

Tanfield Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

DATE: Monday 14th May 2012
TIME: 19.30 hrs
LOCATION: West Tanfield Memorial Hall
PRESENT: Parish Councillors David Parkinson (Chair), Richard Middleton (Vice-Chair) and Jim Beadle Iona Taylor (Clerk)
County Councillor John Weighell and P.C. Julian Sutcliffe
Jennifer Dilley, Steven Houston, John Moxon, Chris Pennock, Brenda Raw, Anne Stainthorp, Bob Trewhitt, Simon Warwick.

1. WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Parkinson welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

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

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2011 were agreed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The continuing poor condition of the B6267, exacerbated as a result of increased use by HGV's during the A1 upgrade, were discussed with County Councillor John Weighell. It is unlikely that there will be sufficient funding available to carry out any significant repairs, however both he and the Parish Council will continue to press for works to be carried out as the County Council's resources allow.

5. REPORT ON TANFIELD PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS DURING 2011/12

Councillors

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

Richard Middleton has served as Councillor throughout the year.

Jim Beadle has served as Councillor since signing his declaration of acceptance of office at the meeting on 13th June 2011.

Brian Smith served as Councillor and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council until April 2012.

Peter Almack served as Councillor until February 2012.

There are currently two vacancies on the Parish Council, the one for the East Tanfield ward is expected to be filled at the 2012 Annual Parish Council (see item 5).

Meetings

- The Parish Council has met 10 times since the 2011 annual meetings.
- 4 of these meetings were ordinary ones when a full agenda of business was considered.
- A further 6 meetings were held to consider planning applications and other urgent items of business.

Planning and Development

- The Parish Council has responded to consultations by Hambleton District Council on 10 planning applications.
- Proposals have ranged from an ice-cream parlour, to extensions to houses, to agricultural buildings to gyms and pools.
- The Parish Council responded to the consultation being carried out on Tarmac's Langwith House Farm application to extend Nosterfield Quarry.
- The Parish Council has responded to further consultations on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework carried out by North Yorkshire County Council.
- The Parish Council has liaised with North Yorkshire County Council's planning enforcement officer regarding the completion of the restoration of the landfill site.
- The Parish Council responded to a consultation document setting out a vision for the Thornborough Henges and surrounding area.
- The Parish Council has expressed an interest in playing a leading role in the future management of the Henges and surrounding area and continues to liaise with landowners, especially Tarmac Ltd.
- The Parish Council was represented by Peter Almack at the planning enquiry into development at Wath Mushroom Farm.

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General

- The Thornborough village sign has now been erected.
- David Parkinson has represented the Parish Council on West Tanfield Memorial Hall and the Lower Ure Conservation Trust's management committees.
- A successful bonfire and fireworks event was once again held in November 2011.

- The Parish Council continues to manage the three play areas in the parish.
- The Parish Council has relied on its fault reporting protocol to refer a number of issues to the relevant authority.
- The Council continues to monitor, and respond as appropriate, to developments brought about by the Localism Act.
- Performance management / an appraisal has been carried out on the Clerk.
- The Parish Council has continued to operate the parish caretaker scheme.
- The Parish Council liaised with Highways North Yorkshire and North Yorkshire Police about vehicles speeding through the villages in the parish. The outcome of this was that the perceived speeds were higher than actual recordings, so no further action will be taken. The Parish Council hopes that a proposed policy for the provision of mobile vehicle activated signs may provide a solution for further traffic calming at perceived problem sites.
- The Parish Council has corresponded with Highways North Yorkshire on a number of minor issues / faults.

6. REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS / COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ON THEIR ACTIVITIES DURING 2011/12

6.1 West Tanfield Memorial Hall

Bob Trehitt reported that the hall is used by many community organisations who have appreciated recent improvements that have been carried out.

The hall's finances are in a sound position and the fundraising efforts of committee members are appreciated.

6.2 West Tanfield Bowling Club – no report submitted.

6.3 West Tanfield Tennis Club

Jennifer Dilley reported that the club has 90 members with 3 teams playing in local leagues.

The Club has been pleased to support and grow its junior section. It will now be concentrating on fundraising efforts to resurface the courts and has been working with Nicky Smith of Hambleton CVS.

6.4 West Tanfield Cricket Club – no report submitted.

6.5 West Tanfield Methodist Church

Anne Stainthorp reported that the church's spire has now been renovated and the interior redecorated. Chapel House has a new tenant in it which is a source of income for the church. A youth project is being planned and there are 18 regular attendees at the monthly lunch club. Joint services with St. Nicholas' Church are held.

6.6 St. Nicholas' Church

The legal formalities to join West Tanfield with the Masham benefice, under Reverend David Cleaves, have nearly been completed with the change having gone smoothly and the new system working well.

Services are held in St. Nicholas' Church every Sunday, with new ideas such as lambing and riverside services having been successfully introduced.

The loyal, regular congregation is always happy to welcome new members and looks forward to continuing to work with the village school.

6.7 St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

A detailed report on recent activities at the school was received. Highlights included visitors in school, trips out of school, harvest festival and other religious services, fundraising events and achievements, sports events including tennis, running and gymnastics.

6.8 West Tanfield Flower Club

Brenda Raw reported that although the club is now closed for the summer it has enjoyed a good programme of demonstrations and members evenings with 45 members, including new, younger ones. The Christmas outing to Chatsworth House was particularly enjoyed.

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6.9 Lower Ure Conservation Trust

Simon Warwick reported that the Trust will be celebrating its 15th birthday next week. Recent rainfall has meant that water levels at the reserve have increased again which is good news for both the breeding season and visitor numbers. There are currently 300 species of plants recorded at the reserve, including 7 types of orchids, and 20 species of butterflies.

6.10 West Tanfield Sports Day

Arrangements for this year's event, which will be combined as part of the Jubilee celebrations, were noted.

6.11 P.C. Julian Sutcliffe

P.C. Sutcliffe reported that crime in the Bedale area has fallen by 15% in the past year, with most incidents in this area caused by travelling people.

P.C. Sutcliffe asked that all suspicious incidents or people be reported to North Yorkshire Police via the new '101' number.

6.12 District Councillor David Webster

Councillor Webster's written report was read out to the meeting which contained details of changes that Hambleton District Council has made to cope with the current state of the economy. Council tax has been maintained at the last year's level. A Boundary Commission review is being conducted into the warding arrangements in the District which will probably reduce the number of Council Members from 44 down to 28. Councillor Webster reported on proposals for a development of 925 houses and industrial units known as Sowerby Gateway and advised that he continues to be available if problems should arise for any of the ward's residents.

6.13 County Councillor John Weighell

Councillor Weighell reported on the Council's progress towards making £69 million of savings. This may have been noticed in the parish through a reduction in library services or bus routes. Cuts have not been made to education or social services.

Roads may take longer to be repaired, but new initiatives to group works by area or as identified by communities are being implemented.

6.14 Thornborough Heritage Trust

A report was received from this newly formed Trust, which proposes, among other things, to produce newsletters and to organise open days and field trips, with the consent of the landowners. The first such event will be held on 21st July, when there will be a speaker in the village hall, a visit to one of the Henges, and a display of artefacts. Secondly, it intends to campaign for the long term preservation of the Henges, and their landscape setting, so that they are managed in a way that will ensure their permanent protection from damage and degradation.

7. QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- It was noted that there is no progress to report regarding the development of Station Yard in West Tanfield.
- Parish Councillor Richard Middleton referred to recent issues concerning Peter Almack, Steve Houston, Iona Taylor and Brian Smith, who has recently resigned from the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parish Council is sad to have lost an experienced Councillor who did good work for the community and Council.

It was noted that the Parish Council now considers this matter to have been concluded after discussions at the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 21.00 hrs.

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

SIGNED: (Chairman)

DATE: