

Oswaldkirk Parish Annual General Meeting and Parish Meeting

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11th May 2010

PRESENT: 20

APOLOGIES: Ian Henley, Beryl Lee, John and Rosie Wilkinson, Pat Thompson, Gaynor Badham, Andy and Shirley Halliwell and Eric Dunstone

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The Minutes of the last Meeting noted. They were proposed as being an accurate record by Del Jenkins, seconded by John Webb.

Patrick Toone

Roger announced that Patrick Toone had sadly passed away. The funeral would be at St Benedict's Church in Ampleforth on Friday 14th May.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my report last year I said that when I took over from Ian Henley as Chairman of the Parish Meeting I was promised a quiet life with not a lot of "action". I can happily report that this has been the first quiet year of my tenure! No BT poles on the Terrace, no Calor competition and not too many issues regarding trees, horses or dogs. Certainly anything that has come up has or is being resolved amicably – I think!!

The major event of last year was our entry in the Calor Village of the Year northern counties competition and our success in receiving the regional prize in the "communication" category. It seems like an age ago that all that was happening. We were invited to attend and turned up to last years Calor VoY prize giving but had been forgotten by the organisers, did not receive our prize and the issue dragged on. I had hoped to welcome someone from RAY to present our prize this evening but it seems that we have been ignored again! I will chase them and we will get our prize and the money! Whilst time moves on I still reflect on the competition as a very worthwhile exercise which was a journey that still continues with some of the ideas it generated.

Winning the communications round of the regional competition was something of an irony as at the time there was uproar in the village and a number of factions developing. To a great extent that has now sorted itself out but I guess that village life being what it is there will be undercurrents for a long time. I would like to think however that the community will move forward and focus on supporting those in our midst. I stress this as we seem to be going through a difficult period

with illness and we should look to our neighbours to ensure that help is on hand when needed. I know that is generally the case and that we all benefit from it.

As ever our successes are significant and we have a number of activities that I should highlight.

The Playground goes from strength to strength. Selwyn has now handed over the chair to Pat T who I am sure will do an excellent job.

The Village Hall has had a difficult year with the primary issues revolving around paperwork. Much of that has been resolved and the Trustees are set to move forward under Selwyn's leadership. Our thanks go to Helen for battling on in the role as chairperson having taken over the job in difficult circumstances.

I would recommend to this meeting that the Parish continues to fund both facilities and would propose a 3% increase in the contribution which is more or less in line with the increase in the precept. I also propose that the membership fee to RAY be paid directly from the parish precept and not from VH funds. This will amount to around £25 /annum. Could I ask for a vote on these two issues?

Chestnut Bank has been maintained in a reasonable state over the last year with the work on the footpath having been carried out. Again thanks to Rhona and the usual suspects who turn out to help!

We now have our speed limits but with some further work to be carried out when the Ampleforth road is closed. Mark continues to have regular contact with NYCC and in addition to his job as Secretary to this meeting makes a considerable contribution to road maintenance and highways work in and around the village.

We anticipate the long awaited Conservation Area Appraisal being released in draft form for our comment in the near future. I now understand that the recent delays have been due to discussion between RDC and NYMNP. RDC apparently wanted to enhance the status of the report such that it carried more clout in law. This was agreed but required additional work. This decision will in turn enhance the status of the conservation area and hopefully we will all benefit thereafter so the wait will not have been in vain.

We decided during the year not to keep our red telephone box. The decision was overwhelmingly against keeping it – I do wonder if as a result of the conservation area appraisal we will now be asked to keep it and given the funding to do so!

On a similar note I think that I am generating a certain whimsical approach to the various planning bodies! The planners within the NYMNP, RDC & AONB do seem to totally ignore our submissions.

Looking back it would seem that whatever recommendations we make they decide the opposite. The application for work on Nun Bank and Selwyn's wind generator are two examples. Selwyn's wind generator which received virtually unanimous support in the meeting and attracted a number of phone calls from folk unable to attend the meeting but wanting to register support was rejected by the planners. I understand it was the only one from nine similar applications that was rejected! So democracy lives on!

Our first responder group continues to thrive. Our star performer is Dave T. who always seems to be the one called out and always receives many compliments. If all his patients were ladies I would become suspicious!!!!!!

In my report, I have made one or two fairly flippant remarks alongside the more serious issues. Hopefully they reflect a well balanced community. As ever, there are many in the Parish who should be mentioned for their contribution and our thanks go to them for a superb job. I will highlight bonfire night with particular thanks to the Lucas's for their support, the cricket match and the children's Christmas Party which seem to happen without any fuss thanks to those involved.

I will now stick my neck in the noose and mention one or two other folk personally: -

Del for taking over the monthly walking group

Gerard for organising the long distance walks walking group. I particularly like his plan where you start at the bottom of a section, catch a train to the top and walk back. We need more organisers with his abilities!

Gaynor for the book club and ladies group

Sue Elm who tells me that she is retiring from some of her involvement with the Helmsley Arts Centre and their productions. Many of us have enjoyed evenings there and we should acknowledge her contribution, ably supported by Paul.

Eric D has now taken over the chair of the gardening club and we wish him well.

Finally thanks to Andy Watt our treasurer for keeping the finances and as ever many thanks to Mark who always keeps a level head and never shouts at me when I do things at the eleventh hour!

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

| | N.W. BS | York's Bank | Date | Exp | N.W. BS | York's Bank |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Yorkshire Bank | | 1205.81 | 15.11 | Oswaldkirk Village Hall | | 640.00 |
| Nationwide B.S | 579.03 | | 12.05 | J E Hodgson (Stone C Bank) | | 185.12 |
| North York Moors Grass Cut | | 168.50 | 15.06 | G J Thomas (Village Hall Frame) | | 64.63 |
| Precept | | 550.00 | 15.11 | Oswaldkirk Village Playground | | 265.00 |
| Precept | | 550.00 | 15.11 | A Mennell (Millennium way) | | 175.00 |
| Yorkshire Bank Interest | | 0.10 | 27.07 | Mazars | | 57.50 |
| North York Moors Grass Cut | | 175.00 | 17.01 | YLCA Membership | | 31.00 |
| Ryedale District Council C Bank | | 212.50 | | | | |
| Calor Village of the Year | | 500.00 | | | | |
| Nationwide B.S Interest | 15.81 | | | | | |
| | | | | Sub-total | | 1418.25 |
| | | | | Unpresented cheque | | -31.00 |
| | | | | Balance c/f | | 1974.66 |
| | 594.84 | 3361.91 | | | 594.84 | 3361.91 |

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Roger informed the Meeting that it had been a year of paper work for the Village Hall Trustees with a Hirers' Agreement being written and implemented, a health and safety policy written and a five year plan. As regards the latter, two documents have been produced. As part of the work to develop this plan many comments had been passed about developing the Village Hall. With this in mind, there had been discussions with Ampleforth Abbey and College Trustees regarding whether it was possible to buy some land either to the South or East. The Ampleforth Abbey and College Trustees had looked at the proposal favourably.

A small group of Trustees had met a range of architects to discuss what was possible in terms of expanding, refurbishing and modernising the Village Hall. It was planned to report back to the Trustees and the Village in order to seek their views on a way forward.

PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE

Roger informed the meeting that the Playground Committee had had two fund raising events this year namely, the cricket match and the bonfire party. As regards 2010 the Committee have some small trees with the help of the children and plan to plant a copse of colourful trees near the assault course. A Gazebo built by Ed Collinson has been erected and will have a good view of the copse. The Committee's intention is to make the playground a pleasant sitting area for anyone in the village to enjoy. David highlighted that the Gazebo had been paid for by an anonymous donation. Finally, the Meeting we told that Selwyn had resigned as Chairman and Pat Thompson had taken over, with Michael Fram as Secretary and Mary Thomas as Treasurer.

PARISH MEETING ELECTIONS

The Chairman – Roger Dexter-Smith, the Parish Secretary – Mark Clook and the Treasurer – Andy Watt all stood for re-election. It was proposed by Del and seconded by David, the proposal was accepted by the Meeting.

AoB

At the meeting on 11th March 2010 two planning applications had been discussed – 10/00034/FUL: Erection of a 12 m high wind turbine to generate electricity for on farm use and 10/00173/HOUSE: Erection of extension to garage to form workshop at 4 The Barns, York Road, Oswaldkirk: Both had been refused by Ryedale District Council. The plan for the Workshop was subject to an appeal.

Roads – Concern was raised regarding the state of the road between Oswaldkirk and Ampleforth. (POST MEETING NOTE – THE ROAD WAS SHUT ON 14th MAY FOR THE WORK TO TAKE PLACE.)

Footpaths – Roger highlighted that Gill Stone and Rhona Sutherland were working to extend the number of footpaths around the village. It was also noted that Gerard Simpson had been asked by the Abbey Trustees to write a booklet outlining all the possible walks in the area. It was therefore hoped that they could work together to develop a footpath along the Hagg. Andy Watt offered to ask the North Yorks Moors National Park Authority if they would be willing to clear the footpath from just west of Rose Cottage to the bottom of the Millennium Footpath

Action: Andy Watt

At the last meeting concern had been raised regarding horses using the Millennium footpath. The North Yorks Moors National Park Authority had indicated that they were considering fitting a barrier to the top of the footpath to prevent horses from using it.

It was noted that the stile at the end of The Terrace was broken. Roger would investigate.

Action Roger Dexter Smith

Speeding – Several comments were passed about the recent police speed trap in the Village. This was welcomed.

The Terrace – Concern was raised regarding the untidy area near the Car Park. Roger said he would investigate further.

Action Roger Dexter Smith

Village Clear Up – David said that Stocking Lane would benefit from a clear up as there appeared to be a lot of litter as well as some fly tipping.

Oil syndicate - David asked that a vote of thanks be passed to Del for arranging the oil syndicate/

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.