

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, Great Ayton Parish Council

Held in the Friends' Meeting House on Tuesday 17th April 2012 at 7.00 pm

Business

1. Chairman's Welcome and Report
2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Councillors' Attendance
5. Guest Speakers – Community Emergency Plan
6. Public Questions
7. Any Other Business

Present

Cllr R Kirk - Chairman, Cllr Mrs J Brown, Cllr J Fletcher, Cllr Mrs F Greenwell, Cllr R Judson, Cllr S Jackson and Cllr G Readman.

County Councillor Mrs H Moorhouse, Clerk to the Parish Council – Mrs J Leng.

Guest Speakers – Mr B Carrick and Ms S McCrea (Environment Agency), Mr M Robinson (Emergency Planning Officer NYCC) and Mr M Davies (Emergency Planning Officer, North Yorkshire Police).

12 Electors and Ms B Dumphy (Darlington & Stockton Reporter).

1. Chairman's Welcome and Report

Cllr Kirk welcomed people to the Meeting and advised that they would be given the opportunity to speak later in the Meeting.

Cllr Kirk provided a review of activities the Parish Council had been involved in over the previous year, including:

- The Public Conveniences were now under the management of the Parish Council.
- The Christmas Carols on the High Green and Santa tour had once again been well received and thanks were passed to Mr Greenwell and his team for the erection of the Christmas Tree.
- The Environment Agency Property Protection Scheme was successfully completed.
- Successful appointment of an Apprentice to work alongside the Cemetery Superintendent.
- Thanks to Mr Atkinson and Mr Hamer for their excellent work in keeping the village tidy and especially the improvements they had recently made in the Cemetery.
- The issue of dog fouling remains a concern, but is down to a few individuals, the Parish Council would continue to target those responsible and would look to new initiatives to encourage people to pick up.
- A number of varied planning applications had been dealt with across the course of the year.
- Thank you and presentation to Judy Cumbor for her services as Parish Clerk.
- Library – village support lead to an increase in precept to raise £30k to enable the library to remain open but under the new ethos of the Great Ayton Discovery Centre.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 14th April 2011 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Councillors' Attendance

Thirteen regular Parish Council Meetings had been held since the last Annual Parish Meeting and five other Meetings. Attendance was as follows:- Cllr. Kirk 13 +5, Cllr. Mrs. Greenwell 13 + 4, Cllr. Fletcher 8 + 4, Cllr. Readman 12 + 3, Cllr Hudson 10 + 5, Cllr Mrs Brown 10 + 4 and Cllr. Jackson 12 + 4.

5. Guest Speakers

Environment Agency (EA) and Emergency Planning

The Guest Speakers updated those present on the work that had been undertaken in the village in relation to the protection of properties from flood and the continuing work that is taking place to try and stem the risk of major flooding. Joint working between the EA and the Parish Council had meant that the scheme was successfully completed and thanks were passed to all involved.

The team promoted the development of a local Community Resilience Scheme and provided guidance documentation and offers of assistance on how to develop such a scheme. As had been proven with the Property Protection Scheme and Flood Defence Scheme, local knowledge is a vital component when dealing with local emergencies. It was recommended that if the Parish Council did feel that it was a good idea to have such a plan in place that a working group of approximately 6 people should be established to develop. If a plan is completed funding of up to £100 would be provided for the establishment of an emergency box.

Action – The Parish Council to consider the development of a Community Resilience Scheme at a future meeting.

6. Public Questions

Mrs Imeson – asked that the Parish Council consider allowing burials from Newton to take place in Great Ayton in line with the decision recently taken in relation to Easby. Newton is in the Diocese of Great Ayton.

Action – Item to be placed on the Agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.

In view of the short amount of time left until the Cemetery would be at capacity a request was made for consideration to be given to the erection of a wall with secure niches to hold urns – this may encourage people to have a cremation rather than burial. Cllr Jackson advised that it was only the current section that had 5 years remaining but that the land up to Yatton House was also earmarked for the Cemetery subject to consecration of the ground.

Action – Item to be placed on the Agenda of the next Parish Council meeting.

Mrs Taylor stated that the current play area was not in a suitable location and that it should be more central to the village and local amenities so that it can be utilised by visitors as well. Cllr Kirk informed the meeting that the Play Area was currently under review by a team of volunteers and Cllr Mrs Brown.

7. Any Other Business

There was no additional business.

Cllr. Kirk thanked everyone for attending and declared the Meeting closed.