

Tatham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Tuesday 23rd May 2023

The Old School Lowgill.

7.30pm

Attendance.

Cllr Osborne, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Stone, Cllr Ray and 2 members of the public.

23/31 Apologies for absence.

Cllr Wilson.

23/32 Minutes of previous meeting held on 17th May 2022

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

23/33 Annual Chairman's Report, written by Cllr Osborne and read at the meeting by Cllr Osborne. This report summarised the key activities and events over the past financial year.

Parish Clerk

Marie Brady was appointed as Parish Clerk and commenced employment on 17th April 2023.

Lengthsman

The Lengthsman continues to work from April to November doing essential mowing and general maintenance as requested by Councillors. He provides a very good service and we thank him.

Parish Councillors

Sadly Jim Harrison who has served the Council for 15 years and John Kenyon are leaving us and their contributions will be greatly missed. Lancaster City Council will be advised of the 2 Casual Vacancies.

Communications

We continue to maintain communications and engagement with all our parishioners by way of newsletters, noticeboards and the website, [Tatham Parish Council – Serving Our Community](#)

Planning Applications

The Planning notifications have been dealt with swiftly and the issue of Tatham being classed as an Unsustainable Parish has continued to work against our frequent support for new builds to make the Parish more dynamic. We are responding to a survey by the Planning Department to reappraise the sustainability of the Parish. We will make a strong

case and have already contacted the Chief Planning Officer of the City Council to query the rationale by which Sustainable Communities are designated. We hope the 2017 decision will be reversed for 2023.

Most of the queries we have from Parishioners are connected to Highways matters and we have been in regular contact with the County Council about potholes, using the “Love Clean Streets” app and have raised other road maintenance matters with the City Council about road sweeping and dog fouling.

Public Rights of Way

We are now in the third year of being financed for the Local Delivery Plan which involves maintenance work on the Public Rights of Way in the Parish. In Tatham there are 45 miles. We are indebted to the Volunteers who help with this work and to the County Council who provide extra resources. In November they supplied a footbridge over Clearbeck at Greenside making one of our main footpath routes in the Parish usable again.

The Council supported strong objections by Parishioners against the rerouting of a footpath between Millhouses and Cragg Rd. Wray arising from a DMMO application. This was also objected to by Wray Parish Council and has not yet been resolved.

Liaison with Lancashire County Council

We have had valuable support from our County Councillor. Matthew Maxwell Scott and from Joyce Pritchard City Councillor who have both taken issues of concern forward. In addition Councillor Maxwell Scott opened the restored footpath, the Jubilee Steps in September and in July Councillor Joyce Pritchard brought Mark Davies the Chief Executive of The City Council on a fact finding tour when we were able to highlight some of our concerns.

Climate Change

In response to Lancaster City Council’s Climate Emergency Declaration, a sub-group, Chaired by Cllr Wilson, was 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, etc. This list will inevitably grow.

We received a new Biodiversity Grant from the County Council. This will be used by the P.C.C. at St James the Less Church to encourage wild life in the Church Yard and for a camera for the Primary School children to record the current biodiversity at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

23/34 Open Forum.

No issues were raised.

23/35 Date and time of next Meeting

May 21st 2024 @ 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Signed:

Date: 21/05/2024

Chairman