

COLBY & BANNINGHAM PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 MAY 2021 at 7p.m.

The meeting was held under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations via Zoom

PRESENT:

Parish Council Mr J van Poortvliet, Chairman
Mr R Anderson-Dungar, Vice-Chairman
Mr N Andrews
Mrs P Ashby
Mr S F Clarke
Mr S Elliott
Mrs M Anderson-Dungar, Clerk

01 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and 8 members of the public to the Annual Parish Meeting.

02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from D Cllr Toye

03 MINUTES OF THE 2019 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The 2020 Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19. Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 March 2019 had been available on the Parish Council website and were proposed and confirmed for signing at a later date.

04 MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

05 REPORTS – THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE NOTED:

1. VILLAGE HALL

This was a separate Agenda item later in the meeting.

2. COLBY SCHOOL

The Clerk, as a member of the Governing Board, reported on the past year at Colby School. Attached to these Minutes as Appendix 1. The hard work of the staff during the pandemic was commended. Hard work by the staff.

3. PLAYING FIELD

A difficult year in many ways, but much progress had been made, thanks to Hazel Blackburn and the Green Fingers Garden Club who had planted over 800m wildflowers so far, and to Stuart Clarke for leading the work to create the small car park. The new grounds contract had started well.

A resident complimented the Council for leading the community effort, the field was developing well and was a pleasant area to walk through.

In response to a further question regarding plans for a play area and applications for funding, the Chairman replied that there were no plans at the moment, as the school field can be used by the community; however, it could

be re-visited if there was a demand. Initially, we needed to see the tree and flower planting come to fruition, and how the car park works when it is in use. A summer of use and a new cutting regime will provide a good basis to assess the use of the field.

The Chairman appreciated all the comments, and from his viewpoint it was a pleasure to be part of a team with drive, enthusiasm, and passion to go forward.

4. GREEN LANES, FOOTPATHS & LITTER PICKS

Andy Mills reported on the plans for footpath maps, he and Tony Blackburn had walked footpaths as far west as Scarrowbeck and east toward Suffield, to give people an idea of circular routes. There were currently 10 circular routes mapped, based around roads and footpaths, more links could be opened up by use of permissive paths. A map for walkers was a central feature in the telephone box information point, information panels would be positioned on either side.

Paul Filby commented on the difficulties of getting walkers back on the proper and reinstated footpath. His path leads on to a permissive path around two of his fields to create a circular route; unfortunately, walkers don't keep to the path and walk through crops. A resident who regularly uses the path and the permissive section was disappointed that people have abused it and would be happy to divert anyone back to the proper route if they were in the wrong place. The Chairman understood the frustrations of landowners and asked residents to politely express concerns and divert wrongdoers to the correct path. Andy Mills stated that there were no permissive paths on the map at the moment, but there would be information on a panel along side the map, with acknowledgement of the generosity of landowners; he would be happy to reinforce the need for people to keep to the proper paths.

Long term plans for publicising walks included a leaflet which could highlight the footpath map, the permissive paths and how they should be used.

5. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report focussed on the changes to meeting arrangements due to Covid-19 regulations, and the progress made on various projects. Attached as Appendix 2

06 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A great deal had been achieved over a difficult year when communications were difficult due to the pandemic. Nigel Andrews had joined the Council, bringing previous experience as a parish councillor elsewhere, and an enthusiasm for the parish to develop. Sadly, Mark Howarth, a former Councillor and representative on the Neech Loan Fund, had died recently.

Progress had been made in all areas, the playing field, as reported earlier, bulb and flower planting on the village green, the setting up of the telephone box as an information point and now the development of the refurbishment of the village hall. All this would not have been possible without the hard work of Councillors, residents, and other stakeholders such as the Bowls Club, a true community effort.

Plans going forward included the continued development of the playing field, telephone box and the village green, a Christmas lights event, increased communications via newsletters, website, and social media.

The Chairman concluded with thanks to the Clerk for her work and to his fellow Councillors for their support.

The Vice-Chairman proposed a Vote of Thanks to the Chairman for his leadership over the past year.

07 QUESTIONS/ITEMS FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL TO DISCUSS AT FUTURE MEETINGS

These included the following:

- Footpaths
- Community Partnership Scheme for faster broadband – this was being investigated with help from Noel Bartram, who had liaised with Openreach. So far, almost 100 households had expressed an interest.
- Replacement for Revd. Keith Dally, who had retired. Mr Anderson-Dungar explained the procedure insofar as the vacancy was not advertised until the incumbent had left the parish. Kings Beck was currently in interregnum, a committee was in place that included all the churchwardens, to co-ordinate services, etc. More churches would be opened up as and when restrictions eased.

08 YOUR VILLAGE HALL – SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr Elliott was asked to summarise events so far:

- An Open Meeting in September 2020 concluded that the hall was an important asset for the community. It was agreed to work on a plan for regeneration with the active involvement of residents, with the objective to make the hall fit for purpose, attractive and used for a variety of events.
- In December 2020 residents were invited to come forward to form a working group to take the plans forward. Between 15 and 20 volunteered, roughly 10% of the parish. Zoom meetings for a group of this size were difficult, so the group split into 3 working groups – Marketing, Facilities and Finance, each with specific responsibilities. Thanks to John Catton, Kevin and Diane Fields who led the groups and to the Clerk for the administration of the 16 meetings already taken place. Achievements so far with thanks to:
 - Mark Camidge for the drone and heat loss surveys
 - Tony Blackburn and Kevin Fields for preparation of plans for improvements
 - Jeanie Feneron for development of a new dedicated website
 - Hazel Blackburn for offering to take on the bookings later in the year
 - Tony Pritchard for professional advice and guidance on the marketing plan
 - Diane Fields and Stuart Clarke for investigating potential funding sources
 - The Village Hall Management Committee for committing £15,000 from funds for essential works
- All the work from the groups came together in a report and a plan to the Parish Council, which was accepted. Grant applications are in progress and exploration of potential funding sources will continue. Medium term, it is intended to re-launch the hall, perhaps with a new name, and to set up an Interim Village Hall Management Committee alongside work on the best way to manage the asset for the future. More volunteers always welcome!

Questions/comments were invited and included:

- An offer to lead re-decoration of the hall by volunteers if enough people came forward
- Emphasis that the Village Hall Management Committee had not failed – it just didn't get support from the community. Writing reports is in some ways the easy part – we need to put the ideas into practice and manage people's expectations. The hall belongs to the parish, residents need to get involved to make things happen.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions to date, another example of community involvement, that hopefully would gain momentum and generate future income for the hall.

09 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and closed the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting at 8.10p.m.

Signed (Chairman)

Date

DRAFT