

Askham Bryan Annual Parish meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish meeting of Askham Bryan

held at 6pm on Thursday 6th May 2021 by remote access.

PRESENT Andrew Steele (Chair)

In attendance: Seven residents, Ward Cllr. Hook, one non-resident and the locum Clerk of the Parish Council (PC).

1. To approve the Clerk of the PC to take the minutes.

It was agreed that the Clerk of the PC take the minutes.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2019.

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16th May 2019 having been circulated, be approved, all in favour.

4. Parish Council report

i. Chair's report

The Chair gave his annual report. A full copy of this had been published on the PC Facebook page. Below is an abridged version of his report.

The challenges for everyone of 2020 were noted. The PC had continued to operate using a temporary change to the law that permitted meetings to be held remotely. Meetings had considered.

- 31 planning applications
- redevelopment of the Recreation Area
- ways of reducing traffic speeds
- maintaining the aesthetics of the village pond

The PC had supported village activities and the feedback from these events had been very positive;

- A treasure hunt organised by one of the residents and a prize donated by the Nags Head public house.
- A village wide Christmas lighting event organised by the PC. The Chair thanked Councillors Smahon and Peers for engineering this event and Councillor Walker for providing machinery used to erect the two large trees.
- An easter egg hunt organised by Councillor Smahon which was a real success appreciated by children, parents and grandparents. Emilie Kellett was thanked for creating the hamper of goodies (provided by the village charity) for the winners.

Crochet Club were thanked for some wonderful village decorations, especially the rainbow theme last spring, Christmas Stockings with mini

eggs and the amazing Easter decorations at the church and the village post box.

Early in 2020, there had been a kind donation of a bench from the family of Frank and Athol Marshall which had been sited at the pond and used by many residents and visitors.

Regarding the pond, the PC had instigated professional reports from three different organisations looking into how best to maintain and enhance it. Input from villagers was sought and the consensus is not surprisingly one of 'keep it tidy, but natural'. The Chair expressed delight that all four moorhen chicks had survived this year.

Jo Fell was thanked for creating and tending the planters at the village entrance signs, along with the planting bed at the side of the new pond bench.

Jeff Challinor was thanked for cutting the grass along the frontage of the pond.

The Chair reported on the Recreational Area. A village wide survey had recently been undertaken to seek views on development and Councillor Smahon was thanked for organising this. She had also applied for a grant from City of York Council (CYC) and a reply was awaited. Councillor Smith was thanked for regularly visiting the site to clear the bird mess off the swings and the bench.

The PC had carried out a village wide survey on speeding and were heavily supported in their proposal to apply to the AJ1 Road Safety Project for funding. A very robust application had been submitted and partial funding had been awarded (the project was heavily oversubscribed) on the premise that it would be awarded if the PC could supply the shortfall. The subsequent speed data capture carried out by CYC did not support further funding from CYC and plans for Vehicle Activated Speed signs had to be abandoned.

The PC Virtual Pub Quiz had raised £812. Councillors Peers and Smahon were thanked for the hard work they put into organising this.

Councillor Smith put in an excellent application to the CYC 'Growing Green Spaces' for funding for the Recreational Area but unfortunately the area had not been deemed appropriate for funding.

There had been two vacancies for councillors during the period and the PC was very pleased to have welcomed Julie Barber on to the team. She has already got to grips with the role and has organised some much-needed tree works on PC owned land at the junction of Main Street and Saint Nicholas' Croft. There is still one vacancy left, anyone interested should contact the Clerk or any councillor to find out more.

A number of residents had responded to endeavours to re-start the Natural Environment Group and it was hoped to move forward on this in the near future.

In October 2019 a new Clerk offered to help out the PC as the Clerk of many years, Diane Stones, decided to retire. Diane was thanked for her service over the years. The new Clerk, Mr. Keith Langley, was thanked for his professionalism and guidance since he took up post as the PC at the time was almost entirely made up of new councillors.

ii. Statement of Parish Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Clerk of the PC put on the screen a statement of Parish Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 and went through the report. The total receipts in the year were £11,266.45 and total expenditure of £8,341.37. The end of year balance was £5,523.87 of which £1,959.37 was earmarked being monies raised at the quiz night in March 2020 for the recreational area.

iii. Report on the Precept for 2021-22

The Clerk of the PC reported that the precept for 2021/22 was £9,499 having been £9265 in 2020/21. This represented an increase of 2.5% in line with the retail price index.

5. Police report

There had been no crime reports during the first six months of 2020/21 but thanks to Ward Cllr. Hook, reports were now being received. These reports showed an incident of anti-social behaviour and an alleged assault.

6. Brownies report

Rebecca Kramm was thanked for providing an update from the Brownies: 1st Askham Bryan Brownies had fifteen registered girls (from Askham Bryan and the surrounding villages) and a leadership team of six. During the pandemic they had been required to follow guidelines set out by Girlguiding and this had led to a mix of meeting formats. At the start they emailed activities to the Brownies, they then had a couple of meetings outside and inside the hall. They had had to pause face to face meetings again for the third lockdown, and were now meeting on Zoom each week. We were hoping to be back to face to face at the start of June for the summer term.

They were looking forward to a weekend event in July where they would virtually join with other units across the county.

Parents were thanked for their continued support of the unit during these difficult times, and the Village Hall Committee were thanked for being accommodating.

7. Report of the Allotments for Stone and Gravel charity

The Clerk of the Parish Council gave a report of the work of the charity. The charity has continued to meet monthly immediately following the Parish Council meetings and has had eleven or twelve meetings in the last year. He reported on the finances of the charity and on plans to revise the constitution

which will empower the charity to have responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the recreational area (there being plans for the PC to hand this over to the charity) and anything else it is not currently empowered to do. The constitution has not been revised since the charity was first set up.

The Clerk reported on the finances of the charity. There was £11,175.54 in the bank at the end of the financial year. In addition, there was an investment with CCLA, if all units held in the investment were sold, the market value was just under £10,000. This investment pays a quarterly dividend of £72.12. This being paid into another CCLA account the total value of which was £1,261.53 at the end of the financial year.

8. Open discussion of Parish affairs.

There were no points raised.

The meeting closed at 6:25pm

Signed

Chairman
May 2022