

Minutes from the Open Annual Parish Meeting held at Borrowby Village Hall on Thursday 18th April 2013 at 7.30 pm

1. Apologies

No apologies were received. Present: The Chairman (Cllr F Wachsberger), the Vice Chairman (Cllr D Frith), Cllr D Craig, Cllr D Bell, Cllr E Town, the Clerk, County Cllr G Dadd and nine members of the public.

2. Minutes

The minutes from the Open Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 19th April 2012, which were previously circulated, were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising

3.1 It was said that the bulbs in the village looked nice.

4. Village Activities: Updates on Village Hall, Footpaths, RAP, Flooding and Oil Syndicate

Village Hall - Cllr E Town said that the Chairman was now Mr Simon Walker. Mrs Bell is retiring after 25 years as booking secretary and Mrs Norma Sutton has now taken over the role and Mrs Sheila Dennis is the treasurer. She extended thanks to Sheila for the newsletters this past year. The village hall had not organised any big events recently but had helped the RAP with the Jubilee Celebrations. Cllr Town said that the village hall was well used and included the following groups: Parish Council, Yoga, bowling, Borrowby show committee, M. Curie, Carl Banks (Carl's Christmas workshops had gone well), Pilates and Tots. She said the village hall committee are trying to identify/carry out maintenance on a monthly basis. She said that they hadn't increased charges for the fifth year in a row. Cllr Wachsberger asked if the income covered expenditure and Cllr Town said that it did.

Footpaths - Mr John Haigh reported that there were two outstanding works with stiles. He circulated some photographs of the new 'kissing gate' access off Park Lane and said it was dog and user friendly and said thanks go to the Hambleton District Council footpaths officer for the gate.

Rural Activities Park - Mr Richard Morrice, the Treasurer gave an update about the Hillside Rural Activities Park (HRAP). He said the most visible development was the building which contains the HRAP changing rooms, groundsman's store, disabled toilets, together with the Hillside Scout Group meeting hall and store. It has been a hard task to complete the building to the tight financial constraints, but it has been done and the building is operational. A grant has recently been awarded from Hambleton District Council's small scale enhancement scheme for £3500.00. A grant has been secured from the Open Spaces Sport and Recreation plan for £6207.00. The Sir George Martin Trust awarded the HRAP with a grant of £1000.00. All of these grants will be used to complete the toilets in the changing rooms and improve the access pathways to the building. Grant applications will continue to secure funds for the cladding of the external walls of the building. Mr Morrice said the use of the park was continuing to grow through the clubs based there, occasional hire and regular events and they are looking forward to having sustainable income to match costs and maintenance. He said the committee are looking for a rota of volunteers to help with the locking and unlocking of the gates to maintain security.

Flooding - Mr Johnson was unable to attend the meeting but provided the Clerk with an update:

As regards flooding issues we're not aware personally or through reports of others of any floods or threats of floods over the past year which is good news. There has been minor flooding of Main Street at its low point but this has dissipated quickly mainly via the drains

and ditch through our and neighbours' gardens. It seems to have been quiet now for quite a few years. As you know the sandbags finally arrived in January and were quickly stashed away by those who said they needed them. Thanks to the PC for their help here.

Oil Syndicate - Mr Jeremy Benn was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report to Cllr Frith who read it out:

We currently have 70 members of the Borrowby/Knayton Oil sub-group and 240 in the entire Osmotherley Area Group. Between us we order in the region of 70,000 litres of oil every 2 months.

Three volunteers co-ordinate the orders - Ellen Cross for Osmotherly, myself for Borrowby & Knayton and Elaine for Ingleby Arncliffe/Potto.

Tristan Sillars undertakes the negotiations to obtain prices for the oil. Prices have varied from 55 to 62p/litre and are usually up to 6-8p per litre cheaper than available for an individual negotiation. He has not to date found any particular seasonal trend, nor any company that is consistently cheaper. Price very much depends on the spot market price at the refineries and also how busy individual companies are.

We did have difficulties with deliveries in January where the bad weather and a particular large order meant it took the supplier up to 3 weeks to fulfil the order. Ellen, Tristan, Judith and I met after that and discussed where we could improve things. We did think if splitting the oil group to reduce the size of the order, but we were unsure about the effect this would have on the price obtained with the loss of volume. What we did decide to do was to no longer to collate the three sub-area lists (which took time and sometimes could lead to errors) and to send each sub-area list separately to the successful supplier.

Generally, the Group works well and typically saves each house around £25 on an oil delivery. What we have learned though is:

- (a) It is difficult for an oil group to meet 'urgent orders'. Hence members should only order oil from the Group if they can last at least another 2-3 weeks.
- (b) Leading from the above, it may be better to order lesser amounts (minimum order is 500 litres) more regularly than going for complete fills at longer intervals.
- (c) Sometimes e-mails from the co-ordinators get blocked by spam filters. Hence, it is always worth noting the expected date of the next order and contacting the co-ordinator before the deadline if you haven't received an e-mail directly.

The Dates for Future Oil Orders are: 30th May, 25th July, 26th Sept, 28th November.

Registered Members will be sent an e-mail a week before each order date. New members need to complete a simple one-page form which is available from me at this e-mail address.

Jeremy Benn

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next Open Parish Meeting will take place in April 2014.

The meeting was closed at 8.10 pm.