

WESTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Westow Parish Council Meeting – 5th May 2021 – Zoom Meeting

A Zoom Meeting of the AGM was held on the 5th May 2021. Members of the public could attend the Zoom meeting if they so wished and a note to this effect had been put on the Village Noticeboard and on the Website

Attendees:

Helen Crews (HC) Chair, Angela Fothergill (AF) Clerk; Pennie Hamer (PH)); Geraldine Burton (GB); Margaret Thompson (MT); John Smith (JS) Christine Smith (CS), Jaynie Pateraki (JP); cllr Susan Graham (SG).

Apologies:

Richard Bannister (RB)

Annual General Meeting

Adoption of 2020 Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held on 16th July were proposed by CS and seconded by MT as a correct record.

Election of Officers

JP nominated HC continue as Chair and this was seconded by GB. MT nominated JS as Treasurer, PH seconded. AF agreed to continue as Clerk.

Treasurer's Report

JS had distributed the Treasurers Report

Westow Parish Council Treasurer's Report for the Financial Year 2020/21

£5480.28 was brought forward from financial year 2019-2020 consisting of £4542.89 from the Parish Council account (including £1629.80 remaining in the Transparency fund) and £778.47 from the Village Hall account. Income consisted of £2300 Precept from Ryedale District Council and £180 from village hall hiring.

Gross Expenditure amounted to £6531.17. Reimbursements of £527.58 (Transitional Relief towards Non-Domestic Rates), £320 (Small Business Relief towards Non-Domestic Rates), £446.26 (VAT) and £255.86 (overpayment for electricity) resulted in net expenditure of £4980.75. Financing the work of the Parish Council, including Clerk's salary and continuing membership of YCLA and SLCC accounted for £890.16. Insurance for the Parish and running of the Village Hall (energy & water charges) accounted for £1759. Hiring brought in an

income of only £180 due to lock down restrictions imposed in the Covid19 pandemic. The cost to the Parish of renewing the floor in the village hall was, after recovering the VAT element (£350) £1743. The £300 Locality Budget grant awarded by NYCC in 2019-20 towards the cost of a new entrance door reduced the cost to the Parish, after recovering the VAT element (£96.20) to £190.60.

Compliance with the Transparency Code accounted for £238.80 of spending (to maintain the Parish Council website). The balance of the initial funding received in 2017 being carried forward into 2020-2021 is £1391.

The Financial Summary shows £2979.94 is being carried forward into 2021-2022, inclusive of £1391 Transparency Code funds. Definite spending commitments carried forward include £400 for the purchase and installing dog waste bins.

J Smith, Treasurer

The accounts are attached.

Robin Graham has kindly agreed to conduct the Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

Westow Parish Council is a 'Smaller Authority' with neither gross income nor gross expenditure exceeding £25,000 in the year of account ended 31st March 2021. It will certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 by submission of a Certificate of Exemption – AGAR 2020/21 Part 2 -- no later than 30th June 2021.

Chair's Report

HC had distributed the Chair's Report

Westow Parish Council – Chair's Annual Report April 2020 - March 2021

The PC's last face to face meeting before the Coronavirus lockdowns was 11 March 2020. In July we held our first Zoom meetings for the PC. Following the AGM (postponed from May) and the July regular meeting, all our subsequent meetings in September, November, January and March have had to be held virtually. This is likely to continue until June 2021. We are grateful to members of the public who have contacted us via the website and email and also joined a Zoom meeting. Despite not being able to meet face to face, the PC has had constructive discussions on a range of issues.

Over the year, these have included getting the Village Hall floor repaired and the door replaced; funding the installation of three more dog bins in Westow; debating how best to rationalise the supply of salt and grit to the area and agreeing the most suitable place for a bench near the Rakes. We are grateful to Julie Price who has offered to contribute some of the proceeds from the 2020 Art Exhibition at the Cricket Club towards a bench.

The PC contacted the agents who manage Howsham Woods after it was brought to our attention that a padlocked gate had been installed across the footpath entrance. They had had problems with vehicles accessing the woods but agreed that the padlocking was not

appropriate. The PC also approved the application for a canopy to be constructed at the Stone Trough inn to enable them to open after lockdown in a Covid compliant way.

We have been relatively lucky living in Ryedale during the pandemic and the area has seen more visitors as folk have visited the countryside when the opportunity arose. At the end of May, as the Coronavirus lockdown eased a little, it coincided with good weather and we had problems with an excess of visitors at Kirkham. The rubbish and general disregard for the area was very disappointing.

Local residents complained and Councillor Susan Graham alerted the PC. Many thanks to Christine Smith for her work liaising with Ryedale District Council (RDC) who promptly contacted NYCC about the high volume of cars. North Yorkshire Police were also alerted to the social distancing concerns, car obstruction and verbal abuse towards residents. Police and the RDC Community Team patrolled or visited the area. Street Scene confirmed that rubbish would be tidied and collected by RDC. The land owner was made aware too as it is their responsibility to clear any excess rubbish. Kirkham remains busy but so far there have not been further problems although parking is tight especially at weekends.

There had sadly also been some damage to the Westow Playing Fields last year. Steve Tetlow from the Playing Fields Association was aware of this and repairs were completed. Fortunately no further issues have been reported.

Our Clerk, Angela Fothergill, deserves much credit for her perseverance in getting the weight restriction signs for Kirkham Bridge finally in place on the A64 last September. She has also been stoic in chasing RDC to get the additional dog bins installed and we hope these will be in place by the end of April 2021. Finally, I would like to add my thanks to the rest of the PC for their continued hard work which is completely voluntary.

Helen Crews, April 2021

The Council gave their thanks to Helen Crews for her hard work as Chair.

The next meeting will be on 30th June 2021 in the Village Hall