

Tanfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

DATE: Monday 13th May 2013
TIME: 19.40 hrs
LOCATION: West Tanfield Memorial Hall
PRESENT: Parish Councillors David Parkinson (Chairman), Peter Hull (Vice-Chairman) and Steven Houston and Chris Pennock.
S.G. Bennett (West Tanfield Tour de France)
Richard and Gillian Bourne-Arton
Douglas Greensit (West Tanfield Chapel)
Robin Mitchell (Chairman, West Tanfield Tennis Club)
B.Raw (West Tanfield Flower Club)
P.C. Julian Sutcliffe
Bob Trewhitt (West Tanfield Memorial Hall)
County Councillor John Weighell
IN ATTENDANCE: Iona Taylor (Clerk to the Parish Council)

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillor David Parkinson welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Christopher Bourne-Arton and District Councillor David Webster.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2012 were agreed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING – none.

5. REPORT ON TANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS DURING 2012/13

The following report was received:

Councillors

David Parkinson has served as a Councillor and Chairman of the Parish Council throughout the year.

Peter Hull has served as a Councillor since July 2012 and as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council since October 2012.

Steven Houston has served as a Councillor since July 2012.

Chris Pennock has served as a Councillor since December 2012.

Richard Middleton served as a Councillor until June 2012.

Derek Padgett served as a Councillor from May 2012 until July 2012.

Jim Beadle served as a Councillor until March 2013.

There is currently one vacancy on the Parish Council, to serve the West Tanfield ward.

Meetings

9 meetings have been held since the 2012 annual meetings.

4 of these were 'ordinary' meetings when a full agenda of business was considered.

The other 5 meetings were to consider planning applications and other urgent items of business.

Planning and Development

- 9 planning applications have been considered during the past year.
- Proposals have ranged from alterations and extensions to properties, construction of lean-to shelters, new fences, developments at St. Nicholas C of E Primary School to holiday and business units.
- The Parish Council has continued to monitor developments with the preparation of the Minerals and Waste Development Framework by North Yorkshire County Council.

General Highlights of the Year

- The Parish Council now has its own website: www.tanfieldparishcouncil.btck.co.uk The site is filled with information about the work of the Parish Council and provides a point of contact for the public to use. The home page has had over 1,500 hits since going live in July 2012.
- The Parish Council supported local Diamond Jubilee celebrations by paying for the cost of insurance and asking the Parish Caretaker to clean Church Street prior to the event.

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- After lengthy discussions it was agreed to contract the 2013 grasscutting in the parish out. The Walled Garden Scheme will carry out fortnightly cuts to the communal areas in West Tanfield, Nosterfield and Thornborough during the growing season. Brian Porteus is thanked for all his previous work cutting the grass in West Tanfield.
- The Parish Council has worked to ensure that the precept (money raised for it through Council Tax and its main source of income) did not need to increase for the 2013/14 financial year.
- The Parish Council helped to organise and co-ordinate the annual bonfire and fireworks event at Nosterfield Quarry. Poor weather meant that there was a low turnout on the evening, although £199.72 was raised for West Tanfield Memorial Hall, and so opinion is going to be canvassed on whether to put on another event in 2013.
- The Parish Council adopted a new Code of Conduct, promoted by Hambleton District Council and the Clerk and two Councillors attended training provided by Hambleton District Council.
- The Clerk attended training on The Localism Act 2011, provided by Hambleton District Council.
- The Parish Council has registered with HMRC for PAYE and implemented a payroll system for employment of the Clerk.
- The Parish Council has continued to operate the Parish Caretaker scheme and with effect from 1st April 2013 has appointed Farm & Land Services Ltd from Knaresborough to carry maintenance work in the parish each month.
- The Parish Council has, in view of the result of speed checks carried out by the Hambleton District Community Safety Partnership, agreed to take no further action in respect of procuring further traffic calming measures in the parish.
- The Parish Council has continued to correspond with Highways North Yorkshire and County Councillor John Weighell about a number of highways faults.
- The design for a new Nosterfield Village Sign has been approved and it is hoped that it will be installed during the next few weeks.
- The Parish Council recently met with representatives of Yorkshire Water to discuss issues with the sewerage system that runs between Well, Nosterfield and Thornborough.

6. REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS / COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 West Tanfield Memorial Hall

Bob Trewitt, Chairman of the Management Committee, submitted the following report:

“The committee has this year been mainly involved in fundraising efforts, which have centred around four main events: bank holiday catering, a hog roast, the bonfire and fireworks event and the recent organ recital. All volunteers who have been involved are thanked.”

6.2 West Tanfield Bowling Club.

Terence Kiernan, Club Secretary, had submitted the following report prior to the meeting:

“For those who are new to the Parish we wish to let all know that we are a small friendly club with the green and clubhouse situated in the heart of West Tanfield.

We now have some 30 members in the Club and we are very pleased to welcome all new members from the Parish that have joined us this year. We have an open invitation to anyone who wants to come along and have a go. Ladies and gents, young and not so you are all welcome.

We have plenty of bowls to lend and members are at hand to help get you started and after a while, if you find you enjoy it, membership forms can be obtained at the clubhouse.

We play only friendly matches with other villages throughout the District during the season, which starts in April and runs through to September. We also meet up at the clubhouse on Friday evenings 5.30pm and Sunday afternoons at 2pm to have knock about practice and get to know each other.

Finally many thanks to all who supported our recent annual Race Evening held in the Memorial Hall. It was a great success in helping to raise funds for the Bowling Club again this year.”

6.3 West Tanfield Memorial Tennis Club.

Robin Mitchell, Club Chairman, reported that the club currently has about 100 members, of which 38 are juniors. The junior membership has been buoyed by initiatives such as free coaching.

The club fields 5 teams in local leagues, a reduction on previous years - caused by a declining adult membership.

The club is looking to have the courts resurfaced and will be submitting further funding applications to try and help achieve this objective.

6.4 West Tanfield Cricket Club.

Michael Dyson, Club Secretary, had submitted the following report prior to the meeting:

“The awful weather of last year meant that we not only lost a lot of cricket matches, but it also meant a serious loss of income, through match fees, tea money & bar income.

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We run 2 teams in the Nidderdale League & a team in the Wensleydale Evening League. The 1st team gained promotion to the 2nd division, of the Nidderdale League but unfortunately the 2nds were relegated to the 8th division. We hold several fund raising events during the year, quizzes, treasure hunt & domino drives in the village hall & would be delighted to see more people attend.

We were delighted when Simon Bourne-Arton QC accepted our offer to come our new Club President.”

6.5 West Tanfield Methodist Church.

Douglas Greensit read the following report to the meeting:

“West Tanfield Methodist Church as part of the Ripon and Lower Dales Circuit continues to meet for worship every Sunday morning at 10.30 a.m. and offers a weekly Junior Church session in the schoolroom at the same time. All are sure of a warm welcome to these services.

A warm welcome is also extended to everyone to attend our other meetings of fellowship in the schoolroom. We have a Homemakers group which meets every third Monday in the month at 7.30pm with a variety of speakers and activities. We also have a Men’s group.

We extend an invitation to any ‘senior citizens’ to join us for a hearty lunch in the schoolroom at 12.30 p.m. the first Wednesday in every month.

Sadly our Minister, Rev. David Richardson, will leave us in August this year, we wish him well in his new circuit. His replacement is Rev. David Wood who is returning to our area after 20 years.

As with many churches today we continue to struggle to maintain our buildings and meet our financial commitments. The church council met during the year to consider all the options we have, with the sad realisation that as church membership continues to fall the future of our much beloved chapel is in jeopardy. However as followers of Christ we are not downhearted and have launched a ‘dine with me’ scheme which is currently helping to swelling our funds.

Should anyone wish to know more about our church do please join us on Sunday morning or for our special services at Christmas, Easter and Harvest time.

Contact details are available on the Church Notice Board or contact our Church Secretary Jean Skinner 01677 470508 or any other member of our membership.”

6.6 St. Nicholas’ Church.

Gillian Bourne-Arton and David Parkinson reported that 4 services are held in the church each month, including one for families.

A number of positive points were reported on:

- A growing congregation.
- Marjorie Warner is to be licensed as curate later this year.
- The joint benefice arrangement is working well.
- A river service will be held later this year.
- The choir, bell ringing and organ playing continue.
- The churchyard is currently mown by volunteers.

6.7 St. Nicholas C of E Primary School.

Leonie Mandelson had submitted a very detailed report for the meeting’s consideration. The following points were included:

- There are 52 children currently on roll.
- The school’s performance has been sustained since its last OfSTED inspection in which the inspector judged St Nicholas to be a good school and as a result its next full inspection can be deferred.
- The school provides an exciting and creative curriculum for the children, enriched by visits and visitors.
- Outdoor education is increasingly a big part of the curriculum and children enjoy Forest Schools sessions in the neighbouring woods.
- A number of extra-curricular clubs have been offered in the past year.
- The school continues to enjoy links with both the Methodist Church and St. Nicholas Church.
- A number of fundraising activities, for the school and other charities, have taken place, including a monthly coffee morning open to the local community.
- The school appreciates the benefits of working collaboratively with other local primary and secondary schools.
- Improvements to the school’s infrastructure have been undertaken in the past year.

6.8 West Tanfield Flower Club.

Brenda Raw reported that the Club has recently finished another successful year, having enjoyed a varied programme of social evenings, demonstrations, visitors and visits such as the Christmas trip to Castle Howard. A visit is planned to Lindisfarne and the Durham Cathedral Flower show. The Club’s regular programme will restart in September.

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6.9 Lower Ure Conservation Trust

Councillor Parkinson (the Parish Council's representative on the Trust's Liaison Committee) referred to the meeting which had been held on 22nd February 2013. The meeting had centred around the Warden's report about the wildlife numbers on the reserve, which had been affected by poor weather during 2012. Other points noted included:

- There have been 15,000 visitors to the reserve during the past twelve months.
- A dog waste bin has been installed at the Nosterfield pedestrian entrance.
- The Quarry has transferred ownership of the outstanding areas of the reserve to the Lower Ure Conservation Trust.

6.10 West Tanfield Sports Day Committee

Although a formal report was not submitted it was noted that another event is planned for later this year.

6.11 North Yorkshire Police

P.C. Julian Sutcliffe read and commented upon a report prepared for the meeting by Sgt. Jerry Perrin. The following points were noted and discussed:

- North Yorkshire continues to be one of the safest counties in England and Wales to live, work and visit.
- For the year 2012/13 there was an overall reduction in crime of 8%.
- P.C. Sutcliffe urged people not to be complacent and to report any and all suspicious activity to the police.
- In an emergency and when it considered that a crime is in progress or about to be executed 999 should be dialled. For non-emergencies and general information 101 should be used.
- Changes to the staffing numbers are about to take place at Bedale with a reduction of nine officers to five.
- P.C. Sutcliffe is not currently tasked to carry out speeding enforcement action in the parish. Hambleton & District Community Safety Partnership will be contacted to find out why this is and the matter will be included on the agenda of the next full Parish Council meeting in July.
- P.C. Sutcliffe responded to enquiries about how to secure oil tanks, especially with reference to at St. Nicholas' Church.

6.12 District Councillor David Webster

In Councillor Webster's absence the following report was read to the meeting:

"We are currently half way through our four year term of office, and have now been informed of the new boundary arrangements for the next election in 2015. Tanfield Ward will increase to include Carthorpe, Snape, Thornton Watlass and environs, the number of Council members reducing from forty four to twenty eight.

For the third year Council tax has been frozen and member's allowances will remain the same for the whole period of this Council.

The Leader of the Council, Neville Huxtable has stepped down and Mark Robson, who is from Sowerby has been elected leader of the Conservative group and it is expected that he will be elected Leader of the Council tomorrow. What changes he manages to effect we will wait and see. At the moment committees are being revamped slightly and a review of parts of the Local Development Framework is due to be undertaken. I am particularly keen to see improvements relating to policies on affordable housing, developer contributions and settlement hierarchy, as well as looking to see how to improve the Allocations Document.

I hope that I am representing all views and dealing with all problems that people may experience, my door is always open."

6.13 County Councillor John Weighell

Councillor Weighell was congratulated on his recent re-election and thanked for all the work that he has already carried out.

Councillor Weighell addressed the meeting and noted the following points:

- There are now 45 Conservative councillors on the County Council.
- Councillor Weighell hopes to continue as Leader of the Council.
- There has been no rise in Council Tax since 2010, however it cannot be promised that this will continue.
- Spending on education and the elderly has been protected.
- A consultation will shortly be carried out on a proposal to switch off or dim streetlights, in order to save money. This will be considered by the Parish Council in due course.
- Councillor Weighell admitted the poor condition of highways. £6 million has been allocated to highway repairs but this is insufficient to deal with the backlog of problems.

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6.14 Tour de France 2014 preparations.

The following report was considered:

“Steve Gabbert & Steph Bennet have been working informally (but hard of course!) to establish how Tanfield and the surrounding villages might make the most of the Tour de France in 2014. A number of meetings, also informal, were convened to discuss how this might be delivered. Work was done on establishing the aims of the Tour project and how the work required could be split into functional areas of responsibility.

Once the group was satisfied with the output (please see attached), it was agreed that a public meeting should be called to present the opportunity created by the Tour and to gain popular support for the work of the project group. This meeting was held on April 17th at Tanfield Memorial Hall. There was a good turnout of 60 or more people. David Shields of Welcome To Yorkshire made a presentation about the Tour, James Gilroy of NYCC spoke about traffic planning and likely road closures and Steph Bennet presented the Tour project for Tanfield and the surrounding villages (especially Snape, Well & Nosterfield).

There was unanimous support from the assembly for developing the project along the lines proposed. All attendees were invited to participate in the project and most if not all left their name & contact details together with an area of activity they would be happy to assist with. There is, therefore, already a substantial volunteer pool forming.

Steve & Steph are now working to fill the co-ordinator roles for each of the management areas. Once completed and announced, work can start in earnest to deliver a great event and a really positive legacy for Tanfield.”

6.15 Stretch & Tone Fitness Group

It was noted that this newly formed group now meets in West Tanfield Memorial Hall on Tuesdays 7-8pm and Fridays 10 - 11am.

It is a community led exercise and fitness group offering a mix of Callanetics, Yoga, Pilates and Body Balance that will strengthen core muscles, increase flexibility and tone body shape. Ladies and gents of any level of fitness, any age or shape are welcome. It costs £3 per session with all proceeds to community groups.

7. QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- It was agreed that the Parish Council should make investigations in to the ownership of this area, located below the Marmion Tower. The parish caretaker will be asked to look into any works that are required to the steps which are used to access this area.
- Gillian Bourne-Arton thanked the Parish Council for all the work that it carries out on behalf of the community.

Meeting closed at 20.42 hrs.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by Iona Taylor, Clerk to the Parish Council.

SIGNED:(Chairman)

DATE: