

Tanfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

DATE: Tuesday 27th May 2014
TIME: 19.00 hrs
LOCATION: West Tanfield Memorial Hall
PRESENT: Parish Councillors Peter Hull (Chairman), David Parkinson (Vice-Chairman), Steve Houston and Chris Pennock.
Iona Taylor (Parish Clerk)
District Councillor David Webster and County Councillor John Weighell
Stephen Bennett (Tour de France, West Tanfield 2014)
Jessica Petchey (West Tanfield Memorial Tennis Club)
Brenda Raw (West Tanfield Flower Club)
Jean Skinner (West Tanfield Methodist Church)
Yvonne Griffiths, Anne Stainthorp and Bob Trehitt.

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Hull welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from North Yorkshire Police, Christopher Bourne-Arton and Anthony Cumming.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2013 were agreed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES – none.

5. REPORT ON PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS 2013/14

Councillors

Peter Hull (Chairman), David Parkinson (Vice-Chairman) and Steven Houston have served as Councillors for the West Tanfield ward throughout the year.

Chris Pennock has served as Councillor for the East Tanfield ward during the year.

There remains a vacancy for a Councillor to serve the West Tanfield ward.

Meetings

The Parish Council has met 7 times since the 2013 annual meetings. 4 of these were ‘ordinary’ meetings when a full agenda of business was considered. The other 3 were extraordinary meetings to consider planning applications and other urgent items of business.

Planning and Development

- 7 planning applications have been considered for proposals ranging from garage conversions to hedgerow removal to a canopy at St. Nicholas School.
- The Parish Council has responded to consultations by North Yorkshire County Council on the Minerals & Waste Joint Plan.
- Council representatives have attended a workshop hosted by Hambleton District Council on proposals to refresh the Local Development Framework Core Strategy.
- The Parish Council has responded to consultations by North Yorkshire County Council on the Minerals & Waste Joint Plan.

General

- A survey of all parish households was conducted to help determine the Council’s budgetary priorities for 14/15. This resulted in the precept being increased by £888 to £7188 to allow services to be maintained at their current level.
- In response to concerns raised by local residents the Parish Council applied to the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership for new speed monitoring checks to be carried out. These shows that speeds are within the acceptable range for a 30mph zone and no further action is necessary.
- The Parish Council continues to operate the parish caretaker scheme, whereby 5 hours of maintenance works are carried out in the parish each month. The caretaker for 2013/14 and 2014/15 is Farm & Land Services Ltd from Knaresborough.
- Farm & Land Services Ltd have also been appointed as the Council’s grasscutting contractor for 2014-17. They replace the Walled Garden Scheme who decided not to tender for the new contract.
- The Parish Council is continuing to look in to issues surrounding ownership of the areas of common land in the parish.

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- The Council organised a successful bonfire and fireworks event which raised £491.09 for West Tanfield Memorial Hall. The Parish Council would like to once take this opportunity of thanking everyone involved in helping to arrange this event.
- The Parish Council has continued to correspond with Highways North Yorkshire about a number of road defects, including the poor condition of the B6267. Satisfactory resolutions are increasingly hard to come by due to financial constraints on the Highways Authority.
- At the request of the Tour de France organising committee the Parish Council has made contact with the French town of Fontenay-le-Marmion with a view to forging links in the future.
- The Parish Council was represented by Councillor Pennock on the West Tanfield United Charities board.
- The Parish Council was represented by Councillor Parkinson on West Tanfield Memorial Hall's Management Committee & the Lower Ure Conservation Trust's Liaison Committee.
- The Parish Council's Quarry Liaison representatives were the Clerk and Councillor Houston.
- The Parish Council is continuing to liaise with Yorkshire Water about problems with the sewerage operations and pipe between Nosterfield and West Tanfield.
- The Parish Council continued to support the work of the Hambleton Citizens Advice Bureau.
- The Parish Council continues to manage the playgrounds in West Tanfield, Nosterfield & Thornborough.

6. REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS / REPRESENTATIVES

6.1 West Tanfield Memorial Hall

It was noted that during the past year Bob Trehitt has stepped down as Chairman of the Management Committee. Anthony Cumming is now Chairman and Treasurer. The Parish Council recorded its thanks for all the work that Bob Trehitt had undertaken for this community facility, which included obtaining significant grant funding to enable improvement works to take place.

A number of fundraising events are held to ensure that the hall remains solvent. The committee is pleased that it is going to play an integral part of the Tour de France celebrations.

Councillor Parkinson noted that there are a number of new members on the management committee.

6.2 West Tanfield Memorial Tennis Club

Jessica Petchey, Secretary, reported that the Club has 23 adult members, 13 families and 18 juniors who take part in the Club's coaching programme. The club has a declining membership.

After fundraising efforts the courts have been resurfaced and are in the process of being repainted.

6.3 West Tanfield Methodist Church

A lengthy report was presented, including the following points:

- The church remains one of the 21 churches of the Ripon and Lower Dales Methodist Circuit.
- The circuit currently has 3 presbyters to minister to the 21 congregations, a burden made easier by the wonderful team of dedicated local preachers.
- The West Tanfield congregation continues to meet every Sunday at 10.30am
- A weekly junior church session is held in the schoolroom each week.
- A warm welcome is also extended to everyone to attend the other meetings of fellowship held in the school room. These include a homemakers group, lunches for 'mature members of the community' and a prayer group.
- The church, like many others today, continues to struggle to maintain its buildings and meet its financial commitments. Fundraising events, such as serving teas, are held to raise funds.
- Contact details for the church are on the noticeboard, or contact can be made with the Church Secretary (Jean Skinner) on 01677 470508.

6.4 St. Nicholas' Church

Brenda Raw reported that a service is held each Sunday. The church is home to a team of bellringers and a choir which is keen to attract younger and female members.

There are no problems with the infrastructure of the church and churchyard which attracts a good number of visitors, being open all day. The annual riverside service takes place each year and this year an exhibition will be put on during the Tour de France festival.

6.5 St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

The meeting considered a written report prepared by Andrea Peacock, Executive Headteacher.

The report included details about the collaborative partnership arrangements with Kirkby Malzeard CE Primary School. There are currently 57 pupils on roll at the school, including 11 from out of catchment. This summer 10 children will move on from the school, with 6 new starters expected in September.

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The creative curriculum continues to be developed for the children, which includes trips and visitors such as theatre groups and football tournaments. Minor changes have been made to the school to improve outdoor learning opportunities. The school is expecting an imminent OfSTED inspection.

6.6 West Tanfield Flower Club

Brenda Raw reported that the Club's membership remains steady at 40-45. The Club's annual programme, which included a good selection of demonstrations, has just finished. The format of meetings has been changed slightly to accommodate all 12 regular attendees who wish to practice their skills.

The Club visited the flower festival at Durham Cathedral and held a charity meeting in April 2014 which raised £486 for St. Michael's Hospice.

6.7 Lower Ure Conservation Trust

Councillor Parkinson reported that the small committee meets annually.

Nosterfield Nature Reserve continues to attract high visitor numbers. There are plans to improve the path between Nosterfield and the car park, including the construction of a dipping pond. This project is subject to securing funds.

The reserve will be closed to the public during the Tour de France events.

6.8 West Tanfield Sports Day Committee

Although there was no official representation from the Committee it was noted that the Parish Sports Day is coming up on Saturday 31st May.

6.9 West Tanfield Tour de France Organising Committee

Stephen Bennett reported on preparations for the forthcoming Tour De France Grand Depart festival in West Tanfield, including the following points:

- Information about the 4th – 6th July is on the west-tanfield.com website.
- An event has been organised which will generate maximum benefit for the local community, and in such a way that costs have been covered to ensure that money won't be lost.
- It is expected that about 12,000 people per day will visit West Tanfield.
- There will be events throughout the village, including a hot air balloon display.
- There will be parking for 8,000 cars.
- Professional stewards and marshals have been employed.
- The organising committee has been working with North Yorkshire Police and Highways North Yorkshire.
- More local volunteers are needed.
- A newsletter will be sent out to local residents once road closure times are known.
- There will be 4 or 5 official 'tour makers' located in the village.
- It was noted that the Parish Council has not made a financial contribution to the project as it was considered that as Hambleton District Council had made a significant donation the tax payers in Tanfield had already made a contribution.

6.10 North Yorkshire Police

The meeting considered a written report submitted by Inspector Geoff Crocker which noted that significant progress has been made in the past year towards reducing rural crime, including burglary and theft. North Yorkshire Police have run several cross border initiatives with other forces.

The force is heavily involved in the planning for the Tour de France event in July.

Speed awareness week (18-23 November 2013) had been very successful, but it was noted that local residents still perceive speeding vehicles as a major problem in the parish. It was agreed that this view should be forwarded to the Hambleton Community Safety Partnership.

The full report is available from the Parish Clerk.

6.11 District Councillor David Webster.

This is the final year of this Council as elections approach in 2015. Hambleton District Council, under the leadership of Councillor Mark Robson from Sowerby, has implemented quite a few staffing changes which has gone a long way to achieving financial cuts without reducing services.

The Council has embarked on a partial review of its planning policies, which could mean that there will be scope in the future for limited building in smaller villages such as those in this parish.

The district is likely to be affected by the closure of Northallerton prison and the DEFRA building, although it remains a desirable place to live. Unemployment is almost half the rate of the regional average.

Councillor Webster continues to serve on the Council's planning committee and tries to keep in touch with the communities that he serves.

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6.12 County Councillor John Weighell

Councillor Weighell delivered the bad news that the County Council is going to be required to make further savings (£74 million during the 2015-2019 period) which will result in cuts to services. Councillor Weighell stressed that these are government initiated cuts which are likely to affect children’s centres and public libraries.

There is however slightly more positive news in relation to highways as additional, one-off funding has been secured to allow further maintenance works to take place to try and bring the road network back up to an acceptable standard.

Councillor Weighell congratulated West Tanfield on the Tour de France Festival that it is putting on.

7. QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – none.

Meeting closed at 19.57 hrs.

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

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: