mr Strother expressed concern about the removal of the hedge and was reassured as to which part was to be removed.

**Councillors' Attendance**

At the 13 meetings since the last Annual Parish Meeting, Councillors' attendance was as follows:-

P. Bell	11	J. Fletcher	11
L. Groves	11	Mrs M. Stevens	13
R. Kirk	13	Mrs J. Imeson	12
B. Winn	13		

**Council's Report**

Councillor Bell welcomed the electors to the meeting and announced that he had divided the report into various headings and would invite comments/questions from the meeting at the end of each section.

Policing The village has been well served by the police. Statistics for the last 6 months indicate that there were 425 incidents of which 8 were house burglaries, 6 shed burglaries and 45 auto crimes. Operation Neighbour had been a great success where the police had been watching roads into Great Ayton and stopping suspicious vehicles. There had been a 30% reduction in crime. Hambleton District Council have applied to the Home Office for a grant for a mobile camera to provide CCTV cover for the area but this is still very much in the pipeline. It

was felt that CCTV could be a good cause for the village to contribute to. There are currently 650 members of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village and two meetings have been well attended by those already involved. It was hoped that more people would become involved.

Indiscriminate parking was a cause for concern particularly on the zig-zag lines outside Roseberry School. It was felt that prosecutions were the only deterrent to parents who ignored them. Cars not displaying disabled badges were frequently parked on the disabled bay outside Worthy Pearsons. The fish shop was also a trouble spot.

Mr. P Morgan asked how often the police monitored the double yellow lines and disabled parking bays. Councillor Fletcher said he had expressed concern some 18 months ago which had resulted in parking tickets being put on 3 or 4 cars. Mr Morgan said that parking regulations would continue to be flouted unless they were enforced. Councillor Mrs Imeson agreed that this has proved to be the case.

Mr Johnson was concerned about parking on the footpath which frequently caused pedestrians to walk on the road. Councillor Bell advocated phoning the police, anonymously if necessary, and they would take action. It was appreciated that parking was difficult in some roads and it seemed necessary for cars to park with two wheels on the pavement but they should leave enough room for prams and wheelchairs to get by.

Mr H. Petch asked if it was illegal to park on corners. This was confirmed.

### **Play Area**

The Council spent much time and effort keeping the play area in good condition and new equipment and safety surfacing had been purchased. The Byelaws sign had been damaged beyond repair and a replacement had been acquired. The parents of one of the boys responsible had paid half the cost. It was hoped that the provision of a security fence encompassing the whole area would make it safer and easier to police.

Mr R Stroud was troubled by youths playing football on a piece of ground opposite his house at the junction of Roseberry Avenue and Roseberry Crescent. They trespassed on his garden, caused damage and used foul language. Some were brought by car to play there. Councillor Mrs Imeson said that the land belonged to Highways and the problem was a police matter. It should be reported as often as necessary and it was hoped that the children would eventually get fed up with being moved on. Mr. J. Turnbull felt that it was very dangerous - balls had hit cars and he had frequently heard screeching brakes. He looked to the Parish Council to find a solution. Councillor Fletcher said that the Parish Council had had the goal posts in the play area refurbished and the grass was cut regularly to make it more attractive. Parents should be encouraged to get their children to use the play area.

### **Housing Developments**

Four developments had been considered in the year - 15 houses at Tiledsheds Farm, 15 at Sunnyfield, 10 at Stevens Yard and approximately 60 dwellings at Ayton School. Increased traffic was a major concern but this had been investigated by

Highways who said that it would be within acceptable limits. A public meeting had been held to allow villagers to express their concerns about the Ayton School development and ask questions of the planners and builders. It was appreciated that it was not possible to please everyone but the Council had done their best to take all concerns raised back to the planners and Highways. Councillor Mrs Imeson reported that amended plans were to be submitted.

Mr D Taylor felt that it was a good thing that all the developments came in one year as it made it possible to see the overall picture. He asked if the Council was of the same mind as the people at the meeting and if they were speaking out about the density of housing and access, to which the answer was yes; and the demolition of the mill, to which the answer was no. Councillor Kirk felt that it was fair to say that the Council had looked seriously at the access problem and had tried to get as low density housing as possible.

Mrs R Waterton asked if the sports hall had to come down. Facilities for badminton, 5 a side etc. would be lost which provided the youth of the village with activity in winter. The Council had tried to save it but the cost was prohibitive.

## **General**

Dog fouling was still a major problem. There had been one prosecution in the village and this was felt to be the only solution. There were abundant stickers, signs and bins around the village. Particularly bad areas were the path from the waterfall to the cricket field, and the trod to Cliffe House.

Mrs. F. Greenwell asked that people clean up after their dogs in the Hall fields as the farmer was getting agitated.

Mr J Turnbull was encouraged to hear of the prosecution and Councillor Fletcher said that it was hoped to use this as a deterrent to others.

Mrs M Shaw asked if it was unlawful to allow dogs to foul in open fields and was advised that it was not but it was hoped to persuade people to clean up anyway.

Street lighting Half the improvements in the village had been completed and the second half started this week.

Mr L Johnson asked about the Chapel Steps as youngsters congregate there. This problem has been minuted for the last 6 months and it is hoped that it will be resolved by next winter. It was agreed that an approach be made to the owner of trees obscuring the light.

Flower displays Mrs Coles and Mr Featherstone have kept the 5 tubs beautifully planted and 3 more are to be obtained. Sponsors are being sought to cover the cost.

Street cleaning Jackie Benn was voted street cleaner of the year for Humberside and North Yorkshire last year.

Allotments There are 3 empty gardens. There have been many improvements and water is now piped to all parts of the allotments. A £20 deposit is now payable on all newly acquired plots.

Town twinning A very enjoyable weekend had been spent in France with another planned for July. A return trip for the people of Ouzouer sur Loire is planned for September.

### Future events

The Village Fete is to be held on 13th June. Organisations requiring a stall should contact the Clerk.

Memorial seat Mrs A Ward Thompson The dedication was postponed due to the illness of Mrs. Noble. The seat is at Halfpenny Hill.

Remembrance Sunday, the Carol service, and the Christmas float. It is proposed to let people know when the float is coming.

Millennium Ideas for the celebration, and how to raise money, are needed.

The village has been well served by the Museum and the Tourist Information Centre, who are always looking for volunteers.

The Cemetery has been well looked after by the Cemetery Superintendent and the greens are in good order.

The Health Centre extension has been started and will be a valuable asset.

### **Any other business**

Mr H Petch asked if the Victorian urinal was to be moved to where it had been years ago. Councillor Mrs. Imeson said that Mr. D Petch was opposed to this and two other sites had been suggested - Waterfall Park and just inside the Bowling Club hedge. Mr H Petch suggested Low Green as there were no toilets there, but the Council do not intend that it be used. All ideas would be welcome.

Councillor Winn emphasised that if anyone had any problems that appeared to be police related they should contact the police as all calls were registered. The more problems registered, the better cover the village would receive.

Mr H Petch said that police were rarely seen in Great Ayton to frighten people off.

Councillor Fletcher said that there had been a Community policeman whom everyone got to know but he had now gone. Councillor Groves said that if anyone knew of anyone who wanted to be a Special they should encourage them to apply. Councillor Winn observed that the police had to be in cars because they covered too large an area for foot patrol.

Councillor Bell thanked everyone for attending on such a nasty night, and for their support of the Parish Council during the year. All questions are taken seriously and the Council do their best. It is not possible to please everyone.

Mr Strother thanked the Council on behalf of all present, and those who had not come. It had been a very enjoyable evening. Everyone was aware that the Council worked very hard and had some difficult decisions to make.