

**AUSTWICK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
MINUTES**

**Present:**

Austwick Parish Council: Cllrs Peter Goold (Chairman), Barbara Tibbatts (Vice-Chairman), David Dewhirst, Ian Smith; 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 12 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Councillor Sarah Wiltshire, Treasurer Street Market Committee Jane Lothian, Chairman Parochial Church Council Revd. John Davies, Chairman Playing Fields Association Simon Brownlee and North Yorkshire Police.
2. **Minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting and matters arising**  
The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018 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, Cllr Peter Goold, thanked all those present for attending. Fellow councillors Barbara Tibbatts, Sarah Wiltshire, Ian Smith and David Dewhirst were thanked for all their support as well as Marijke Hill, parish clerk. The Chairman also thanked Ben Shanks of Craven Garden Care for all his conscientious hard work around the parish; and Charlotte Wilkinson for cleaning the bus shelter.

The Parish Council has worked within its expenditure budget for the finance year 2018-2019 and has set a budget to work within the same overall cost figures for the forthcoming year. It has, therefore, kept the precept request for 2019-2020 at the same level at £12,500.

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. Last year the Council had extended its maintenance programme on the road verges beyond the 30mph limit road signs and tree branches, saplings and brambles have been brought back under control. The Council will continue with this work in the current year.

The Chairman thanked all litter-picker volunteers, both teams and individuals, for their valuable work.

The Chairman thanked the National Park Warden, Rob Ashford, for carrying out repairs or replacements to finger-posts and stiles, footpath clearance work and maintenance in the Oxenber and Wharfe Woods, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest

With the help of County Councillor David Ireton, a grant of over £3000 was procured which will cover the cost of installing new bus shelter railings, whilst retaining the

cast iron uprights, which have heritage value, and repairing the wall on 'The Pinfold'. The Highways Department has painted a 'keep clear' on High Street next to the Gamecock, although Highways have declined the Parish Council's request for 'keep clear' lines outside the shop.

After residents had raised the state of disrepair to some road signs, councillor David Dewhirst had surveyed all the road signs in the parish and recorded their condition. The council had highlighted 7 road signs for repair or replacement, but has been informed by Highways that all of them meet today's legal requirements. Regarding the 'give way/50 yds' road sign on Clapham Road the council will ask Highways to re-consider either removing or relocating this sign so that the vegetation there can be cut back.

Work has continued to improve the condition of the 2 'conservation verges' on Graystonber Lane and Clapham Road. All of this work is funded by grants from the National Park and none is paid for out of the parish precept.

### Planning matters

In the 9 months since the previous Annual Parish meeting the Council had considered 10 planning applications; none of these contentious. 6 were granted by the National Park, 1 was withdrawn and 3 are awaiting a decision. In 9 cases, the council had notified the National Park that it had no comments to make and in the other one case – a barn conversion application – the council had no problem with the proposal but asked for some conditions to be imposed concerning car parking and some environmental issues.

### Other matters arisen during the year

At the previous Annual Parish meeting residents had expressed concern about community safety and the council decided to facilitate, promote and publicise a public meeting about how to become a Community First Responder and how CPR training could be made available in Austwick. This meeting was a success as around 20 people signed up to do CPR training, several people signed up to explore becoming a first responder and Dr Colin Renwick agreed to organise self-help CPR training sessions in the parish hall.

## **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**

District Councillor Carl Lis reported that, in order to continue to provide services with less funds from Government grants, the District Council had to increase the Council Tax by £5 per annum on a Band D property.

The District Council has recently been successful in prosecuting a guilty party over an incident of fly tipping with a fine of over £1,000. District Councillor Carl Lis is hopeful that this 'no tolerance approach' will also result in similar actions regarding dog fouling.

Bin collection calendars are available on the Council's website, however, this can be posted if requested.

The Government has recently put together a Resources and Waste Strategy which puts extra emphasis on the 'Polluter Pays' philosophy. Local authorities may have a

duty to have a 'waste' scheme in place by 2023. It is hoped that more funds are being made available to match these aspirations.

The District Council commenced its spring verge clearance scheme on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. It also recently published its 2019/2020 Council plan which sets out the priorities for the coming year. The much awaited Craven Local Plan is approaching completion and hopefully will be in place by May or June 2019.

County Councillor David Ireton reported that the Council is approaching its 9<sup>th</sup> year of austerity and although the national deficit is reducing the Council is likely to face another period of financial challenge. By the end of the finance year 2018/2019 the Council will have made ongoing revenue savings of £157 million since the beginning of this current period of austerity. These savings are necessary, so that the Council can deliver its services in different ways to meet the challenges to do more with less. There is an acknowledgement that the adult social care needs a national solution and the Government's 'green paper' is expected sometime in 2019. Those councils who provide social care are, again, given the opportunity to generate an additional social care precept of 2% on the local council tax.

#### **4.2 Reports from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**

National Park Authority Chairman Carl Lis reported that the impact of Brexit is a great concern, in particular a deterioration in the numbers of farmers working in the Dales, which would have an effect on the landscape that the Park Authority has a statutory duty to preserve and protect. The current grant based funding schemes will be subject to change in the short term and any future system of funding will have environmental requirements as a core part of it. The Park Authority has worked closely with a number of farmers to create results based funding systems which secure real environmental benefits. These systems have been well received by DEFRA and are seen as models for the way forward for upland farming.

Another big issue is demography. There is a severe imbalance between the proportions of people aged over 65 (26%) and the proportion aged under 15 (15%). Members agreed a strategy of working with the District Councils as principal Housing Authorities to attract younger people to come and live in the Dales by a number of aims, including to create at least 400 new dwellings; to increase the number and quality of jobs; to deliver at least one significant economic development project in each of the Park's areas; and to undertake a 5-year programme of measures to promote the National Park as a place to live for younger, working age households.

The Park Authority has received 647 planning applications, 137 other applications and 313 pre-application advice enquiries this year, of which 547 were approved and 51 were refused. There are currently over 240 approved planning applications where the development has not yet commenced, due to current legislation. There are over 100 approved road side barn conversions and only 8 have commenced.

Parish Forum meetings will take place in April 2019, which provide an opportunity for discussion and liaison between the Authority and Parish Councils on any and all National Park issues.

The National Park Area Ranger, Rob Ashford, reported on the numerous

maintenance works that have been carried out this year with the assistance of the Southern Ranger Team and the Young Rangers on finger-posts, stiles, gates and keeping bridleways and footpaths cleared of vegetation. Maintenance work in the Oxenber and Wharfe Woods SSSI is ongoing. These works are necessary to preserve the flora and fauna of the woods and to assist in managing visitors walking around the woods. The re-location of the interpretation board at Feizor Nick; the re-siting and securing of several way-marker posts; the installation of a dead hedge at the 'exit' route to Jop Ridding and some resurfacing work has recently been completed. Further maintenance work should be carried out before the large quota of visitors arrive.

The Area Ranger had reported the dismantling of some cairns on Norber and Long Scar to the National Park Historic Environment Team and they are currently investigating the destruction of prehistoric cairns in the Ribblesdale area.

### **4.3 Written report from North Yorkshire Police.**

The Chairman, Cllr Peter Goold, read out the written report from North Yorkshire Police, which covered a total of 6 parishes. A total of 1233 reported incidents have occurred between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019, including 168 crime incidents, of which 21 residential burglaries, 27 commercial burglaries, 19 reports of criminal damage, 68 reports of violent crime; 84 reports of suspicious incidents; 43 reports of Anti-Social Behaviour; 24 Road Traffic Collision classed as damage only; and 46 road related incidents. There has been an increase in the theft of quad bikes in Craven and Operation Light has been created to arrest those responsible. Camera safety vans, operated by support staff, are located at Skipton Police Station.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the Police could not attend this meeting for the second year in succession, and therefore could not give a specific report on the parish. The lack of police force resources had also meant that they were unable to increase a presence in Austwick for a while after a burglary on Main Street, which had caused a lot of anxiety in August of last year.

### **5. Updates from Local Community Organisations and matters of general interest.**

The Chairman reported on behalf of Revd. John Davies of the Parochial Church Council. The PCC has organised numerous church events and fundraisers over the past year. Volunteers are thanked for their time and skills in various ways to sustain the church life and buildings and grounds. The PCC underwrites the Austwick Parish Newsletter and a new editor or editorial team is being sought. Upcoming events include an 'Alice in Wonderland' themed flower festival to coincide with the Cuckoo Festival this May Bank Holiday weekend.

Barbara Tibbatts reported that the Parish Hall Council Committee is made up of representatives from village organisations. Elections for Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary will be held in February 2020. The Committee has organised financially and socially successful events and more fundraising activities are needed this year. Grants have been received from a legacy, a share of the proceeds of the Street Market, ACBA and from District Councillor David Ireton, who has funded the hanging

baskets and troughs outside the building through the Member Ward Scheme. A full programme of events is planned for 2019, in particular the Open Gardens event on 16<sup>th</sup> June will aim to showcase the village and raise money for the Parish Hall.

Graham Cleverly of Austwick Village Show reported on the big success of last year's Village Show with more entries than before, including some very good children's entries. Due to the dry and hot weather last summer, there were, unfortunately, fewer flower entries. This year's show will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019.

Elizabeth Booth of the Women's Institute reported that meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 in the Parish Hall. The WI organise a very varied programme throughout the year such as trips, workshops, and a coffee morning in aid of Manorlands Hospice in July.

Sally Edwards of the Field and Local History Society reported on a very successful last year with a wide variation of events. This year's programme involves a walk around Wharfe, a presentation about the transatlantic slave trade, researched by local people, the annual bird trip to Buckden and a presentation on 'Captivating the Past' project.

Parishioners were invited to speak on matters regarding local issues.

Mrs Molly Preston enquired about the re-opening of Castleberg Hospital. Maintenance work is in progress after necessary planning consent from Craven District Council. The NHS is recruiting for staff on its website. Re-opening is scheduled for June or July 2019.

Regarding the Oxenber and Wharfe Woods, Mrs Leeming reported on two incidents where a horse has pulled down part of a wall and walkers have been seen to jump over a gate, as opposed to going over the stile. Mrs Leeming also reported on the dog fouling. District Councillor Carl Lis responded that the District Council has a 'no tolerance' approach to dog fouling. It has also set up a 'walk around dog fouling hotspots' with Cleaner Neighbourhood Team Officers to discuss what effective actions can be taken.

Mr Graham Cleverly enquired about the deplorable condition of The Weaving Shed. The Chairman responded that another letter to Mr Andrew is to be sent forthwith, requesting precise and early dates on which Mr Andrew intends to carry out repairs to secure the property and put this on the market for sale. Should Mr Andrew not respond immediately the parish council has little alternative but to refer this problem to each of the Statutory Authorities.

Mrs Gooch raised the issue of parked cars in front of the shop. The Chairman responded that NYCC Highways had recommended to not install 'keep clear' white lines at this location, as it would create a parking issue elsewhere in the village. Also, parked cars often reduce the speed of moving vehicles. The parish council had, therefore, decided it would not pursue further action at present.

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.