

## **Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting of Great Ayton Parish Council**

**held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2002 at 7.00 pm**

### **Business**

Presentation on planning matters by Mr M Cann, Hambleton District Council  
Minutes of the 2001 Public Meeting  
Matters arising from those minutes  
Councillors' attendance  
Council's report  
Any other business

### **Present**

Councillors J Fletcher, Chairman, Mrs M Stevens, Mrs J Imeson, L Groves, Mrs F Greenwell, R Kirk. Mr M Cann and 18 electors were also present.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor P Bell

### **Presentation on planning**

Mr Cann gave a very interesting presentation on planning procedures and the role played by the District Council in deciding applications. The Planning Department's decisions were not arbitrary but based on advice from Government. His talk was followed by a question and answer session.

Councillor Fletcher thanked Mr Cann for giving up his time to explain his department's work in such a lucid manner.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the last Annual Public Meeting on 28.3.01 were approved and signed.

### **Matters arising**

White lines Mr Eardley commented that the new white lines "had gone down the sink".

Footpath – Waterfall Terrace This had been resurfaced and fitted in well with the village scene.

Floods Landowners had been asked to look after the land. The Environment Agency had no plans for anything other than routine maintenance. Councillors expressed regret that volunteers who used to clear the river were no longer forthcoming.

Traffic calming Measures had been introduced despite objections by the Parish Council. The measures were generally disliked and the roundabout at the top of Newton Road was a cause for concern.

### **Councillors' attendance**

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

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

### **Council's report**

Councillor Fletcher thanked his fellow councillors for their hard work and commitment, and the clerk for keeping the Council on the "straight and narrow".

Traffic calming had been introduced and a number of "close shaves" had been reported at the mini roundabout near Hookstone Garage and at Skotta House corner.

The Parish Council had been greatly saddened by the death of Brian Helm the Cemetery Superintendent. Mr Howard Atkinson had been appointed in September 2001 to take up the position and was doing an excellent job.

Housing development in the village continued to concern the Council and the loss of another village business, AMR Motors, was regretted.

The village hall had been inspected by a surveyor and was felt to be beyond repair. Intense debate about the possibility of a new community centre/hall had been triggered. To date no conclusion had been reached.

Transfer of the Public Open Space was still awaited but the area was already being used by residents. The Parish Council had planted daffodils and arrangements would be made for the grass to be cut.

The play area continued to suffer from inappropriate behaviour by a minority of youths. Locking the gate in the evening appeared to reduce the incidence of nuisance and Councillor Mrs Stevens was thanked for taking a special interest.

The launch of the Community Investment Prospectus would, it was hoped, prompt residents to list the needs of the community. A cycle way between Great Ayton and Stokesley was one of the suggestions received. Councillor Mrs Imeson said a cycle path should be in place by 2004

Inadequate response from the new police call centre had resulted in many complaints. However, the Parish Council welcomed the regular attendance of a police representative at the monthly meetings.

The Father Christmas float had again been a great success, enhanced this year by the seasonal snow. Thanks were, as always, due to Peter Greenwell and his helpers.

The cemetery extension had been completed and the consecration ceremony carried out by the Bishop of Whitby.

A kissing gate had been installed between Suggitt's field and the cricket field and the footpath was being improved by NYCC.

The foot and mouth disease outbreak had inflicted lasting consequences on the countryside. The Parish Council played its part in the rural revival.

**Any other business**

Mr A Eardley complained about the tree in front of his house.

Mr B Winn reported that the edging stones on Waterfall Terrace were unstable and that a paving stone was still missing on the High Street where a lamppost had erroneously been erected. He also expressed concern about the sandstone wall up Newton Road and the "ball bearing" road surface at the Tree Brig junction. He was advised that Lady Fry's agent had inspected the wall and had found it to be satisfactory. He complained about silting below the stone bridge and was informed that the Environment Agency would only deal with it if it impeded the flow of the river.

Mr C Petch complimented HDC on the low rates. He was however disappointed with the additional policing costs and perceived compensation culture within the North Yorkshire force.

Mr Kirby felt that Hollygarth residents were forgotten in the winter. Councillor Mrs Imeson said that Broadacres would provide salt/grit but could not spread it. Volunteers were needed. Highways would not grit the road until it had been frozen for 72 hours.

Mr Winn said that the Hollygarth access was not good for electric buggies.

Mrs A Cossey complained about the condition of the trod. Bikes and old vacuum cleaners had been dumped there and residents were moving their fences and encroaching on the path. The clerk would contact Highways.

Mr Kirby commented on the lack of bus shelters. He was advised that the footpaths were not wide enough and that the Parish Council would have to pay for shelters.

Mrs D Bailey said that a duck cull was needed. Rats were encouraged by people feeding the ducks.

Councillor Fletcher thanked everyone for attending.

Mr Winn thanked the Council for their time.

The meeting was then closed.

