

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

**held in the Village Hall on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 at 7.00 pm**

### **Business**

Minutes of the 2002 Public Meeting  
Matters arising from those minutes  
Councillors' attendance  
Council's report  
Any other business

### **Present**

Councillors Mrs F Greenwell, Chairman, R Kirk, J Fletcher, Mrs J Imeson, L Groves, Mrs M Stevens. Twenty-three electors also attended.

Councillor Mrs Greenwell welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Councillors.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Bell

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the last Annual Public Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2002 were approved and signed.

### **Matters arising**

Floods Since the last Annual Public Meeting there had been several meetings of the Flood Forum in Northallerton, which included representatives from Hambleton District Council and the Environment Agency. A flood prevention scheme for Great Ayton had been planned by the Environment Agency.

Traffic calming The mini roundabout at the top of Newton Road was still causing concern during heavy traffic periods and several near misses had been recorded.

Village hall A structural surveyor had inspected the building and the report was not good. Significant repairs were required. Councillor Mrs Imeson had made a plea in "The Stream" asking what the village would like in the way of hall facilities but there had been zero response. A sub-committee had been formed to put together a brief for the hall and architects would be asked to submit schemes to refurbish or rebuild. Funding would be a big problem.

Public open space This had now been transferred to the Parish Council. It was hoped that the well-used paths would be adopted by North Yorkshire County Council and thus qualify for grant aid to resurface them.

Ball-bearing road surface at Tree Bridge This had been reported to NYCC and the police. It was a perennial problem. Mr B Winn said that the road surface could be improved at little cost as an interim measure.

### **Councillors' attendance**

At the thirteen meetings since the last Annual Public Meetins councillors' attendance was as follows:-

Councillors Mrs F Greenwell, Mrs M Stevens and Mrs J Imeson 13, Councillors J Fletcher, P Bell, R Kirk and

L Groves 12.

## **Council's report**

Many events had been organised by the Parish Council. In the previous year these had included the annual hosting of the Captain Cook birthday celebration lunch and boat race, and the Christmas tree, float and carol singing on High Green. Grateful thanks were due to Peter Greenwell and his helpers for their work with the Christmas festivities. The Queen's Golden Jubilee was celebrated in 2002 with the fete, a family picnic, commemorative china mugs for all primary school children in the village, a revue in the parochial hall, a concert in Christ Church, children's races, and a beacon at Captain Cook's monument. There was also a church service and a pensioners' lunch. In all, many people had put a great deal of effort into the celebrations.

A new policing policy was to be introduced. A sergeant and three constables would be assigned to Great Ayton. There would be a more visible police presence and it was intended that the policemen become better known by residents. The Parish Council was represented on the Hambleton Safety Community Partnership which also included representatives from HDC, the police and community education officers. They were concentrating their efforts on the Arcade initially and thinking of schemes to prevent nuisance. The police had asked for a year's trial of an alcohol-free zone on High Green. It was asked if this would not move the problem to Low Green but the Council thought not. The situation would be carefully monitored. Councillor Mrs Imeson said that everyone but Mowdens, the owners of the arcade, had been very co-operative.

Miss M Grainger asked if anything could be done to prevent the mess made on the pavement by people discarding chewing gum. It was said that this was a widespread problem. HDC had investigated the purchase of a special machine to remove it but this was very expensive.

The Pensioners Lunch Club had come to an end. Mrs and Mrs Featherstone who had provided this most valued service for many years had retired. The Parish Council was most grateful for all they had done.

The oldest resident, Mrs Winnie Carter, had died aged 100, and the Council also regretted the death of Mrs Annie Cossey who always attended this meeting and gave the Parish Council 'what for' – she would be sadly missed.

Thanks were due to Tom Featherstone and Anne Fletcher who kept the flower baskets and tubs looking so attractive.

Councillor Mrs Greenwell paid thanks also to Howard Atkinson, the Cemetery Superintendent, who kept the cemetery and village greens in such good order, to Louise Holden for her clerical work, and to her fellow councillors for all their hard work.

Councillor Fletcher reported that the Community Investment Prospectus, meetings of which representatives from the Parish Council had been attending for 2 years, had identified improvements which the public would like to see in their area. Funding was being sought from a variety of sources. A cycle path from Great Ayton to Stokesley should be available during 2004. The footpath from Stokesley to the Tontine was almost continuous and would make a good cycle way. The questionnaire, which had been distributed to all householders, had not resulted in identifying the needs of the village.

## **Any other business**

Mrs Trish Wright of Levenside raised the matter of the A173 being used by bulk carriers and articulated lorries. Homes were being damaged by the shaking caused by these trucks and traffic calming did not slow them down. Councillor Fletcher said that the police believed that the traffic calming had worked. The Council had asked NYCC to look again at the signposting at Stokesley roundabout which was not as good as it should be. NYCC had also agreed to carry out a survey of vehicles using the road. The A173, however, was an "A" road and was also a shorter route for lorries. The Road Haulage Association had a preferred route but this code was voluntary. Mr Peter Greenwell said that the RHA preferred route went through Great Ayton. Mr C Petch said that the road was well signed at the Guisborough end and the route was only half a mile longer than through Great Ayton. Councillor Mrs Stevens said that local hauliers had all been asked to go via Swans corner and the majority did so. However, strangers to the area would look at the map and see that the A173 was the main road to Boulby. Mr B Winn suggested that a sign warning of a difficult bridge might have some impact. Councillor Mrs Imeson suggested that all concerned residents should write individually to NYCC with their views. Mrs J

Swabey asked if a weight restriction could be imposed and was advised that this had been requested. It was agreed that the Parish Council would do all it could to have the matter improved.

Mrs M Mawston asked for reassurance that the village hall would not suddenly be closed. This was given. Councillor Kirk said support from the village would be needed in order to get grants. The view was expressed that the hall was part of the heritage of the village and it would be a pity lose it.

Mr Blackmore asked if the Council had a view on “rat runs” in urban areas. He claimed that people raced past his house in Race Terrace. Councillor Mrs Imeson expressed the view that the village had not been designed for so many car and some roads were incapable of being improved.

Mr B Winn complimented Howard Atkinson for his cutting of the grass on High Green. He complained that NYCC were lax in controlling the spread of ragwort which was a noxious weed. Councillor Fletcher reported that an audit of highways verges had been undertaken and notifiable weeds formed part of it.

Mrs C Ward was disgusted by the dog mess in Cleveland park. She had been promised a dog bin but this had not materialised. The street cleaner could be given a key to the park to empty a dog waste bin should one be provided. There was also a great deal of rubbish in the shelter belt. Councillor Mrs Imeson said she would try to sort the problems out.

Mr C Petch put forward the view that the police should manage the traffic when there was a funeral at Christ Church.

Mr H Petch asked if the shuttering boards and other equipment at the cemetery could be stored out of sight. He also said that the heaped-up surplus soil looked unsightly. Councillor Mrs Stevens said that Mr Atkinson was building up the rose beds with the soil and working through the cemetery tidying it up.

Mr C Petch understood that there was a statutory requirement for developers to provide 15% low cost housing. Councillor Mrs Imeson explained that this had come in only a year ago and that Wimpey had provided the public open space instead. The requirement only applied to developments of over 40 dwellings.

Mrs J Swabey suggested that the hedge in the play area abutting the footpath be lowered from 7 feet to 3 or 4 feet so that people could look in and prevent bullying or worse. She was advised that the Council had also wanted this but the residents whose houses backed on to the path and play area preferred it to be high for reasons of privacy. Councillor Mrs Stevens said that the area was locked each night and there was little trouble at present. The majority of children were using the equipment correctly. Mrs Swabey said that it looked very good.

Mr B Winn said that the Parish Council’s time was highly valued and thanked the Councillors for putting in so much time and effort.

The meeting was then closed.