

Tatham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Tuesday 17th May 2022

The Old School Lowgill.

7.30pm

Attendance.

Cllr Osborne, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Stone, Cllr Ray, Cllr Kenyon, City Cllr, Joyce Pritchard.

22/1 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Harrison. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Osborne.

22/2 Minutes of previous meeting held on 18th May 2021

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

22/3 Annual Chairman's Report, written by Cllr Harrison and read at the meeting by Cllr Osborne. This report summarised the key activities and events over the past financial year.

Parish Clerk

There has been an unusual degree of change regarding this position.

Until October, Carl Hunter was our clerk, but as he decided to stand down as our clerk, and as the clerk for Wennington Parish Council. He was replaced by Hannah Wallington.

Unfortunately, due to changed personal circumstances, Hannah decided that she needed to re-locate back to the Leyburn area, where she runs her own business.

Both Carl and Hannah proved to be very good and hard-working clerks, and we missed them both.

This means that we are presently without a clerk, and the various tasks which are normally carried out by the clerk are being dealt with by the councillors.

The search for a replacement continues.

Lengthsman

As our lengthsman, Cath Halstead, now works fulltime for B4RN, she felt she had insufficient time to continue working for us. Cath provided us with a very good service, and we thank her for all her efforts.

In her place, we have secured the services of Giles Forbes. As Giles already works for Hornby Parish Council in this role, and is well respected for his work, we are confident we have found a very able and enthusiastic replacement.

Parish Councillors

Whilst we lost the services of Bill Deller just before the beginning of this financial year, we welcomed John Kenyon as a replacement for Bill. John has settled into the role with enthusiasm and has fully involved himself from the outset in such matters as HARP, and the drafting of a Health and Safety Policy.

Communications

As well as continuing to maintain communications and engagement with all our parishioners by way of newsletters and so on, we have also replaced two of our notice boards.

Firstly, we erected a new board at Millhouses purely for council matters, leaving the old, exposed board in place for general public use.

We have also recently provided a second new board, again purely for Council matters, just by the entrance to Wennington railway station. This board has replaced the Bridge Inn board which we felt was too exposed, not very accessible, and rather out of the way. The Bridge Inn board remains in place, and is available for use for non-council purposes.

As grants were obtained towards the costs of both new boards, our replacing them has not had too significant an impact on our finances.

Planning Applications

Whilst we streamlined our planning applications procedure in the last financial year, we also continued the policy of identifying lead councillors across the full range of our responsibilities. Cllr Taylor took on the role of co-ordinating our responses to Lancaster City Council Planning Department.

Community Emergency Plan (CEP)

Whilst it was decided last year not to join the Wennington CEP, it was also decided that we would not create at the moment a new plan for Tatham. Instead, it was decided to expand the rather more informal way of dealing with emergencies which was felt to have stood us in good stead for a great many years.

Many thanks are offered to Wennington Parish Council for generously inviting us to join its plan, as well as looking after the safety of several houses near the 'narrows' which are actually in Tatham.

Public Rights of Way

A lot of effort has gone into looking after public rights of way in the parish which has been led by several councillors, volunteers and land owners in the parish. This has been done under the auspices of the Lancashire County Council Local Delivery Scheme, for which we receive a small amount of funding each year. The funding is for materials and equipment for such work.

This work has also included a re-building of Fairy Steps to make them much safer and welcoming to walkers. A future plan for the coming months, as part of the Queen's Jubilee

celebrations, is to construct steps down from the Church of The Good Shepherd to Crossdale Beck.

Liaison with Lancashire County Council

At last we seem to have identified a County Councillor, Matthew Maxwell-Scott, who is willing to properly listen to us and apply some pressure, when it is needed, to prevent issues falling into 'black holes'. It is encouraging.

Climate Change

In response to Lancaster City Council's Climate Emergency Declaration, a sub-group has been created to act as an advisory body to the Parish Council. The small group, which meets regularly, consists of parish councillors and parishioners. It considers ways which the parish could implement initiatives and build community support for carbon reduction, improve household energy efficiencies, greener transport options, possible renewable energy projects, and so on. This list will inevitably grow.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my fellow councillors for all their enthusiasm and hard work over the last twelve months as we strive to maintain, or improve on, the level of service we provide for every parishioner.

22/4 Open Forum.

No issues were raised.

22/5 Date and time of next Meeting

May 16th 2023 @ 7:30pm

Meeting closed at 7.40pm.