

MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR LAVERTON PARISH (INCLUDING DALLOWGILL) HELD IN GREYGARTH CHAPEL SCHOOL-ROOM, DALLOWGILL ON MONDAY MARCH 25 AT 7PM.

The meeting was chaired by the Parish Council Chairman, Howard Mountain with minutes taken by the Parish Council Clerk, Jen Hurford. 23 members of the public were present.

1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly explaining the nature of the Annual Parish Meeting, stressing that it was not a Parish Council meeting, but effectively a 'residents meeting' and only involved the Parish Council Chair and Clerk, as they were best placed within the community, to arrange it. Since the Councils were grouped in 1975 it appeared that there had always been a joint meeting with Kirkby Malzeard, but technically the Parish Meetings should be separate and this would be the procedure from now on. Geoff Loble, the other Laverton Parish Councillor was present in his capacity as a resident, and was therefore seated in the public area. Only people on the Electoral Register for Laverton Parish could partake in the meeting, although others could attend.

2. Reports from Local Organisations

The opportunity was given for local organisations to report on their activities during the last year, outline their plans for the coming year and to promote themselves in order to develop membership. A handout of written statements was circulated including reports from the Discover Dallowgill History Project, Greygarth Methodist Chapel, The Chapel of the Resurrection, and the joint Parish Council. A statement from a Laverton resident, about work carried out during the year to the Laverton Pinfold was provided on the night and this together with the reports are included in the Appendix to these Minutes.

3. Discussion of items relevant to the Parish:

a) Future of St Peter's Church and Old School, Dallowgill;

It was noted that the redundant St Peter's Church is currently on the market, being offered for community use only, and it was understood there have been expressions of interest. One proposed use was as a retreat for visitors, with ancillary uses such as a café/meeting hall open to the public. Generally, the meeting was supportive of this use as residents were keen for the building to be occupied again, in order to prevent further deterioration of the structure.

The Chair was able to confirm that Delta Academies Trust of Wakefield had indicated to the Council that they wished to re-open the Old School as an outdoor centre for children if ownership queries could be resolved, and a resident, employed by the Trust, advised that the process was on-going. Another resident expressed a hope that the building would be used again soon and had previously

written to the Planning Enforcement Department to try and bring about action to prevent the building deteriorating further. It was agreed that the amount of financial outlay required may be relatively high but it was hoped that the re-opening would happen in the foreseeable future.

b) Matters which residents wish to see considered within the forthcoming Neighbourhood Plan;

The Chair advised that the community would be fully consulted on the Plan in due course but asked if anyone had any initial views on what issues should be covered. A resident questioned the value of the plan considering the amount of work likely to be involved but it was explained that anything which might give the community more influence over Planning matters was worth pursuing. It was agreed that services within the Parish have declined over the years and that this should be halted, as the area could be fully sustainable if the infrastructure was improved. Another resident advised that improvement of the broadband speed was essential and another asked for land management and natural resource works to be tied in with planning approval, in order that local knowledge of the land could be made use of. The need for local employment was also discussed together with the importance of supporting tourism. It was also suggested that ecosystems needed to be considered and a resident offered to share his expertise on this within the Plan. The Chair explained that a Steering Group was being formed and a Parish Council Drop-In Session was being held in April covering the Neighbourhood Plan to which everyone was welcomed.

c) Other items raised by residents on the evening;

It was highlighted by a resident that in 2026 the Definitive Public Foot-path Map was being permanently finalised, and another resident advised that some paths were originally only 'occupational' and were never intended for public use. This led to a discussion about the condition of paths in the Parish and the Clerk confirmed that any problems with paths could be reported to the Parish Council for referral to NYCC Footpaths Department.

The Chair asked if residents had any suggestions for a community project. A Laverton resident indicated that the Primary School in Kirkby Malzeard were undertaking a project to reduce plastic use, with which the community could be involved and she will report back to the Chair on this. Problems being caused by loose plastic from kerbside recycling in windy conditions was echoed by a number of people and an alternative of wheelie bins was suggested. A resident also offered to research broadband issues and will also report back. A resident advised of the importance of maintaining the local bus services and asked that residents support this by using the buses. Plans for a defibrillator at Greygarth Chapel were referred to and it was confirmed that a training session would be held once it was in place, but at this stage obtaining funding was the issue. Some local highways and traffic issues were raised and it was confirmed that these would be covered at the Drop-In Session. The Parish Council website would be used to update residents on points from this meeting.

4. Close of Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.50pm.

Appendix:

1. Report on Laverton Pinfold.

'Our local focal point, with historical value, is now a tidy and attractive place for people to sit and listen to the river, have some lunch and watch the world go by. The refurbishment last year was prompted by the need to spend a modest 'commuted sum' which was used to fund some of the paving materials used. The labour and other materials used, mostly for the restoration of the bench, were funded by local people.

The planting is mostly established perennials with small additional items to add colour in the summer. The break in the Pinfold wall, caused by inconsiderate driving of a contractor's vehicle, doesn't appear to be a cause of concern but would probably better be repaired. The bench at the bus-stop also needs attention to improve its appearance and condition.'

2. Statements from local organisations.

Discover Dallowgill History Project

The group had 6 meetings in 2018 where the information we have been collecting was available for people to look through. The meetings are a great opportunity for people to chat about memories and compare notes about people and places. Some of the highlights of 2018 included a talk by Shirley Everett about Greenhow and the mining industry up there, followed by a visit down Gillfield Mine, and a chance to look at the historical maps held by the Parish Council. Ongoing projects are, continuing to populate the growing Dallowgill website – www.dallowgill.org.uk, creating indexes of people and places for Lilian Chandler's excellent Dallowgill and Laverton books, and a small group are re-mapping the historical landscape features in the area. We are looking into arranging some talks about Fortress Dike, a large earthwork near Tom Corner, and the architectural vernacular in the area. The group meet at 3pm in Greygarth Methodist Chapel on the 2nd Sunday of most months (confirmed dates are listed in local news in the paper and on the Kirkby Malzeard Area Guide website). There is always work going on behind the scenes and if you find or hear anything interesting, we would love to hear from you anytime.

Contact - Patrice Lyth: patrice.lyth@virgin.net

GREYGARTH METHODIST CHAPEL

The Chapel holds Services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, being part of the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit. During the year various events are held to raise Chapel funds including the Dallowgill Spring Walk, taking place this year on April 27, a Concert and Supper in May, Chapel Anniversary and Supper in June, Harvest Festival, incorporating Sale and Supper, in October, with a Carol Service at Xmas, which raises money for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

CHAPEL OF THE RESURRECTION

Following the closure of St Peter's, this is the sole Church of England place of Worship in the Parish and also provides the Parish cemetery. Services are held once a month from April to October, starting with the Easter Sunday morning Sunrise Service for the Benefice, and with a Carol Service at Xmas. The Dallowgill Spring Walk also provides funding towards maintaining the cemetery.

Contact for both Chapels – Geoff Lobley: 658664

KIRKBY MALZEARD, LAVERTON AND DALLOWGILL PARISH COUNCIL

Over the last 12 months the Council has carried out the following in this Parish:

- Provided consultative opinions on seven planning applications.
- Reported nine separate matters, including potholes, blocked gullies, defective signs etc to NYCC Highways Department, the majority of which have subsequently been rectified.
- Renewed the defective stile to Greygarth Monument.
- Undertaken regular inspections of Greygarth Monument and Common land at Laverton Quarry and arranged for tree maintenance work as necessary.
- Successfully persuaded BT to repaint the telephone box in Laverton.
- Issued Scam Awareness leaflets to Laverton village properties.
- Funded verge cutting in Laverton Village and to the Missies Lane junction visibility splay.
- Liaised with the Diocese and a prospective purchaser about the sale of St Peter's Church, and with Delta Academies Trust about the re-opening of the Old School in Dallowgill.
- Arranged funding for the refurbishment of Laverton Pinfold.

On-going work in this Parish includes:

- Provision of Defibrillator in Dallowgill, once grant funding can be sourced.

- Remedial work by the Highways Department to resolve the flooding issue to the North of Laverton.
- Provision of 30mph speed limit and improved road signage in Laverton.
- Work on the Neighbourhood Plan which will give the community more influence on Planning Issues in the Parish when complete.

Contact: Howard Mountain: kmlrpc@btinternet.com or Geoff Lobleby – 658664.

Dated 10.04.2019

PARISH CLERK Jen Hurford, Holmes Cottage, High Walk, Kirkby Malzeard HG4 3RY (Postal enquiries only)

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Agendas, along with General Privacy Notice, also available on the Parish Council website www.kmlrpc.btck.co.uk

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