

**WELL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**  
**HELD AT WELL INSTITUTE ON MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2015**

**Present:** David Webster (Chairman), Sarah Sharp (Vice-Chairman), Avril Lane, Sydd Perry, Julia Hamby (Parish Clerk), Cllr John Weighell and 8 parishioners.

1. **Apologies** James Bourne-Arton, West Tanfield School, PC Perrin, Helen Kitching
2. **Minutes of the Last AVM.** These had been circulated to all Councillors, published on the village website, and were available to anyone who wanted to see them via the Parish Clerk. Agreed that the minutes were acceptable; this was carried unanimously, and they were signed accordingly.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.**
  - a) Pear Tree Farm – Section 215 notice served to tidy up as next to a Grade 1 listed building, not yet done, however, JH reported that there appeared to be some activity there at the moment
  - b) Grass cutting – JH had not followed this up with NYCC, however, the grass was being cut by NYCC in areas that could cause a problem to emerging vehicles and householders were cutting the areas in front of their properties. Cllr Weighell explained the NYCC policy which had not changed from the information supplied to the PC in the past and that the Council were still not cutting grass in urban areas
4. **Reports.** The following reports were presented to the meeting:
  - a) **Well Institute Trustees.** No report available
  - b) **Well Quoits Club.** No report
  - c) **Well Ringmaster Scheme.** Mr Geoff Ross reported Ringmaster continues to operate in the village albeit with fewer members. We are very fortunate to live in an area which is substantially free from crime and messages from the police are tending to be in the nature of prevention advice and warnings about potential crimes, particularly internet based, rather than reports of actual incidents. Anyone interested in being added to our list of members, which simply means that any Ringmaster messages will be forwarded to you when received by me, is invited to make contact with me.
  - d) **Well Oiled Club.** Mr Geoff Ross reported Our Group currently has 26 members and we have had four deliveries during the past 12 months, interestingly from four different suppliers as on each occasion a different company has quoted the most competitive price. Discounts to our club have averaged about 5p per litre, which means that each member has saved approximately £62 over the normal price during the past year. Any resident wishing to join the club or to obtain further information is welcome to get in touch with me.
  - e) **Community Police.** A report had been received via email that was circulated at the meeting and was available via email from the Clerk for anyone who required it. It gave crime figures for Well, West Tanfield, Snape, there was nothing significant to report
  - f) **Well United Charities.** Mr James Bourne-Arton had sent a report as he was unable to attend the meeting: Due to the hard work and diligence of Helen Kitchen, the secretary, the alms houses are being smoothly managed and there is nothing to report at the moment.

**g) Nevill's Trust.** We continue to look to offer financial support for the educational benefit of the children of Snape and Well. This is both generally and on an individual basis. The awards are not means tested. We are particularly interested in helping in the following areas:

- a) Supporting any equipment required for apprenticeships
- b) Helping towards equipment required for university
- c) Assisting towards music tuition
- d) Other extra tuition

If you would like to apply for some support, please email [jbournearton@yahoo.com](mailto:jbournearton@yahoo.com)

**h) St Michael's Parish Church.** David Webster reported that The main focus of activity is the imminent repairs to the Church tower roof and south aisle. This is programmed for later this year. Congregations remain fairly constant, averaging about a dozen each service. Services are the first and third Sundays in the month, with seasonal variations such as Christmas and Easter. Clergy are rather stretched, as, for example, Rev. Peter Grime has endured poor health of late, however, our Curate Nick Morgan is to be ordained as a priest at the end of June and thus will strengthen our Clergy team. Fund raising has suffered a setback this year as the car boot sale event at Bedale Hall had to be abandoned due to a water logged park. We hope Open Gardens at Snape will help fill the shortfall. Grass cutting in the Graveyard is now undertaken by Tarmac, due to the negotiating prowess of Mrs. Jean Skinner.

**i) Hambleton District Council.** District Councillor David Webster reported Council tax now stands at £94.48p which is still the third lowest Shire County Band D rate in the country, representing excellent value for money to Hambleton's residents.

Our Refuse service has now provided every household with a blue topped bin for re-cycling, thus everyone has now three bins and a bottle box which allows the target of 50% plus of all refuse to be re-cycled by 2020.

As a result, mini re-cycling centres have now been withdrawn, which means that refuse from passers-by from other districts can no longer be left for Hambleton to deal with.

It is hoped that the Making a Difference grants will continue this year, allowing funding for projects across the District to receive a boost.

This month Police and Crime Commissioner elections take place, followed in June by the European Referendum.

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May the Tour de Yorkshire travelled from Middlesbrough to Scarborough much of the route through Hambleton. Another major success for both the District and the County, attracting about two million spectators.

**j) North Yorks County Council.** County Cllr John Weighell reported that it had been fascinating to read last year's Minutes and look at what he had said a year ago. 2% of Council tax this year is ring fenced for elderly care in North Yorkshire. The cuts continue. Communities are having to do more themselves to accommodate the cuts. Bedale by pass expected to come in before the anticipated time, between 4-8 weeks ahead of time. SS asked about the new roundabout outside Bedale, new entrance to the park and golf club was too narrow so had to be re-done.

Cut backs are on grass cutting, buses and mobile library. Bedale library will be run by volunteers if it is to stay open.

The new County Councillors Locality budget of £5,000 available for people to bid into. Anyone interested to apply to Cllr Weighell, minimum of £300, maximum of £1,000. This runs up until the 31/3/17 if there is still money available.

DW asked a question about £3m under budget, what would happen to the underspend? 85% goes to the Treasury and 15% to NYCC.

From Friday onwards the Planning Committee was meeting regarding the fracking issue at Kirby Misperton and there would be over 100 speakers. The recommendation from planning officers would be to approve. SP queried what would happen if approved and Cllr Weighell explained. DW mentioned the application for Langwith Quarry would be heard on the following day, the 17<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Cllr Weighell for his report

**k) Nosterfield Quarry Liaison Committee**

DW had been present at a recent meeting of the committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April which was mainly about Tanfield. The only bit applicable to Well was Langwith, and the Ladybridge extension had been signed off and granted, Langwith would be on the 17<sup>th</sup> May. The Henges and surrounding area, farmed by a local farmer, they are up for sale but no one has come forward to take them over. English Heritage will now take them over and the surface ownership will be transferred to English Heritage. Oakland's is the area of land which is on your right as you reach the first left hand bend travelling east out of Well to Langwith. I believe this area was a discounted area by NYCC but Tarmac are trying to have half of the original area adopted as a preferred area. Because of delays gaining permissions for future quarrying reserves are being eked out and only two customers are now being supplied, Thomas Armstrong's and Marshalls. The Ladybridge area is being restored on the east side of the Tanfield to Carthorpe road, i.e. reed planting and fencing. Area 8 to the south side of Ladybridge farm and is to be back filled with inert matter. The dredger is being re furnished to extract aggregate from the Langwith area. I believe it is proposed that LUCT (Lower Ure Conservation Trust) will assume responsibility for an area to the west of the quarry area. The quarry has helped fund part(10%) of the play equipment and also has offered to cut the Church yard (northern part) four times per year.

**o) Craft Group Annual Report** Mrs Kath Greaves reported that The group meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the homes of the members. Members take it in turns to host the group and provide beverages. Projects can be significantly enhanced by a glass of red wine! Sessions are a mix of crafters taking their own ongoing projects and sharing with the group or taught activities led by the host. This year the group has made draught stoppers for households experiencing difficulties with heating their homes and white roses for an arts festival at Ripon Cathedral. Other taught activities have included embroidered greeting cards, jewellery making, tessellating patterns and Christmas and Easter decorations. The group is advertised in the Parish Magazine

**p) Walking Group**. Mrs Kath Greaves reported that The group continues to meet on the first and third Mondays of each month. It is advertised monthly in the Parish magazine and this has brought in new walkers from West Tanfield and Ellingstring. We have also welcomed new walkers from Patrick Brompton and Bedale. One member travels from Harrogate. The group meets outside Orchard House at 10 am or at the starting point of the walk. Details of the walk are emailed to the group by the walk leader who gives starting point, distance and any significant gradients. This enables walkers to make a choice about the suitability of the walk. The group continued to walk during the very wet winter when many fields and paths were waterlogged, by making use of some town treasure trails and using hard surfaced bridleways and cycle routes. 24 walkers and partners enjoyed a Christmas gathering at the Fox and Hounds in Carthorpe where the meal was delicious. Walks this year have included Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal, Thornborough Henges, Ellingstring from Fearby, Ellerton Lakes, the mosaic trail from West Witton, Ripon canal and riverside paths, Markenfield Hall, Jervaux Abbey and Danby Grange. The walks vary between 5 and 7 miles. We are surrounded here by fantastic countryside. The walking group is a great way to enjoy it, to keep fit and to socialise with some lovely people.

q) **Well Inflated Cycling Group.** Roger Hamby had sent a report: The group meets every Tuesday from April to October, 6.30 pm in April, then from 7.00 pm in May. There are 10 members, but usually between 3-5 turn out most Tuesdays to do around 16-17 miles which takes around 1-1.5 hours and usually end at The Milbank Arms

r) **Playing Field Association.** No representative available, however a report had been submitted to the Clerk as follows:

Summary of previous year - With the assistance of Well Parish Council, 2015 saw the Grand Opening of Well Playing Field. Many months of hard work went in to the funding, design and implementation of the project resulting in a safe, exciting area for the children to play.

Annual Commitment - Safety - The WPFA has authorised an annual inspection of the field and its equipment with Matt Day of Streetscape. The 2016 inspection was carried out in March. Furthermore, quarterly inspections are carried out by Streetscape and weekly by the committee. Grass Cutting – Unfortunately funding from the Neville Trust to assist with annual expenses was refused. The committee are currently working on a plan of action for funds to cover grass cutting along with who by and when this should be carried out over the coming months. For the time being the WPFA will cover these expenses.

Future Development - Following requests made at the last Parish Council meeting for additional equipment, quotes are being obtained for more 'toddler' friendly play items and a small adult outside gym. The Neville Trust have indicated that they are happy to fund any additional equipment. It is the committee's aim to have this in place in the next 12 months.

Events - Several successful events have been held within the Playing Field since it's Grand Opening. The WPFA would like to invite all villagers (and those on the outskirts) to attend 'The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Tea Party' on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 2pm. We kindly ask for food donations to make this a party to remember! The party will be optional FANCY DRESS (royalty based optional) with prizes for the best child and adult costumes. We have lots of fun and games planned so please come and join us.

Planned Coffee Morning & Table Top Sale – date tba.

Financial - Current balance in WPFA account £3476.94  
Outgoings to date £1032.09  
Incoming to date £72.90

s) **St Nicholas C of E School, West Tanfield.** Andrea Peacock, the Head for the School had sent a detailed report, see Appendix 2 to these Minutes for the full report. SS mentioned the threat to local schools and the academic programme and that as a community we need to do something to keep them

## 5. **Any Other Business.**

a) JH informed the meeting that the assets of the village were now around £43,000 since the playing field had been completed and the new PC noticeboard was in place

6. **Date of Next Meeting.** The dates of all meetings for the coming year would be agreed at the next Parish Council Meeting; however, the next meeting is already scheduled to be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June, at 7.00 pm.

**There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, and the meeting closed at 8.07 pm.**

Signed:

Position:

Date: