

WHORLTON PARISH

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT SWAINBY VILLAGE HALL, SWAINBY **ON MONDAY 20th MAY 2019 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT: 17 Members of public were present Dolly Hannon (Chair), Steve Brisley, Howard Tribick, Alistair Wright and Jenny Tribick.

ALSO PRESENT: Clerk: Angela Livingstone and Councillor David Hugill

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –Ms Cash, Mr Kerr and Mr and Mrs Gregory.

2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th MAY 2018

The Chair questioned if all present agreed the minutes of the 16th May 2018 these were available on the website, she urged residents to use the website. The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Chair stressed that this was a village residents meeting and there had been a request for any residents to address the meeting, she gave her report as follows:

- 3.1 Reviewing the Council's report for last year, I'm pleased to advise that we have met all the objectives we set. We are now fully compliant with Data Protection legislation; we undertake an Annual Tree Survey to assess and monitor public risk from trees on our public spaces; the last of the old fencing has been replaced with the installation of bollards beside Maynard's Bridge and Miller's Bridge picnic area; we have installed the first Number Plate Recognition system at the village hall; we have made representations on our priorities regarding development of the school site and, finally, we have been successful in securing a grant towards refurbishment of the toilets.

Financial matters

With careful budgeting over the last few years we purchased the oak timber for the fencing works at a total cost of £7,000 and built up further reserves in order to be able to pay for installation along the top of the High Street where professional skills and traffic management would be required. Through negotiation with the County Council, their contractors completed this task at no further cost to the Parish so we have significant surplus funds available which we will use towards refurbishment of the toilets and to pay election costs. Consequently, I am pleased to report that there will be no increase in your precept for the coming year.

Thankfully we have also overcome our accounting difficulties of last year caused by the absence of a resident Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) when he moved to France leaving us for 3 months without access to necessary paperwork – invoices, VAT returns – to submit accounts on time. Our new Clerk/RFO, Angela, was recruited in April and, as she was not involved with the Council in any capacity during the previous financial year and has the appropriate professional qualifications, she undertook the internal audit for us to be able to submit a financial statement in June which was finally approved by external audit. We recognised that this was not good practice as minuted in the June meeting. I'm pleased to report that we have now recruited a competent and independent resident to undertake this year's internal audit.

Ongoing projects

Clain Wood footpaths. As reported last year, the Council could not ignore over 70 statements sent to us from walkers, runners, riders and cyclists who approached the Council for help in restoring access to paths that were gradually being closed off. Given the relatively large numbers, we resolved to co-ordinate their submissions and support their application to the County Council who are the proper

authority to assess their claim. Their application is now being processed but will still take a year or more before it is determined. Whilst it is unfortunate this action appears to have further antagonised the keepers who challenge users more relentlessly, erosion of public access needs to be investigated independently for the benefit of future users in perpetuity. Whether the users' application is successful or not, what matters to the Parish Council is that we did not miss a last opportunity for the matter to be properly investigated as this procedure is only available until 2026. It would have been a shame if the Council stood idly by whilst access which has been enjoyed for generations was lost. After this date, no further claims can be submitted and routes can be closed without challenge. Access to the open moors above the woods is not affected as this is already accessible through separate 'right to roam' legislation.

On a separate issue, the Council has also been working with the National Park to restore the **U-road from Whorlton to Faceby** which has been closed by the County Council for safety reasons. This work is on-going as the season and Ranger support allows.

School site. With the support of Cllr David Hugill, the Parish Council continues to negotiate with National Park officers and the County Council regarding development of this site. The planning authority have advised they will not support private housing on the site. We have secured a Tree Preservation Order on the large willow and asked for public involvement when plans are formulated and have requested that, if possible, these should include space for a public car park. The matter is currently with the County Council as the landowners and subject to commercial negotiations.

Public toilets. We have been awarded a grant from Hambleton Council towards renovation of the toilets. Our grateful thanks to Mick Hannon who put together the successful bid, securing £2,500 towards the estimated cost of £5,300 for the works. This will be our main project over the summer with repair of the drainage, installation of new appliances and lighting. Cllr Tribick has kindly offered the labour as our 'contribution in kind' towards match-funding the grant and the Council will contribute remaining outstanding cash for appliances and electrical costs.

The donation box we installed earlier in the year took around £5 weekly over the winter but this seems to be increasing to nearer £7 with increase in use as summer comes in. This money goes towards the upkeep. Continuing thanks to Jem Beadle who has somehow managed to keep the toilets clean and functioning through very difficult circumstances.

Other matters.

In the course of the year, the Council has dealt with a range of other matters ranging from rats on the riverbank to dog bins and memorial benches, as well as responding to consultations on planning applications and the draft Local Plan. Traffic, speed and parking continue to frustrate residents and we are pursuing all avenues with the Highway Authority. Most recent concern is parking on Black Horse Lane due to the success of the Rusty Bike cycle cafe. We have instigated discussions between the owner and County Council in the hope of securing a larger car park to the rear which should help to resolve the matter. In the meantime, if you are visiting please consider whether you really need to park on Black Horse Lane or could you walk a little way to reach it? Traffic speed on the Heathwaite road through Scugdale, on Shepherd Hill and on the A172 as it passes by the village have also recently been raised as matters for future discussion.

All this work is only possible through a huge team effort with councillors, employees and volunteers all pulling together to make it happen so my personal thanks to all of them.

- 3.2 A resident questioned the annual tree survey and asked if this was available for residents to see. The Chair advised that it was on the website and asked for any specific concerns to be advised.
- 3.3 A resident questioned the DMMOs on the rights of way, the Chair clarified which paths were involved on the Cleveland Way.
- 3.4 A resident questioned plans for the school site. The Chair advised that whilst the County Council may wish to sell to the highest bidder, the National Park planning policy want only affordable housing.

Residents questioned if other sites were looked at and the Chair informed of the meetings the previous year where the Swainby site had been found to be the preference, as the school site was brownfield in a village the other sites explored were greenfield. Amanda Madden the rural housing enabler was progressing. Cllr Hugill informed that the worst case scenario was that the County Council would sell to the highest bidder for more expensive homes, this would then be rejected by the National Parks, he advised it was a slow process. He informed that residents would be consulted.

- 3.5 A resident queried recent details in the press stating that National Parks had a new policy for no more caravans in the National Parks. Cllr Hugill agreed that the National Parks did not like caravans, they preferred wooden lodges. There was still a need for more tourists in the National Parks, there was no policy decision, this would go to consultation.

Two further residents entered the meeting.

- 3.6 Additional parking was queried, the Chair informed that the Parish Council had asked for additional spaces to be made available at the School Site. She advised that the Parish Council were supporting additional parking at the Rusty Bike and hoped that the County Council would release land for parking allocation.

One further resident entered the meeting.

4. ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING

- 4.1 Dr Dunn had requested this agenda item and addressed residents. She informed that she had spoken with the Parish Planning group regarding the details and advised that she had identified the Black Horse Pub car park as being underused and the landlady informed that the brewery had agreed that there would be space for electric car charging on the site. She informed that she had contacted (OLEV) Office of Low Emission Vehicles and the Energy Savings Trust. There were pots of money available to provide facilities with up to 70% of the costs available. Dr Dunn advised she had spoken to the local councils and was as yet uncertain of the exact sizes of the units, but believed that planning permission was not required. Different types were available.
- 4.2 A resident questioned if there would be a cost to use the electric point. Dr Dunn informed that she would need to research further if there was interest. Cllr J Tribick informed that the question was asked on the Parish plan questionnaire. The Chair stated the need to demonstrate need and firmer questions should be included to find who would be interested. She added that the backing of the Parish Council would be of use for this project and some funding for this may be possible if added as part of the precept.
- 4.3 Cllr Hugill informed that the National Parks opinion on the green aspect of electric charging was that it depended where the electricity came from to charge the vehicle as to how green the energy was. He questioned if there were any plans to produce energy from solar panels, he stated that it would be ideal if the energy could be sourced in the village.

Cllr Wright entered the meeting.

- 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS** There were no items of any other business.
The Parish Assembly ended at 7.35 pm.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING The next Parish Assembly is currently timetabled for 20th May 2020, this may change due to availability.

Adopted: _____ Date: _____

Chair of Whorlton Parish Council