

## **Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd March 1999 at 7.00 pm**

### **Business**

Presentation of Crime and Disorder Strategy by NY Police and Hambleton District Council  
Minutes of the 1998 Public Meeting  
Matters arising from those minutes  
Councillors' attendance  
Council's report  
Any other business

### **Present**

Councillors L Groves, Chairman, P Bell, J Fletcher, Mrs J Imeson, B Winn, R Kirk, Mrs M Stevens. Mr P Morton, Director of Finance Hambleton District Council, Inspector Mark Davies, Sgt K Waite and

Sgt G McArdle also attended.

15 electors were present.

### **Presentation - Crime and Disorder Strategy**

Mr Phil Morton and the representatives from NY Police gave an outline of aims of the strategy which are to reduce crime, fear of crime, and disorder. The Crime and Disorder Act, which would come into force on 1st April 1999, emphasised sustained reduction. Co-operation between different agencies - county, district and parish councils, Health Authority, Probation Service, Social Services, education, the police - would work to achieve the aim of a 15% reduction over three years. There would be no extra police officers to enforce the strategy.

Particular problems in Great Ayton were identified - vandalism at the play area, which had caused it to be closed for the time being, and the nuisance of youngsters playing football on a grassed area in Roseberry Crescent and in the library car park.

Councillor Groves thanked the visitors for their presentation.

It was reported that Great Ayton would not be getting closed circuit television as there was no lottery funding.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Councillors' attendance**

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

L Groves	12	P Bell	10
J Fletcher	13	Mrs M Stevens	13
Mrs J Imeson	10	B Winn	13
R Kirk	11		

## **Council's report**

Council minutes are on public display in the library and on the noticeboard in Park Square. Police reports throughout the year have indicated a downward trend in crime in the village, though car crime remained the major problem. Operation Neighbour, and a stop/search policy had both been successful in reducing crime levels. Effectiveness of drug raids had also been reported.

Play Area The Parish Council was to adopt a rolling programme of improvement to the play area. Funds for this purpose would be made available from the Kebbell development in Easby Lane.

Housing The four major housing developments at Ayton School, Easby Lane, Tilesheds Farm, and Stevens haulage yard had all received approval and work was under way.

An area of public open space was to be made available to the village at the rear of the Ayton School development, and the Parish Council was in negotiation with Wimpey to lease the former playing fields for use by sports clubs in the village.

As a result of the development at Ayton School the Victorian urinal had been re-sited in waterfall park. Dog fouling was still a problem in the village and dog owners were urged to clean up after their dogs.

The lights for the Chapel steps were to be installed imminently. The Parish Council had made representations to HDC about poor street lighting but were informed that there would be no further improvements in the immediate future.

Jackie Benn retired as street cleaner after many years and a presentation was made to him by the Parish Council.

The Village Fete was a success despite the poor weather, and the standard of floats very high. The Father Christmas float was also well received and the Parish Council was most grateful to Peter Greenwell for his construction of the magnificent trailer.

A seat in memory of Dr Dodd had been provided for the village by Mrs Dodd and it was hoped to have a dedication ceremony in the near future.

The annual payment of allotment rents had been changed from April to October.

The flower tubs and village name signs have been most attractive throughout the year and thanks were due to Mrs Coles and Mr Featherstone for looking after them, and to the sponsors.

Millennium It was planned to erect a flagpole outside the library. Mrs Essex had started work on the Domesday Book, and plans were being made for a firework display on New Year's Eve. It was proposed that a week of celebration be held in the summer of 2000, commencing with the fete, concerts during the week, and culminating with a summer ball. Groups in the village would be invited to produce items for the entertainments which would be held over two nights in the parochial hall. A programme was to be prepared and it was hoped that all village organisations would use it to advertise the dates of their proposed millennium activities. Businesses in the village had been asked to sponsor the programme and would receive acknowledgement of their contributions.

## **Any other business**

Mr T Bone asked why residents had not been consulted about a play area in Easby Lane. The Council answered that they had been offered a financial alternative and had decided to take it. It was thought sensible to concentrate resources in one area, and only a very small piece of land would have been made available in the new development. Mr Bone suggested that the play area was in the wrong place but it was pointed out that it was on the only piece of land owned by the Parish Council and was used by lots of children. A suggestion that the play area would be better sited on Low Green was rejected. It was felt that local children would be unable to get near the equipment because of the large numbers of visitors on Low

Green, particularly in summer and at weekends. Mrs L Lamb pointed out that the volume of dog dirt on the Low Green also presented a danger. Mr E Brown said that the Parish Council had tried to buy land in more suitable places but landowners had refused to sell.

Mr Bone asked if the flagpole would not be better sited on High Green as there was already one on the museum. It was agreed to consider the position again at the next Parish Council meeting.

Mr E Harrison expressed the concern of anglers about the diversion of the river at the Ayton School development. He was reassured that it was only a temporary measure and the Environment Agency had confirmed that the river would return to normal afterwards.

Mr David Taylor announced that the Neighbourhood Watch AGM would be held at Stokesley Town Hall on 19th April 1999 at 7.00 pm.

Mr Strother expressed appreciation for the work done by the Parish Council.

Councillor Groves thanked Mr Strother for his kind words and thanked his fellow councillors for their support. The Council worked as a team and tried to make the right decisions.

The meeting was then closed.