

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

AUSTWICK

MONDAY 3rd April 2017

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Austwick Parish Council: Cllrs Peter Goold (Chairman), Kate Smith (Vice-Chairman), David Dewhirst, Ian Smith, Barbara Tibbatts; 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, North Yorkshire Police PC Barbara Parsons, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Area Manager (Southern Dales) Kate Hilditch and 14 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Parochial Church Council Chairman Revd. Canon Ian Greenhalgh and the Playing Fields Association Chairman Penny Hutchinson.

2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016 were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr Peter Goold, Chairman of Austwick Parish Council. Liz Cook of the Women's Institute reported that the group celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2015, not its centenary.

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

In his first report as Chairman Peter Goold thanked his predecessor Ian Smith and the other fellow Councillors for their work and support. The Chairman also thanked Ben Shanks of Craven Garden Care for maintenance work around the parish, Bob Evans for cleaning the bus shelter, Kate Vaughan-Williams for continuing to lend a section of her field to dispose of grass cuttings and Ken Jowitt for all the repairs to the benches.

The Parish Council had asked for an increase in precept to £10,000.00, due to expenditure exceeding the budget for several years thereby having reduced the Council's reserves.

Much of the work of the Parish Council falls into two main areas: parish maintenance (village greens and road verge grass cutting, bus shelter cleaning, bench repairs) and planning matters.

The 'Jubilee' bench near Austwick Bridge was replaced through the generous donations of many residents. The dying cherry tree near the bus shelter was replaced with a new, donated, Columnar Mountain Ash.

The Council has been concerned about the condition and maintenance of Oxenber and Wharfe Woods and it intends to keep a close liaison with the National Park Authority who in turn liaise with Natural England to protect these Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

The topic of dog waste has been on the agenda of all the Parish Council meetings this year. The problem of dog fouling exists throughout the village, but the worst

affected area is the Wood Lane/Flascoe Lane circuit.

More recently it had come to the Council's attention that BT intends to remove the historic K6 telephone kiosk. The Council had objected to the discontinuation of the telephone service on the grounds that it provides an essential service for visitors and for emergencies and it had objected to the removal of the kiosk on the ground that it has important historical value. The National Park Authority had also strongly objected and it is working with Historic England to select which kiosks should be the subject of an application for the kiosk to be made a listed building.

Throughout the year the Council had considered 13 planning applications and it had submitted comments on four of these. The Council objected to an application for quarrying at Arcow Quarry in Helwith Bridge. Recently, the Council submitted a detailed response to the first planning application for converting a roadside field barn into a dwelling to ensure that every detail was covered to protect the countryside for the future.

A question from Mr Southworth to provide a definition of 'roadside barn' was answered by Cllr Lis: there has to be a well established track from an existing highway and the barn needs to be worthy of conversion.

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

4.1 North Yorkshire Police.

PC Parsons reported that crime figures in the Parish are down from 9 last year to 6 this year, whereas a total of 1068 crimes were reported in Craven District. These crime figures are back to the same level as in the year 2014-15. The parish of Austwick is a very safe area.

4.2 Reports from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

National Park Authority Chairman Carl Lis reported that the area of the Yorkshire Dales National Park has been extended by 24% and 25000 people. The Local Plan 2015-2030 was adopted in December 2016, allowing a wider use of roadside barn conversions. However, the Authority has removed a 'permitted development right' that would otherwise allow light industrial premises to be converted to dwellings without full planning permission. Parish Forum meetings South and North take place regularly and Austwick Parish Council is well represented with two Councillors attending.

Area Manager Southern Dales Kate Hilditch reported further that the Park Authority is involved in a reorganisation and a new Area Ranger will be appointed at the end of April 2017. PROW maintenance and improvement has a high priority and the Park welcomes input from parish councils. The Three Peaks Project raises money to maintain and repair the footpaths on the Three Peaks Route. The Sustainable Development Fund aims to support small-scale projects that result in positive benefits for the Park.

4.3 Reports from North Yorkshire County Council and Craven District Council

North Yorkshire County Council faced serious budget cuts last year and the council tax has increased by 1.99 %. A further 2% tax has been imposed for social adult

care.

Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Rathmell primary schools have had to be closed due to lack of numbers, whereas Settle primary school has had its finances cut back by more than half, based on the numbers of pupils.

Craven District Council has introduced the co-mingled waste refuse, whereby all recycling material would be collected fortnightly in the blue bin. Less wagons are needed and staff would work four days per week. CDC is committed to recycling, depending on the market. Seriously contaminated bins would be refused for recycling. Some parishioners raised concerns that the waste may all go into landfill and that more clarification is needed to describe the plastics for recycling.

5. Reports from local community organisations

Liz Cook provided an update for the Women's Institute. The W.I. meets monthly on the second Thursday, presentations are given by invited speakers at meetings, walks and annual trips are also organised. Joint events are held with W.I. groups in Clapham, Horton in Ribblesdale and Low Bentham. The W.I. has 40 members.

The Chairman reported on behalf of Penny Hutchinson for the Playing Field Association (PFA). This year the PFA has opened the Multi Sports Play Area enabling 5-a-side football, netball and an extra tennis court. The very thick hedge behind the play area has been taken down, giving extra parking for 5 cars. Recently, flooding at the top of the lane was noticed, and although a black plastic bag was recovered from the grate the flooding persisted. The problem may have been caused by a blocked gully and NYCC Highways may have to flush out gravel from the drain.

Gwen Cleverly reported on behalf of the Street Market committee. 2016 raised a significant amount of money. The mantra remains that the street market event is by the village for the village. The aim is to create an event to celebrate the vibrant Austwick parish community. The plans for this year's event on 29th May 2017 are flourishing and the theme is: super heroes with a fancy dress parade.

Sue Sharples from the Parish Hall Council reported that wifi has been installed and the code is on the notice board. The wooden floors have been re-sanded and varnished. The garage has been dismantled and is now in use as a storage space.

Sally Edwards of the Field and Local History Society reported that the group meets every third Wednesday of the month and visitors and members are welcome. Many trips are organised; a field trip to identify birds, a walking tour around Austwick, a trip to a grade 1 Elizabethan garden and house in Browsholme, the big dig exhibition in Long Preston and a talk on markets and supermarkets.

Graham Cleverly of Austwick Village Show reported that this year's show will be on the first Saturday in August and there will be a children's talent event to compete for the Tibbatts Cup. All results will be published in the Parish Newsletter.

Michael Southworth of LEWFA reported on the progress of hyperfast broadband in the parish. Feizor is completed but it will take until the middle of 2018 to complete Wharfe and all of Austwick. Parishioners were encouraged to ask Michael questions on specific situations after the meeting.

6. Parishioners' concerns and matters of general interest

Parishioners were invited to speak on matters regarding local issues.

A parishioner raised concern about a water problem on Wharfe Road, where culverts have not been cleared out. The Chairman will meet the parishioner to further discuss this.

The issue of parking in the village was raised and discussed. An extension of the keep clear white line may be an option or residents parking only signs, albeit that enforcement would be difficult. The item will be put on the agenda of the next parish council meeting.

Cllr Kate Smith announced that she would organise an open volunteering litter picking day to clear up the verges in and near the village. YDNPA's Area Manager Kate Hilditch responded that such a group can borrow all litter clearing equipment from the Park Authority.

Many parishioners raised concerns about the persistent dog fouling and the Chairman explained that the replacement of the existing two dog bins and the provision of a new bin for the centre of the village should be awaited before further initiatives can be taken. Cllr David Ireton responded that an additional dog bin could be funded through a grant application and Cllr Lis responded that he will personally look into the replacement of the two existing dog bins.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.