

WESTOW PARISH COUNCIL

Westow Parish Council Meeting – 18th May 2022 – Village Hall

Attendees:

Helen Crews (HC) Chair, Angela Fothergill (AF) Clerk; Pennie Hamer (PH) Richard Bannister (RB); Elizabeth Shields (ES)
By phone: John Smith (JS); Christine Smith (CS)

Apologies:

Neil Johnson (NJ); cllr Susan Graham (SG)

Elizabeth Shields was welcomed as a newly elected member and Richard Bannister was co-opted on to the Council. AF to forward relevant forms to them for completion.

Annual General Meeting

Adoption of 2020 Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held on 5th May 2021 were proposed by JS and seconded by PH as a correct record.

Election of Officers

CS nominated HC continue as Chair and this was seconded by PH. RB 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 2021/22

£2979.94 was brought forward from financial year 2020-21 consisting of £2577.74 from the Westow Parish Council account, £245.33 from the Westow Parish Club Committee (Village Hall) account and £156.87 from the Village Hall Deposit account.

Income consisted of £2300 Precept from Ryedale District Council, £150 from Northern PowerGrid in respect of a disruption to the electricity supply, £100.75 recovered VAT and £94 from village hall hire.

NB Non Domestic Rates 2021-22 of £848.30 was offset by Transitional Relief of £479.47 and Small Business Rate Relief of £368.83.

£3739.66 was transferred through the offices of Clive Staples from the Village Hall and Community Fund into Westow Parish Club Committee account now dedicated to fund essential maintenance of Westow Village Hall.

Expenditure amounted to £4125.79. Financing the work of the Parish Council, including the salary of the Parish Clerk, Parish insurance and membership of the YLCA and CPRE accounted for £1564.89. The cost of utilities (water and electricity) for the Village Hall amounted to £783. The provision of dog waste bins was extended at a cost of £522.90 and the seat at the War Memorial was kindly restored by Clive Beadon for the cost of the timber.

Compliance with the Transparency Code (to maintain the Parish Council website) accounted for £298.80 of spending. The balance of the initial funding received in 2017 being carried forward into 2022-23 is now £1092.20.

The Financial Summary shows £6086.86 is being carried forward into 2022-23, inclusive of £1092.20 Transparency Code funds and £3739.66 Parish Club Committee (Village Hall maintenance) funds.

Robin Graham had agreed to carry out the auditing of the accounts.

Chair's Report

HC had distributed the Chair's Report

Westow Parish Council (PC) – Chair's Annual Report April 2021 - March 2022

I'm pleased to report that in 2022, at long last, we have been able to resume our meetings on a regular basis in the Village Hall. The novelty of Zoom meetings was starting to wear off! However, we did have a very interesting and informative Zoom presentation by Andrew Santon, NYCC's Highways Customer Communications Officer at our November 2021 meeting to discuss some of the PC's concerns regarding speeding and parking in the village. A "Local Traffic" or "Local Traffic Only" sign down Low Lane was proposed to help reduce the amount of traffic through the village. Westow is also signed off the C177 at both Henlow Lane and Ruffin Lane so removing the direction sign from Low Lane won't be a big loss. Reducing the speed limit to 20mph in the village is not an option currently as Westow does not meet the criteria, for example having a school in the village. Parking along Main Street can be problematic at times and we are keeping this under review.

Our Clerk, Angela Fothergill, as ever deserves much credit for her perseverance in getting things done. The weight restriction signs for Kirkham Bridge were finally in place on the A64 last September. She has also been stoic in chasing RDC to get three additional dog bins and these were also finally installed in April/May last year - one near the War Memorial, one at the end of Firby track (Firby end) and one at the bottom of the Rakes. Additionally, whilst some potholes have been repaired, (Firby was particularly bad), she continues to ask for others in the parish to be mended.

The PC had been contacted about the state of the telephone box in Westow. Telephone boxes in Ryedale are listed "buildings" and Richard Bannister volunteered to contact BT to find out what our options were which we discovered could include adopting the box. At present we have asked BT to add the box to their "to be painted" list and we await to hear when their contractors will be available. Unfortunately, this will not be in time for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

In July 2021 the PC had discussed what might be done to celebrate the forthcoming Jubilee and agreed that it would support a community street party in Westow on 5 June. Jaynie Pateraki offered to set up a Westow Queen's Platinum Jubilee Committee in November and she along with her colleagues Vanessa Goodwin and Karen Johnson kindly updated the PC in March. They have worked so hard and deserve many thanks for taking on the considerable task of organising of this event. The PC will miss Jaynie as she has decided not to stand for re-election to the PC and our thanks go to her for her enthusiasm and community spirit.

There are others who need to be thanked for their contributions over the year. The bench next to the War Memorial was repaired by Clive Beadon; the outside of the Village Hall windows and sills were tidied up by Chris Botham; Christine and John Smith donated new curtains for the Hall. Finally, our biggest and heartfelt thanks must go to Margaret Thompson who is standing down from the PC after volunteering for more than 30 years. Margaret has been steadfast in her contribution to the PC and we will miss her humour, knowledge, insightfulness and general common sense. She has been an inspiration to us and we wish her all the very best for the future.

CS gave thanks on behalf of the Council to HC for her hard work as Chair of the Council.

May Regular Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting

The Minutes of the March meeting were proposed as a correct record.

Thanks were given by the Chair to the services of both Margaret Thompson from Firby and Jaynie Pateraki from Westow on the Council. Both had decided to resign from the Council, Margaret had served on the Council for over 30 years and her knowledge and expertise would be missed. Jaynie had served the Council for a couple of years and had been a hardworking member and valued member of the Council and leading the Platinum Jubilee Committee.

Clerks Update

AF would chase up the pothole repair situation on the Parish Portal.

Budget and Finance

As in the Treasurers Report above.

Planning Applications

No Applications received since January's meeting.

Water Hydrant

Chris Crone had asked if the Council would be happy with him painting the water hydrant. The Council had no issue with this and would be happy for him to do so. AF to contact Chris Crone to say that we are happy for him to paint the hydrant.

Some discussion took place regarding the Register of PC Assets and HC said she would see if she could locate any documentation.

HC has since found a register that was prepared in 2004 which lists as assets:-

- Westow Village Hall land and structure
- Contents of the Village Hall
- War Memorial and railings plus adjacent benches
- Water pump/hydrant
- Notice Boards – wooden one near telephone box and metal framed one outside Village Hall (no longer there)

Cars Parking at end of Main Street – Access Issues

It had been brought to the attention of HC that an ambulance had struggled to get through the cars which were parked on either side of the road at the end of Main Street before The Croft. HC had looked into this and had determined that access had to be available at all times to enable a fire engine to get through. In view of this, HC had completed a form online requesting that someone from the Fire Service came out to assess the situation.

The meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 13th July