

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting of Great Ayton Parish Council

held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 28th March 2001 at 7.00 pm

Business

Minutes of the 2000 Public Meeting
Matters arising from those minutes
Councillors' attendance
Council's report
Any other business

Present

Councillors Mrs J Imeson , Chairman, Mrs M Stevens, Mrs F Greenwell, J Fletcher, R Kirk, L Groves.
Seventeen electors were also present

Apologies were received from P Bell.

Councillor Mrs Imeson welcomed the electors to the meeting and introduced the Councillors and clerk.

Minutes

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

Matters arising

Bottle bins The problem seemed to have improved and there had been no complaints.

White lines These were still awaiting improvement.

HGVs Despite requests for residents to report the names of hauliers whose lorries travelled through the village, none had been reported to the clerk.

Parking restrictions British Rail had agreed to a notice being placed in the TIC car park advising hikers that there was parking at the station.

Whitbread Bridge The renovation work had been completed.

Bank closure The Parish Council had been assured that NatWest Bank would not be closed.

Mrs M Hopper commented that the grass cutting in the village had greatly improved since the Parish Council had taken responsibility for it.

Councillors' attendance

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

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

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.

Mrs Imeson reported another eventful year. The Ayton School development was almost complete and the Great Ayton Junior Football and Cricket Club were now able to avail themselves of the facilities which were on lease to them.

The Millennium Year had been a success with celebrations including fireworks at the beginning and end of the year, for which thanks were due to Councillor Fletcher, Ian Holden and Michael Conlon. Between the firework displays the Parish Council had arranged a choir concert, a village fete, a ball in a marquee, and concerts in the Parochial Hall. Mrs Essex's Millennium Book had been a great success and she was congratulated on her achievement.

Christmas saw the annual carol singing round the tree on High Green and the tour of the village by the Father Christmas float. Thanks were due to Peter Greenwell and Bob Hindle who managed to improve the float each year. Record collections were taken at both events and the collection from the carol singing was sent to Research into Multiple Sclerosis, the Chairman's choice.

The village suffered badly in the autumn floods and contingency plans were in place to reduce the impact of a recurrence.

An extension to the cemetery was in process of being brought up to standard. The Garden of Remembrance was well used for cremated remains.

Traffic calming measures were to be introduced to the village despite vigorous objections by the Parish Council who had carefully analysed the accidents before making their submissions.

The owners of the Arcade were still refusing to make any improvements to it.

New lampposts in the village were very attractive and particularly enhanced the Low Green area.

The Readman family had kindly donated the Bellman's bell which would to be displayed in the library. Jack Readman had been the town crier, known as "the Bellman".

Mrs Coles was thanked for her work with the flower tubs. Mr Featherstone was continuing with his sterling work and taking on the tubs previously looked after by Mrs Coles. Mrs Anne Fletcher had volunteered to help. More offers of assistance would be gratefully received.

NYCC had given a grant for a kissing gate to be installed between Suggitt's field and the cricket field.

HDC had the second lowest community charge of the 238 shire districts and was £282 lower than the highest.

Permission for plans for Pearson's yard had not yet been decided. Permission had been granted for the new Roman Catholic Church.

Councillor Mrs Imeson thanked the clerk and fellow councillors for their support, and B Helm for keeping the cemetery in good order. She also thanked the police who attended most Parish Council meetings and for reinstating foot patrols. Finally, she thanked the villagers for attending.

Any other business

Mrs de Wardt asked if any progress had been made with the Village Design Statement. She was advised that David Taylor had undertaken to do it with help, and it was intended to hold a public meeting and form a small committee which would not include the Parish Council.

Mrs B Renwick said that all drains had been cleared recently and expressed the hope that this would be kept up. Councillor Fletcher expressed regret that the lengthsman no longer inspected the drains and gutters.

Dr P Shelton asked if there had been any progress with the suggested cycle path between Great Ayton and Stokesley. Councillor Mrs Imeson replied that the idea was being looked at by HDC and NYCC. HDC were very interested in progressing the matter. Dr Shelton observed that there was a good chance of a cyclist being killed on the road but very little chance of a pedestrian or cyclist being killed on the pavement.

Mr B Winn asked if the white lines would be attended to. Councillor Fletcher replied that NYCC would do the village in one go, possibly after resurfacing Guisborough Road.

Mrs M Hopper asked if the village was allowed a traffic warden as parking on the yellow lines caused congestion, particularly on a Saturday morning. Councillor Mrs Imeson said that we shared one with Stokesley but she had never been seen in Great Ayton. The Parish Council would have another go at the police and ask about a traffic warden.

Mr B Winn felt that it was a sad thing that people had got used to parking cars with one wheel on the pavement.

Councillor Mrs Imeson said that the Parish Council had pressed for any highways money available to be spent at the dangerous junction at Tree Bridge rather than on traffic calming in the village but was informed that the money came from a different pot. Councillor Fletcher remarked that there would be an extra 25 signs between Skotta House Farm and the top of Newton Road.

Mr E Harrison was advised that the new lampposts on Low Green were to be moved into the correct place.

Mr B Winn was informed that the new lights were part of a 5 year programme to replace the lighting. In answer to his question he was told that the railings near the Whitbread Bridge were not the responsibility of NYCC who had renovated the bridge. Community Service would be painting the railings. He complimented the Parish Council on the colour of the railings which had been painted. Mr Winn reported that the road surface at the Tree Bridge junction was breaking up and was like ball bearings. With regard to the foot and mouth crisis he asked that the suggested re-opening of areas of the countryside be kept to a minimum.

Mrs de Wardt complained about the condition of the footpath on Waterfall Terrace and was advised by Councillor Fletcher that a programme of road and footpath works was in hand.

Mrs M Hopper thanked the Parish Council for all their hard work through the year. She particularly appreciated the fireworks.

Councillor Mrs Imeson thanked everyone for coming and said that it was County, District and Parish Councils who did the work, not the Government.

The meeting was then closed.