

Oswaldkirk Parish Annual General Meeting and Parish Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 11th June 2009

PRESENT: 31

APOLOGIES: Paul and Sue Elm, Rosie Wilkinson

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The Minutes of the last Meeting noted. They were proposed as being an accurate record by Andy Watt, seconded by Helen Goodman, carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When I took over from Ian Henley as Chairman I was promised a quiet life with not a lot of "action". Having completed four years in the role I am still waiting for the lull to come along and if it does experience tells me that I need to batten down for the storm to come!

The major event of the year has been our entry in the Calor Village of the Year competition and our regional success. We were obviously disappointed not to win the northern region round of the competition but as many people have said to represent Yorkshire at anything is a great achievement and not something I ever thought that I would be involved with. It was particularly gratifying for me to see people who would not normally do so stand up and make their very personal contributions to the presentations and to come forward and help out. So thanks to everyone who contributed in so many ways.

Interestingly the competition did bring to light many facets of our village life. Residents were particularly keen to tell the judges what a great community we have. It is nice that we feel that way in spite of all the problems along the way! We still get complaints about dogs being left outside to disturb the neighbourhood and we had a temporary problem with pavements being fouled. We have bonfires covering the area with smoke on warm summer evenings, trees disappearing, guns being fired within the village perimeter and complaints about revellers disturbing sleep. I sometimes wonder how on earth we manage to live together – fortunately we seem to cope!!

We do have a lot more successes than failures, most notably this year I would highlight in addition to the Calor competition: -

Red Nose Day thanks to a lot of effort by David and his team of stalwarts

Chestnut Bank – again thanks to Rhona and the usual suspects who turn out to help! You will be pleased to know that we fully utilised the RDC grant of £1300 towards the costs of reinstating the footpath and laying the gravel. Now that the major work has been completed the Bank will be able to benefit from regular maintenance. Speed limits will be introduced in to the village during this financial year, hopefully sooner rather than later. All the paperwork has been completed and we await NYCC programming the erection of signs etc. I have thanked Mark for his work on this campaign at previous Meetings but it would be wrong not to underline his efforts at this AGM. Thanks primarily to Ian with support from others we now have a co-ordinated and much more user friendly village web site which includes updated versions of Osgen supplied by Sarah & Michael with input from David Lee, and the History Book thanks to Helen & David, Philip and some of the younger members of the village . The driver for this revamp was the Calor competition and it is true that the competition is, as they say, a journey not and end. Thanks again to David Badham and those of you that wrote in to NYCC and the bus company we seem to have won the battle over the bus service – all we need to do now is to use it!

The playground committee under Selwyn's guidance have once again done a superb job in organising fund raising and maintenance and it is an excellent facility for the village. There has been a lot of discussion over the village hall regarding the standard of the facilities and it has been decided to increase the spend on cleaning and to develop a long term strategic plan for expenditure which will identify any major items of spend and allow us to plan for them. Anyone who thinks that they would like to have an input into that process should contact Helen. In both cases I would recommend to this Meeting that the Parish continues to fund both facilities and would recommend a 3% increase in the contribution which is in line with the increase in the precept¹.

As ever there are many in the Parish who should be mentioned for their contribution to the village and the community input and our thanks go to them for a superb job. Finally thanks to Andy Watt our treasurer for keeping the finances in order and for not absconding with the loot! Thanks to Mark for keeping me on the straight and narrow and to everyone who contributes and supports.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer presented the accounts and they were accepted by the Meeting, subject to formal auditing.

¹ This was proposed by Gerard Simpson, seconded by Eric Dunstone and carried unanimously.

	N.W. BS	York's Bank	Date	Exp	N.W. BS	York's Bank
Yorkshire Bank		680.18	14/06	Oswaldkirk Village Hall		245.00
Nationwide B.S	579.03		14/06	Trees for Chestnut bank		25.00
North York Moors Grass Cut		90.00	14/06	Oswaldkirk Playing field		240.00
Precept		527.50	04/09	Oswaldkirk Village Hall (arrears)		699.00
Precept		527.50	25/06	A Mennell (Millennium way)		90.00
Yorkshire Bank Interest		1.13	22/08	Mazars		58.75
North York Moors Grass Cut		192.35	02/09	Website		37.60
Ryedale District Council C Bank		587.50	01/02	Work to chestnut bank		200.00
Calor Village of the Year		450.00	06/03	Work to chestnut bank		255.00
				Sub-total		1850.35
				Balance c/f		1205.81
	579.03	3056.16			579.03	3056.16

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Helen Goodman informed the Meeting that the Village Hall Committee had had an AGM on Thursday 7th May 2009. Lynn Reed had retired from the post of secretary. The post had now been split in to two with Pat Thompson taking on the role of bookings secretary and Mark Clook the role of minute secretary. Helen also informed the Meeting that the Village Hall committee was preparing a 5 year plan. Finally, Helen thanked the Meeting and the Parish for the precept.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Selwyn Collinson informed the Meeting that it had been a successful year for the Playground with some of the equipment renewed/repaired under guarantee. He also highlighted the Meeting of two forthcoming events – the Village Cricket Match on August Bank Holiday and the Firework Party on 5th November.

PARISH MEETING ELECTIONS

The Chairman – Roger Dexter-Smith, the Parish Secretary – Mark Clook and the Treasurer – Andy Watt all stood for re-election and were accepted by the Meeting.

AoB

Roads + pavements – Concern was raised regarding the state of the road between Oswaldkirk and Ampleforth. Both Ian Henley and Paul George had been in contact with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). Ian had reported the state of the road via the NYCC website and as a result had received a phone call from Peter Wilson. Ian was informed that the road would be repaired at the beginning of July. Paul informed the Meeting that he had visited NYCC following an incident along that road that resulted in him damaging a wheel on his car. He was also informed that the road would be repaired. It was agreed that the Secretary would write to Richard Marr at NYCC highlighting the state of the road and seeking confirmation as to when the road would be repaired.

In addition to the road between Oswaldkirk and Ampleforth, concern was raised regarding the state of The Terrace. It was highlighted that there are several pot holes. It was agreed to also raise this to the attention of Richard Marr.

The state of the pavements in St Oswald's Close was highlighted by Paul George and he informed the Meeting that they would be repaired soon. It was again agreed to raise this to the attention of Richard Marr.

First responders – the Chairman informed the Meeting that first responders were still going strong and that it was planned to open a new group in Helmsley.

Trees – recently trees had been cut down along the southern edge of Oswaldkirk Bank opposite Bank House. This had caused a great deal of upset with several residents especially those along The Terrace whose properties are adjacent to where the trees had been removed. Other residents had also highlighted that it had spoilt the look of the village.

The Owner had applied for permission to trim saplings as well as remove a horse chestnut tree. The RDC tree officer had not objected to the proposed works. It was noted that the Secretary had received the application that requested permission to trim the saplings, however he had not received notification of the removal of the horse chestnut tree. It was highlighted that the Parish Meeting Officials do not usually do anything with applications to remove or trim trees. It was further highlighted that, according to the Ryedale District Council Tree Officer, it would be highly unlikely to obtain a tree preservation order for a tree alongside the roadside.

Several residents expressed their concern at the work, the lack of response and apparent lack of care from the Parish Meeting Officers. After a lengthy discussion, the following was proposed:

- All future applications would be posted on the Village Noticeboard and circulated to immediate neighbouring properties. It would then be up to them to contact Ryedale District Council if they wanted to.
- The secretary would write to the Tree Officer asking that Oswaldkirk be kept informed of all proposals to remove or cut trees.
- Amend Osgen to ask potential Applicant's to discuss proposals with neighbours.

Grass – The meeting was informed that Andy Mennell had cut the grass/vegetation from the end of the footpath on the Bank to the 'Oswaldkirk' Sign. It was agreed to ask NYCC if they could add this to the grass cutting rota.

Millennium Footpath – it was noted that this was in need of a trim and the Chair undertook to ask Andy Mennell to cut the vegetation.

Horses riding on the Millennium Footpath – it was highlighted that horses were being ridden along the Millennium footpath and this was resulting in damage. The Chair undertook to speak to the horse riders.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.