

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Holme East Waver Parish Council Held on Thursday 12th May 2022 at 7.00pm in Newton Arlosh Parish Hall.

Present: V. Hodgson (Chairman)

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

Public: Nine members of the public attended.

Clerk: M. Abbs

1. Welcome from the Chairman, Mr V Hodgson.

2- Apologies for absence. – Borough Councillor M Johnson

3- Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th September 2021. – **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.

A grant towards grasscutting had been awarded to the church. The playground area had been given a major upgrade this year. 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 Parish Plan had been drawn up listing the Council's priorities for the Parish and the thoughts and comments of parishioners was welcomed. Stickers for 'wheelie bins' reminding drivers of the 30mph zone through the village had been ordered. An Oak tree had been purchased and planted in the playground to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

This years' precept for the Parish is £7000.

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 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 last year. This year,

due to the amount spent on the playground, a submission would need to be made to the external auditor. The accounts had been examined by the internal auditor and found to be correct and no matters of concern had been raised by her. He stated that he believed the Council to be in a sound financial position, though potentially challenging times lay ahead in the current inflationary climate, financial cutbacks and the potential demands of the playground.

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, he hoped the recovery from the COVID pandemic would continue.

5.2 Newton Arlosh Brownies

No report was received.

5.3 Newton Arlosh Community Committee

Mrs Whitaker asked the Council to bring back the previous practice of delivering a flyer to every household to remind parishioners of the date of the Annual Parish Meeting. She appreciated that it was advertised in the Parish Magazine and locally. During the pandemic the Facebook site had been used to provide parishioners with information and organise events like the 'clapping' for key workers. A new defibrillator battery had been purchased for the machine in the village. A planter had been maintained near the village sign at the approach to the village. Christmas lights had been put up. Hot Pot and Curry nights had taken place. The Committee currently had £260 in the bank.

Cllr Graham requested that village events be advertised in the Parish Magazine.

5.4 Newton Arlosh Parish Hall Committee

Mr Bell provided accounts and outlined the financial position of the Hall, which had been closed due to the imposed lockdowns but was now being used for an increasing number of events. A grant had been received from Allerdale Borough Council to help during the pandemic. He hoped 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. He outlined the fund-raising activities that the church had carried out and explained the change in the financial year of the church and its effect on church finances.

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:

County Cllr Marley reported to the meeting. In the absence of Allerdale BC Cllr Mike Johnson he reported that matters at Allerdale BC were still moving forward and highlighted the additional funding for Wigton and the 'Borderlands' initiative.

As County Cllr he referred to the anticipated removal of the Anthorn bus service. Local Government reform was outlined and he referred to the recent elections and thanked those present for their support.

Parishioners then raised and discussed the following with Cllrs:

An information board outlining the history of the Parish was requested again. The clerk explained that he had contacted the AONB for assistance/support but had not received a response.

Parishioners were still keen to have a footway that ran through the whole length of the village. Cllrs Welsh and Hodgson outlined response of the Highway Authority to this request when previously submitted. Cllr Markley commented and advised the Parish Council to ensure it was on the Parish Plan and to contact the Authority again.

It was felt that additional signage asking people to take litter home would be advantageous. It was also felt that there was a need for more bins. There was continued concern over speeding vehicles in the village and Cllr Hodgson reminded them about the speed awareness stickers for bins which had been ordered. Cllr Welsh commented that the desired footway would make the village safer for pedestrians.

The situation concerning public footpaths was mentioned and Cllr Hodgson commented that the creation of new official footpaths required landowner consent and involved a protracted legal process.

Cllr Markley gave his apologies then left the meeting explain that he had another meeting he had to attend.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10p.m.

At which point all members of the public left.