

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Holme East Waver Parish Council Held on Thursday 9th September 2021 at 7.00pm in Newton Arlosh Parish Hall.

Present: V. Hodgson (Chairman)

Cllrs: Graham, Roper, Stockdale and County Cllr Markley.

Public: Four members of the public attended.

Clerk: M. Abbs

1. Welcome from the Chairman, Mr V Hodgson.

2- Apologies for absence. – Councillor Welsh

3- Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in May 2019. – **approved and signed.**

4- Chairman's report

Cllr Hodgson gave his report and thanked the clerk for his work and for the support and work of the Vice Chairman and other councillors. Cllrs were thanked for the time, dedication, support and help they have given by attending the PC meetings and any external meetings.

Various grants and donations totalling £650.00 had been awarded to local groups this year and he said it was 'great' to see the money collected from parish residents (via council tax) being used within the local community for the benefit of local people.

Nearly £18,000.00 had been spent on upgrading the playground area this year. This has been a long time in the planning and was admittedly overdue, but all the necessary funds had to be in place before a contract could be awarded and this took a significant amount of time and effort. He hoped everyone who uses the play area now appreciates it and really enjoys it. Some of the equipment has undergone some necessary small scale maintenance work recently to bring it up to the required safety level and help improve its appearance.

A special thanks go to ABC who donated £8,000.00, Tony Markley our CCC Councillor who donated £1,000.00 via CCC and also the Hadfield Trust who donated £2,000.00. Without this funding the project would not have been possible.

Kerbside recycling has been awaited by HW PC and its residents for some time and it is really pleasing to see this service has now been delivered by ABC

This years' precept for the Parish is £6860.

He closed his report by thanking those present for their attendance.

5-Financial and activity reports

5.1 Parish Council-report from the clerk

The clerk thanked the Chairman and other councillors for their support during the year the difficult period during the pandemic. Meetings had been held using Zoom in order to fulfil the obligations of the Council

The clerk gave out copies of a 3-year financial summary to the public and provided some explanation. No issues had been raised by the internal or external audits. He stated that he believed the Council to be in a sound financial position, though potentially challenging times lay ahead in the current climate of financial cutbacks and the demands of maintaining the Playground. As the Chairman had mentioned the Play park had received a substantial upgrade due to the backing of external funders and use of the Councils own resources.

He supported the Chairman's view that the council made a substantial contribution to village life. The Council had discharged its responsibilities in other areas of such as planning.

Looking forward, his overall view as the Country emerged from the pandemic remained one of cautious optimism.

5.2 Newton Arlosh Brownies

No report was received.

5.3 Newton Arlosh Community Committee

No report was received.

5.4 Newton Arlosh Parish Hall Committee

Mr Bell provided accounts and outlined the financial position of the Hall, which had been closed the imposed lockdowns. A grant had been received from Allerdale Borough Council to help during the pandemic. He hope that 'normal life' in the village would return soon and that the Hall would be well used.

5.5 Newton Arlosh Parochial Church Council

Mr Bell provided accounts and explained the current situation concerning the Church finances and thanked the Council for its grant award which enabled the Churchyard to be kept in good condition. Financially, the Church had made a small loss. Mr Bell answered a question concerning the cost of electricity used in the church.

Cllr Hodgson thanked all the contributors for their reports and contribution to Parish life.

6-OPEN FORUM

A chance to bring to the Parish Council matters of concern within the Parish.

The following matters were raised:

The significant amount of litter in the area was highlighted and the possibility of more litter bins and/or an organised litter pick was raised. Cllr Markley and the clerk commented on the Health and Safety requirements of organised litter picks. The clerk said he would contact the AONB for advice. Cllrs would check out the number of litter bins currently in the village.

A parishioner asked if streetlighting could be improved in the village, particularly near the pub. Cllrs would investigate this and, if necessary, would ask the clerk to include streetlighting on a future Parish Council agenda.

A parishioner would like to see footway that ran the length of the village. Cllr Hodgson commented that this could not be carried out by the Parish Council but may be investigated.

Discussion on official footpaths, as opposed to permissive paths, followed and Cllr Hodgson pointed out that these could only be established with landowner permission through a complicated process.

A parishioner suggested an informative notice board for visitors could be located in the village and Cllrs were willing to consider this.

The lack of a Police presence in the village was a concern and County Cllr Markley explained that this was a police resource/manpower problem.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30p.m.

At which point all members of the public left.