

Minutes of the Annual Public Meeting of Great Ayton Parish Council

Held in the Friends' Meeting House on Tuesday 13th April 2010 at 7.00 pm

Business

1. Chairman's Welcome and Report
2. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes and Guests Speakers
4. Councillors' Attendance
5. Any other business

Present

Cllr. Mrs. F. Greenwell, Chairman, R. Kirk, Mrs J. Imeson, J. Fletcher, N. Waters, G. Readman and D. Conroy. John Proud and Sgt. Nick Walther (Guest Speakers), 13 Electors and 2 Members of the Public.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Conroy and Mr P Greenwell

1.0 Chairman's Welcome and Report

Cllr. Mrs. Greenwell welcomed those present to the Annual Public Meeting; and introduced John Proud, Street Scene Manager of Hambleton District Council (HDC) and Sgt. Nick Walther of the Stokesley Safer Neighbourhood Team, North Yorkshire Police. She also introduced Judy Cumbor, the new Parish Clerk, who had taken over from Louise Holden who had left in September 2009 after 12 years of service, Louise had done a marvellous job and Judy was continuing in the same manner. The Cllrs. introduced themselves to the Public. Thanks were extended to Howard Atkinson and Paul Suggitt. Howard is the Superintendent for the Cemetery, and also looks after the Allotments and Village Greens; Paul carries out the River Warden duties and provides support with odd jobs around the Village. The Parish Council is grateful to both Howard and Paul for keeping Great Ayton looking as nice as it does.

Peter Greenwell and his helpers, all of whom give their time freely, were also thanked for their continued support and efforts with the Christmas Events. The Parish Council is grateful to them as without their help these joyous occasions would not happen.

The Parish Council have agreed to arrange for a "Memory Wall" to be erected in the Cemetery. The purpose is for plaques to be affixed for people who are not buried in the Village, but have a connection with it. The idea had been proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Imeson who can be contacted for further information.

2.0 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 25th March, 2009 were approved and signed.

3.0 Matters arising

3.1. Flood Water Storage at the Riverside

Cllrs. Fletcher reported that at on the occasions the River is high gravel shoals are left in areas around Hollygarth and the Low Bridge resulting in the Parish Council having to ask the Environmental Agency (EA) to remove the shoals. Discussions have been held and a plan is being devised to store the excess water at peak times further up stream to alleviate flooding downstream. Cllr. Waters explained that this would be at the Riverside using either a pipe system or Irish bridge. This would allow the excess water in the river to flow into the field area of the Riverside and as the river height reduces this will flow back into the river. Mr. Brook, an Elector, commented that an inlet was a start, self drainage may happen naturally. The EA have said they could not justify investment in the project as the flooding level in the Village is only 1 to 2 inches. The Parish Council will look to finance the work themselves, as they feel that 1 to 2 inches is a lot to a householder. The EA have requested that a clay bunding wall be erected where presently a fence exists in the location.

3.2. Flood issues Roseberry Crescent

Cllr. Fletcher explained that in times of flooding the excess water runs off the fields above Roseberry Crescent and surcharges the drains, this then causes flooding both at the top and bottom of the Crescent, but especially the bungalows and flats at the bottom. The Parish Council have been made aware that Northumbrian Water want to put in a storage solution but have not as yet been consulted and are looking forward to learning more in due course.

3.3. Village Hall

Cllr. Kirk reported that there was a lot of activity taking place at the moment. The rear of the Hall was the major problem, structural work had started almost totally rebuilding the area and replacing the kitchen, toilets and storage areas. Other work would follow. It was noted that the false ceiling in the Hall had been removed exposing the original timber walls from the Halls days as the Wesleyan Church; these were presently dirty and dusty. The Hall will be ready in due course and used by various groups, including young people and the Drama Group.

3.4. Cycle Pathway

Cllr. Kirk reported that in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Safety with HDC he had been part of a Group looking at cycle routes and tracks in the area. The plan was at draft stage and was looking to combine walkways and cycleways where possible. Locally this would include:-

- A172 Ingleby Cross to Stokesley
- Stokesley to Great Ayton
- Stokesley to Tree Bridge
- Great Ayton to Tree Bridge

It was envisaged that the Stokesley to Great Ayton route would follow the existing footpath which follows the river. The implementation was subject to project funding which would need to be fought for due to a shortage. Ms Roberts asked if land needed to be purchased, Cllr. Kirk confirmed that some may need to be bought.

3.5. Dog Fouling and Dogs on Leads

Cllr. Mrs. Greenwell stated that this subject was raised at nearly every Council Meeting and reported often in the local press.

The Electors present had lots of comments and questions for the Councillors, the major issues seemed to be in relation to some dog owners not picking up and if challenged giving abuse back. The main areas impacted were reported as the Low Green, the whole of the High

Street in particular Newton Road, Romany Road, Frankfield Place, the football fields and the alley near The Newton Rose Public House; it was also stated that this was mainly happening early in the morning, before people went to work, and evening times.. It was mentioned that some people were picking up and then dropping the bags as litter.

Mr. Hamer, Chairman of the Junior Football Club, reported that there was a big problem with dogs and dog fouling in the football fields. During a week about 6 to 7 visiting teams play at Great Ayton, they all think the Village is a lovely place and are envious. The local Football Club have to pick up dog dirt before every game. There was also an issue with dogs not on leads running over the pitches and scaring the children during matches. Mr. Hamer sought the Parish Council's assistance with erecting fencing around the pitches and putting up signs. Cllr. Waters proposed that this matter was added to the Agenda of the Parish Council Meeting on 20th April 2010 and discussed in detail then, Mr. Hamer was invited to attend. Cllr. Mrs. Greenwell introduced John Proud who told the Meeting that at the recent Keep Britain Tidy Conference the issue of dog fouling was an issue nationally, although Great Ayton was the worst area in Hambleton District. A new campaign had been started in the area and he handed out hard hitting posters to be put up around the Village. He challenged the public to take notice and forward to him any information, including photos of the dog and person, where the foul was not picked up, so he could take action. If only a name, time and date could be provided this could be followed up with a home visit. Where possible fixed penalty notices would be issued.

It was noted that Council policy does not allow naming and shaming where a person has discharged their liability by paying a fixed penalty ticket. If an offender elects to appear at the Magistrates Court then the media could report this.

Mr Proud went on to say that HDC's resources were stretched for the District with only one dog warden for stray dogs, and two others (working together) who could issue tickets in relation to dog fouling; hence the reason information from the public was encouraged. HDC are working with North Yorkshire Police to issue fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and litter; Sgt. Walther confirmed this was in place and the Police would welcome information. Some of the Electors put forward suggestions, such as, good dog walkers assist by looking after the areas, volunteer/s who are prepared to help pick up the dirt and dispose of it, writing letters to dog owners, Police and/or Dog Warden visiting at the known key times the fouling takes place. Sgt. Walther advised that the Problem Solving Group (PSG) for Great Ayton was addressing the issues and trying to find solutions. John Proud confirmed that the education and poster competition in Great Ayton schools would commence soon.

Cllr. Mrs. Greenwell confirmed that the Parish Council were arranging for the gate on the Play Area to self close to prevent loose dogs entering this area.

Sgt. Walther and John Proud confirmed that the law in relation to dogs on leads could only be enforced if the dog was not under control. If a picture could be taken showing a dog was not under control this could be used to enforce the dog to be kept on a lead.

3.6. Anti Social Behaviour

Sgt. Walther said that last year funding had been received to help tackle anti social behaviour which resulted with a dispersal order for Great Ayton. The Police are trying to obtain further funding this year to help tackle crime coming through Great Ayton from other areas.

The Parish Council, Broadacres and other groups had worked with the Police this had been successful, seeing the number of incidents drop significantly from 292 to small numbers. Shops had also been helpful in helping reduce incidents on mischief night, 50 were reported in 2008, and only 4 in 2009.

During the rest of the year other operations were put in place, including automatic number plate recognition (ANPR), allowing the Dog Section to patrol streets, and the set up of the

Road Policing Group which increased Police visibility in the area and helped catch criminals and reduce crime.

Sgt. Walther confirmed that the Police believed community based projects helped improve matters with youths. He confirmed that the Police would be happy to assist in a partnership for a youth club at the Methodist Hall although they would not be able to run this, but would come drop into sessions from time to time.

4.0 Councillors' attendance

There had only been twelve Parish Council Meetings since the last Annual Parish Meeting, this was due to an early Meeting in January being cancelled due to bad weather and illnesses. Out of twelve meetings attendance was as follows:- Cllr. Mrs. Greenwell 12, Cllr. Kirk 11, Cllr. Mrs. Imeson 9, Cllr. Fletcher 10, Cllr. Waters 8, Cllr. Readman 10 and Cllr. Conroy 12.

5.0 Any other business

5.1. Parking Roseberry School

Mr. Vernon reported that people were regularly parking on the demarcation areas outside of Roseberry School. Sgt. Walther asked if pictures, number plates, names could be provided to the Police so that they could follow up. He also said this applies to those who parked on the pavements, which is considered an offence where it causes obstruction, they too could be prosecuted. He confirmed that on the occasions the Police visit the area drivers tend not to park illegally.

5.2. Public Footpaths

Mrs. Duffey asked who was responsible for the pathways and the cutting back of hedges. The Councillors confirmed that this was NYCC, these issues should be reported to them and they would be resolved.

5.3. Speeding

Mr. Winterschladen reported that the areas near the Low Bridge were of great concern to pedestrians due to the speed of the traffic in the location. Cllr. Fletcher advised that the Parish Council were trying to take actions, a speed matrix had been deployed on Stokesley Road and Newton Road (near Roseberry Crescent), full results and recommendations were awaited from the Road Safety Group. Sgt. Walther explained that a new process was now in place. This consisted of complaints and requests for speed boxes being made to the Police and the Parish Council; the Police would determine if a real issue existed and complete a form for the deployment of a speed matrix box which the Parish Council would need to support.

Ms. Roberts asked if the speed limit on Stokesley Road near the Low Green could be reduced to 20 mph, Mr. Winterschladen asked if traffic calming measures could be set up on Newton Road and Ms. Jackson reported that some people don't stop at the mini roundabout on Newton Road. Cllr. Fletcher said that A roads cannot be set at 20 mph and Sgt. Walther stated that NYCC Highways deal with reduced speed limits and traffic calming, with support from the Police and Parish Council.

5.4. Slippery Road Signs

Ms. Roberts asked if pressure could be brought to bear concerning the Slippery Road signs, could these be removed.

5.5. Gas Works and Road Closures

Ms. Roberts and Ms. Rudd complained about the Gas Works near the Low Bridge. There was concern at the length of time the works would take to be completed, the impact to businesses, the mess involved, cars parking all over and the length of time the High Street would be closed to the Public. Cllr. Mrs. Greenwell stated that everyone impacted had the sympathy of the Parish Council, but the Utilities had a right to carry out the gas works. She asked what it was they wanted the Parish Council to do; the response was they just wanted them to get on with the work. The Parish Council confirmed that they had made representations to have the work completed effectively and quickly. Discussions had taken place with Balfour Beatty who would be closing the High Street to carry out exploratory work on Sunday 25th April followed by actual work from Monday 26th April; the road closure would state 3 weeks, the normal length of time issued by Highways, but Balfour Beatty were committing to the High Street work taking 5 days although trying to complete in 3.

Cllr. Mrs. Greenwell thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.