

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**HELD IN STILLINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**ON WEDNESDAY 3 MAY 2023 AT 7.00PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cllr Tim Drew

**ALSO PRESENT:** Nigel Knapton (Clerk)  
8 members of the public

**23/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were apologies from Richard Smythe and Malcolm Taylor

**23/2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2022**

These were approved.

**23/3 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This meeting provides the opportunity for all parishioners to meet and discuss the work that the Parish Council has been engaged in during the last twelve months and have a constructive debate on how we move the agenda forward during the coming year. One of the responsibilities of the incumbent Parish Council Chair is to provide a short report to attendees at the Annual Parish Meeting.

I was elected as Chairman in June of last year, taking over from Councillor Cookman who wished to stand down from the position. I would like to thank councillor Cookman for her efforts as Chairperson and for continuing in the role as vice chair. During the year Richard Smyth was co-opted onto the council. I would like to say that we are truly fortunate that we have a council with often differing views who are prepared to speak up and make their opinions known. I think that this only makes for a healthy council. Councillor Robin Conway has decided to resign from the council, and I would like to thank him for his years of dedicated work for the council. The council are presently looking for a casual vacancy to fulfil this position.

The council is challenged financially, as living in an exceptionally beautiful village the upkeep sometimes comes at great cost. The council wishes to complete a number of tasks within the village, at the same time keeping the precept at a reasonable level. The precept for the coming year will be in the order of £12,500, the commitments are (grass cutting, clerk's wages, insurance, subscriptions, rent of room and village maintenance) and will be approximately £10,000. Giving the council little over £2,500 for all the other projects we would like to continue with.

Vehicle Actuated Speed Signs have been ordered, partly due to the generous donation from Stillington Community Association. There will be three posts and two signs. The posts will be on Easingwold Road, York Road, and Mill Lane. The council looked at a 20-mph speed limit, though we decided to see how the signs work before considering this further.

A public consultation was carried out by the council regarding the Old Bus Shelter on York Road. The over whelming support was to keep and repair the roof of the shelter.

The kissing gate on North Back Lane at the start of the Lucy Balk footpath has been replaced as it was rotten.

Approved ..... Chairman

The unsecure derelict site on South back lane is still giving residents cause for concern and the council are in contact with the County Council regarding this.

The Council and public notice board near to the snicket at the entrance to Parkfield is to be refurbished in the near future.

The council have received a number of complaints regarding the parking on North Back Lane by the doctor's surgery. This is being looked into though is an exceedingly difficult problem to resolve.

During the year there was planning permission sought for a further development of a number of properties on South Back Lane. There were a number of objections to this development and no decision has been made at the time of writing.

The council considered planting trees at the approach to the village from the Easingwold direction. Following a considerable amount of work, it was decided that there were too many obstacles to overcome to make it worthwhile.

An additional streetlight at the junction of Main Street and Mill Lane has been sought for over three years now and we are still not close to it becoming a reality. The latest quote has been £12,000 to £14,000, which means we would have to find additional funding to see this project home. Other avenues are being looked in to.

The silt in the village pond was hoped to have been cleared in the past year, due to the extreme drought conditions at the time, it was decided to delay to later in this coming year.

A tree survey has been completed for the village and a number of issues were identified and an arborist has been employed to deal with these matters.

Last summer a new grass cutting contractor was employed and was much more effective, though this was only a temporary contract. In the autumn, the council sent out six schedules of services required to companies and asked for their quotes. In the end only two were returned which is likely due to amount and some of the difficulties our lovely village has. A new contractor has been appointed and seems to be making a decent job of it.

The council is presently looking into having its own website, taking into consideration the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and there is a risk of breaching the Transparency code.

The council has discussed starting a Dementia Awareness programme in the village and this is ongoing.

Funding was sort via our County Councillor, for a defibrillator for the village hall to cover the east side of the village. There are presently two others, one at the church and the other at the Sports Club. £1500 has been allocated which should cover the cost.

The Parish Council is responsible for the Old Churchyard and were made aware of problems with the wall on the south side of the church fronting onto the footpath of Main Street. Loose stones were the first concern though with greater inspection other problems have been identified. The repairs are likely to be expensive and alternative funding sources may have to be looked into.

Over the past year it has been difficult with North Yorkshire Unitary authority looming and hopefully now it is in place trying to get work completed might become easier.

September last year saw the death of our monarch Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd. The Parish Council organised condolence books in the Church and in the Village Hall. The council also led a vigil the night before Her Majesties funeral, which was held outside the church.

The council now have a number of policies which we have reviewed and adopted and which should give us greater guidance in the future.

Approved ..... Chairman

I would just like to thank the work of the people who sit on the council, the volunteers who work in the village at the local shop. Also, the many volunteers who have turned up to work at the Sports Club during its renovations. I would also like to thank all the people of Stillington who make this village such a marvellous place to live.

**23/4      RESOLUTION(S) FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no resolutions.

**23/5      QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

No questions were asked.

**23/6      DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.