



Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 30th November 2021

Present - Jim Brierley, Wendy Hoare, Cllr Richard Ormston, Sarah Whitney, Neil Armstrong-Nash, Jane Stollery, Leslie Zimmerman, Caroline Booth-Burke, Guy Wilman, Yvonne Wilman, Michael Colver, Cecilia Colver, David Oldacres, Pauline Oldacres, Sue Calvert, Vicky Buczak (Clerk/Chair)

Apologies – Carol Brierley, Neil Stanton, Rosemary Bradbeer, Robin Bradbeer

Welcome – Vicky thanked everyone for coming. Meeting commenced at 18.30

1. Minutes were agreed from 03/12/2020 and signed by Wendy.
2. Precept for 2021 was £2,400. It was agreed by the meeting to raise the precept for 2022 to £2,500 in line with inflation.
3. Vicky informed the meeting that the area partnership fund is only available until 02/12/2021. This has been advertised within the village but no one has come forward with any projects. Yvonne suggested buying more comfortable chairs with the grant but Cllr Ormston advised us that the grant cannot be used for this purpose. (Action) Jim will discuss with the trustees what to do with the existing chairs if new ones are purchased. Wendy suggested providing more cushions. A new village notice board has been purchased through the partnership fund and should be delivered in 4-5 weeks: it will be placed on the outside of the bus shelter and is for anyone to put up notices.
4. Celebration of the Queen's Jubilee on the 02/06/2022 was discussed and there was a general feeling that we should mark the occasion in the village. Cllr Ormston said there will be money available from Richmondshire Council to fund celebrations. Sue informed us that Richard has a beacon that could be used. Vicky suggested a small working group could work on celebration ideas and then put it to the village. (Action) Anyone interested in joining a small working group or with any ideas please email Vicky on parishclerk@thorntonsteward.org.uk
5. Several residents have voiced concern over the reduced grass cutting of the village green, especially in the spring. This led to a large amount of cut grass being left on the green. Vicky has contacted Alasdair Downie from Farm and Land Services Ltd about this problem. Alasdair apologised about the infrequent cutting but it was due to severe staff shortages. Alasdair informed me that it would not be possible to pick grass up after cutting due to the slope of the village green. Jim said that Middleham green always looks very neat. (Action) Vicky to enquire who cuts their grass and price. Vicky to contact Alasdair in February to ensure grass is cut enough times.
6. Jim informed group that the renovations to the institute are complete with help from the Richmondshire Covid fund. A very big thank you to Alec Robertson for painting the inside of the institute.
7. An update on the progress towards a new single council for North Yorkshire was discussed. Cllr Ormston informed us that the current county council and seven district/borough councils in North Yorkshire will become one from April 2023. New elections will be needed and could be expensive. There are briefings on the 1st and 3rd of December. Anyone can access the briefings. Because of short notice, Vicky has put info on notice board and sent out by email.

8. There is the opportunity to buy more rubbish bins that would be serviced by the council (cost of bins £250). The meeting felt that no more bins were required in the village. Lesley suggested that one is needed by the sailing club. However, this has been investigated before and the council will not empty it from there.
9. There was a recent survey about bus services. Vicky has replied stating that we do not currently have a bus service. The majority of people did not feel that a bus service would be used but a couple of people said they would use a bus if available. (Action) Vicky to put a notice on the board to gauge any interest but not to carry out a village questionnaire.
10. There is a local nature recovery strategy which includes planting trees. Generally the meeting didn't feel there was room in the village for more trees. Lesley informed us of a scheme to sponsor tree planting: <https://www.ydmt.org/together-for-trees>
11. On the 17th December there will be a carol service by the bus stop. Sarah has very kindly offered to provide mulled wine and mince pies in her drive way - donations of mince pies welcomed. Caroline has suggested a village Christmas gathering on the 23rd December in the institute: bring your own food and drink, a warming fire will be lit. Flyer to go up in the near future. It would be helpful to have a small social group to help in organising decorations etc. Anyone interested please email Caroline: carolineBB@btinternet.com
12. Lesley suggested a walk and talk for anyone interested. First one is to start from outside institute Thursday 9th December 11am in order to walk down to Cover Bridge Inn, whatever the weather. Dogs on leads welcome. Food and drink starts at 12 noon for anyone interested. It is not a regimented organised walk, just an opportunity for people to walk and talk together. Any one welcome.
13. A yoga group is now meeting in the institute at 09.30 on Wednesday mornings.

AOB

14. Openreach have asked permission to lay cables for fibre broadband. Jim informed us that this has already been sorted out. (Action) Vicky to contact them and discuss. Sarah has kindly offered to phone Openreach to see how soon the village will get connected. Cecilia informed us that B4RN (a competitor of Openreach) was quite close and very good. (Action) Vicky to find out more information.
15. Vicky wondered how to find out about village green boundaries. Cllr Ormston suggested contacting land registry if information was required. The meeting felt that as long as green areas were being kept neat that there was no problem.
16. A big thank you to Lesley for providing a multitude of tea bags.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the meeting - it was lovely to see so many people.
A special thank you to Cllr Ormston for coming to the village.