

**AUSTWICK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MONDAY 2nd July 2018
MINUTES**

Present:

Austwick Parish Council: Cllrs Peter Goold (Chairman), Barbara Tibbatts (Vice-Chairman), David Dewhirst, Ian Smith, Sarah Wiltshire; Marijke Hill (Parish Clerk); North Yorkshire County Councillor, Craven District Councillor & Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Member David Ireton, Craven District Councillor & Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Chairman Carl Lis, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Area Ranger Rob Ashford and 13 members of the public.

1. Apologies: former Councillor Kate Smith

2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2017 were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr Peter Goold, Chairman of Austwick Parish Council.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman, Peter Goold, thanked all those present for attending, in particular The Revd. John Davies as Priest-in-Charge of the parishes of Clapham with Keasden and Austwick with Eldroth. The Chairman also thanked his three current fellow Councillors and Kate Smith, who decided after twelve years' service, to not stand at the elections earlier in the year. The Chairman welcomed Sarah Wiltshire as newly appointed Councillor and thanked Marijke Hill, Parish Clerk, for all her work over the last year.

The Chairman also thanked Ben Shanks of Craven Garden Care for all his conscientious work around the parish; and both Bob Evans and Charlotte Wilkinson for cleaning the bus shelter.

The Parish Council had asked for an increase in precept to £12,500.00, mainly due to an increase in maintenance expenditure to extend work in the parish outside the area within the 30mph road signs whilst not reducing the Parish Council's reserves.

Parish maintenance

The Council's biggest expense is for maintaining the village greens and road verges and general clearing up, cleaning out and cutting down jobs around the parish; this year extended to outlying areas. All the waste bins have been replaced and a new one has been added in the centre of the village. These prominent bins and the offer of free dog waste bags from the village shop will hopefully have some positive effect on dog fouling.

Kate Smith has organised regular litter-picking sessions with a number of other parishioners. A good stock of litter-picking equipment has been purchased with a generous Ward Member Grant from Cllr Ireton. The Chairman thanked all the volunteers for their time and effort.

With the help of Craven District Council, BT agreed to maintain the service to the telephone kiosk and with the help of the National Park Authority, the Parish Council

has persuaded Historic England to give the kiosk Listed Building Status.

The 'keep clear' white line on Main Street has been extended and a 'keep clear' white line will be painted on the road where High Street comes out in front of the Game Cock Inn soon.

Mrs Tuckwell has generously paid for a new oak bench to celebrate her many happy times in Austwick and this is now installed near the village green.

The Chairman thanked the Women's Institute for the refurbishment of their 'Diamond Jubilee' bench on Clapham Road.

The Parish Council secured a grant from the Millennium Trust's 'Stories in Stone' programme to pay for the entire cost of a new interpretation panel at the Wash Dubs and a substantial oak stand for it. The National Park paid for the installation work.

The National Park Ranger, Rob Ashford, has organised a number of maintenance tasks: repair of the dry stone wall at the Wash Dubs, new footpath signs, overgrown path clearances and many others.

One of the Parish Council's main concerns is the maintenance and well-being of the Oxenber and Wharfe Woods, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest as it needs protection from, or management of, the ever-increasing number of visitors.

The Parish Council has obtained grants from the National Park Authority to fund the cost of projects on two large road verge areas on Graystonber Lane and Clapham Road for clearance work, strimming, tree pruning, wild flower planting and new bird boxes.

Planning matters

Throughout the year the Council had considered 23 planning applications and it had submitted detailed comments on five of these. The issue of 'affordable housing' is a concern on a recent planning application for eight new houses down Pant Lane, where the developer must provide half the houses as 'affordable housing' or pay a commuted sum to the National Park. The Parish Council believes strongly that any such commuted sum should go to providing 'affordable housing' in the parish, to help and encourage families to live here.

Representing the Parish Council and acting as the voice of the parish

The Council submitted detailed comments on the National Park's new Management Plan on two occasions. Councillors attended the Park's Management Plan Forum as well as Parish Forum Meetings. The Parish Council also submitted a detailed response on the future of Castleberg Hospital, strongly arguing the benefits of reopening the hospital facility.

The Chairman invited questions and Mr Michael Southworth asked why part of the Graystonber Lane verge was strimmed recently where it might be better to not trim and encourage wild flowers to flourish. Councillor David Dewhirst replied that he will contact the lengthsman and report back to the Parish Council meeting in September.

4. Reports from County and District Councillors, National Park Ranger and the Police

4.1 Reports from North Yorkshire County Council and Craven District Council

Councillor Carl Lis reported that the Craven District Council Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination; it is expected to be approved early 2019.

As Lead Member for 'Greener Craven' Cllr Lis reported that more clarity is now provided on what should go in the blue bin by issue of a sticker. Craven District Council has launched a campaign to clean grass verges from litter this spring.

Councillor David Ireton thanked the volunteer litter-picking group, set up by former Councillor Kate Smith.

On finance matters regarding North Yorkshire County Council Councillor Ireton reported on the significant revenue grant cuts, which meant that many services have been cut. The imposed 2% tax for adult social care is in fact as high as 5.8%. Cllr Ireton mentioned the Environmental Grant through which the cost of re-surfacing of the Clapham to Austwick bridleway along the A65 could be financed.

Mr Michael Southworth asked Cllr Ireton if grants for farmers could be lost as a result of Brexit. Cllr Ireton replied that funding is secured until 2020, after which more clarity from Central Government needs to be provided.

4.2 Reports from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

National Park Authority Chairman Carl Lis reported that the Local Plan is up and running, but that more clarity is needed on the distance from the road that any road side barn conversion should be permitted. The Management Plan consultation has brought some very valuable input in particular from Austwick Parish Council. The Parish Forum Meetings are well attended by Austwick Parish Councillors.

Michael Southworth asked for clarity on the definition of road side barns for conversion. Councillor Barbara Tibbatts further asked if extensions on road side barns are permitted. Councillor Carl Lis replied that road side barns can be converted into local occupancy or holiday-lets and that the eligibility for conversion depends on accessibility by a standard road vehicle without the need to create new tracks.

The National Park Area Ranger, Rob Ashford, reported on the numerous maintenance works that have been carried out this year: clearance work on overgrowing trees and branches on Stinky Bank and Pennine Bridleways; Wash Dub interpretation panel installation and the rebuilding of the dry stone wall there.

On the maintenance programme for the remainder of the year are the resurfacing of the Clapham to Austwick Bridleway and the possible tarmacking of the entrances; the relocating of waymarkers in Oxenber and Wharfe Woods and the planting of a proposed blackthorn hedge, all to be discussed at a meeting with Natural England and the gaitholders in October.

4.3 There was no report from North Yorkshire Police.

5. Castleberg Hospital – Plans for the future

Speaker: Dr Colin Renwick, member of the Governing Body, Airedale, Wharfedale

and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group (AWC CCG).

Castleberg Hospital closed suddenly last year due to a deterioration of the condition of the building. After a consultation period the Governing Body AWC CCG unanimously decided to re-open Castleberg Hospital after necessary refurbishments have been made and to maintain current levels of care in the community. A site survey report to determine the current state of the building is expected soon and the re-opening is expected by 1st December 2018.

The AWC CCG recommended to provide services closer to patients' homes and to build on a community asset based approach with options for a broader range of support services which could include chemotherapy; district nurses; mental health provision; social services; Age UK.

Parishioners suggested to also include local dermatology clinics, day hospice care and out of hours doctors service.

The Chairman Peter Goold added that the Parish Council would like to participate in any community involvement.

6. Parishioners' concerns and matters of general interest

Parishioners were invited to speak on matters regarding local issues.

The Chairman of the Parish Hall Council, Gwen Cleverly, thanked the trustees of the Street Market Committee for a very successful day and would welcome fundraising ideas to provide a better service to the community. So far, a series of film nights has been programmed and the committee has agreed to an 'open gardens' event.

Graham Cleverly, Chairman of Austwick Village Show reported that this year's show will be on Saturday 4th August 2018 with both produce and handicraft sections and a children's entry.

A number of parishioners reported necessary maintenance work in the parish that the Parish Council has noted and will discuss at the September meeting: the bridleway from the 'Cross Roads' to Wood End Farm; overhanging vegetation on the pavement at the junction of Town Head Lane and Wharfe Road; the number of potholes in the parish; obscured visibility when exiting Clapham Road onto the A65. Mrs Molly Preston added that parking on the highway opposite the shop is hazardous and requested that a 'keep clear' white line should be painted on the road. This item will also be discussed at the parish council meeting in September.

Michael Southworth reported regarding LEWFA that 85% of the properties requesting the service are now connected to the hyperfast broadband. Austwick and Feizor are completed and Wharfe is completed apart from two properties. Lawkland is making progress and it is expected to be completed early 2019. All the communities in LEWFA have worked extremely hard to achieve this.

Following Mr Michael Southworth's reference to the near completion of the B4RN project, Councillor Ian Smith reported that in consequence there were now only 10 households still reliant on Austwick Community Broadband Association for their internet access. It is expected that ACBA will cease operations completely later this year. As part of the dissolution of ACBA the sum of £3000 has already been paid to Austwick and Eldroth Parish Halls, Austwick School PTA, and Austwick Playing

Fields Association. There will eventually be a further sum payable.

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Association, Simon Brownlee, reported that the budget allowed for some maintenance that should be carried out this year and a survey is being held on future plans for the playing fields.

Gwen Cleverly asked if anything could be done for the community to have more than one first responder ideally in other parts of the parish than Austwick village. Dr Colin Renwick explained that anyone interested could give their name to the Yorkshire Ambulance Service who will provide training. In reply to a further question, Dr Renwick said that any person using a defibrillator would be talked through the procedure by the 999 responder. Kate Vaughan Williams suggested that it would be of great benefit to the community if CPR/First Aid training could be offered in the village. The Parish Council will discuss these issues further.

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.40 pm.