

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting held in the Village Hall on Thursday 6th April 2000 at 7.30 pm

Business

Minutes of the 1999 Public Meeting
Matters arising from those minutes
Councillors' attendance
Council's report
Any other business

Present

Councillors R Kirk, Chairman, Mrs J Imeson, Mrs M Stevens, Mrs F Greenwell, J Fletcher, L Groves,

P Bell. Nineteen electors were present.

Councillor Kirk welcomed the electors to the meeting and introduced the Councillors and clerk.

Minutes

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

Matters arising

Fireworks, Millennium Eve Mrs M Hopper commented that the fireworks had been brilliant and asked if they could be an annual event. She was informed that they were on the agenda to be discussed before the end of the Millennium Year.

Play area Mrs J Heaviside said that neighbouring residents would like to be involved with decisions about the play area. She was informed that a programme of improvements was under discussion and residents would be consulted.

Councillors' attendance

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

R Kirk	13	L Groves	13
J Fletcher	13	Mrs J Imeson	11
Mrs M Stevens	13	P Bell	11
Mrs F Greenwell	12		

Council's report

Council minutes are on public display in the library and on the noticeboard in Park Square. Councillors were available for discussion at any time.

Councillor Kirk said that much of the Parish Council's business was routine. There was usually a police presence, or written report, at the monthly meetings and there was two way activity at all times. Planning applications were received each month and the large developments in the village were drawing to a conclusion.

Millennium The flagpole was in position outside the library. The fireworks had been a wonderful success and many people had been out to enjoy them. Thanks were due to Councillor Fletcher and

his team who worked so hard and had to delay their own celebrations until after the display. The Parish Council had made a grant towards the Millennium Book and work was progressing well. It would be ready by May or June. Residents should have received a copy of the Millennium Programme which listed, amongst others, Parish Council dates for events in Millennium week.

The Cemetery regulations, which were very important, were in process of being updated.

New fencing had been provided around the play area and final plans would be announced soon.

Village problems The arcade had been the subject of problems with youths and plans were being discussed and implemented to try to alleviate this. A new youth club was about to be launched in the Methodist Youth Hall for under 11's initially, but hopefully to be extended to 14 year olds. Many agencies were involved with problem youngsters including the Police, Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council, churches, and individuals.

As a result of the many complaints received about the standard of grass cutting undertaken by NYCC contractors, the Parish Council had taken responsibility for the work and the grass would be cut more frequently.

The flower tubs were an asset for the village and a joy to behold. Thanks were due to those who planted and maintained them. There was a shortage of people to help and more volunteers were needed.

Councillor Kirk thanked his fellow councillors for their help and support, and also the clerk and cemetery superintendent. The areas cared for by the cemetery superintendent were in excellent shape.

Any other business

Mr D Capes commented that the new piece of ground given by Wimpey provided an attractive walk but was not accessible to all. He suggested that a path should be made from the bowling club for those who found it difficult or were unable to walk. He was told that the lease had not yet been signed and final negotiations were in hand.

Mr S Blackmore complained about the bottle bins in the Buck car park. The noise of breaking bottles caused disturbance as early as 6.30 in the morning and at the weekend. He felt there must be a better place to site them. The Council replied that it was difficult to find a site for them. There had been trouble with the bins at Yatton House but they had been tidied up when Yatton House had threatened to have them removed. Councillor Mrs Imeson said she would contact HDC Environmental Health Department. They could take up the problem with the brewery and bottle bank people. Mrs K Marsh said that the bins were supposed to be emptied 3 times a week but it only happened once a month.

Mr A Strother queried the necessity for the traffic proposals, including the traffic island and refuge for pedestrians. The Parish Council said that they had been justified by the number of accidents but on investigation it was found that most of the accidents would not have been prevented by the introduction of additional road signs. Some of the proposals were not necessary and would lead to the urbanisation of the village. It was thought that safety would not be improved by most of the measures. Councillor Bell was in full agreement with NYCC that traffic should be slowed down and that safety was paramount. Messrs Strother and Winn expressed the desire to keep the village the same as far as possible. Mr B Winn asked what was happening about a roundabout at Tree Bridge junction. Councillor Fletcher responded that since the last NYCC improvements there had been no serious accidents. It was agreed that the junction was still dangerous and that a roundabout would be the best solution. Mr P Morgan said that the lighting was also inadequate. The Parish Council would press strongly for any available funds to be spent at Tree Bridge.

Mr Winn commented that nothing had been done to improve the white lines in the village despite his survey two years previously.

Mr S Blackmore commented on the number of HGV's passing through the village and suggested that the road from Stokesley to Guisborough be downgraded to a 'B' road. The Parish Council suggested that the names of firms, other than local firms, should be given to the clerk who would write to them.

Mr P Morgan asked about the suggestion of parking restrictions in the village centre. He was told that it would be difficult to enforce as the land concerned did not belong to just one council.

Mr A Stephenson, who had run a judo club in the village for 30 years, complained that there had been no liaison with him when the problems with youngsters was discussed. He had trained many

youngsters from age 5 and felt that he had something to offer. The Parish Council were very grateful to Mr Stephenson, and the many other unsung heroes who helped with scouts, guides, sports, etc. It was observed that the youths who caused trouble did not want to join anything.

Mr B Winn asked for an update on the Whitbread bridge and was informed that it had been surveyed and tenders invited. It was hoped that refurbishment work would commence this year.

Mr Winn praised Wimpey for their excellent development. It was reported that the scaffolding would come down at the end of May in time for the fete.

In response to his question, Mr Winn was informed that the Parish Council had written in the strongest terms deploring the closure of Barclays Bank.

Councillor Kirk thanked everyone for attending and assured them that issues raised would form part of the agenda for discussion. Any further issues arising should be brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

Mr A Strother expressed his confidence in the Parish Council. He was satisfied to leave care of the village and environment in their hands, and thanked them for their efforts.

Councillor Kirk thanked Mr Strother for his kind words and said that whilst the Parish Council may not have a lot of power, they could make a noise.

The meeting was then closed.