



Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 27th September 2023

Present – Jane Stollery, Caroline Booth-Burke, Paul Booth-Burke, Julie Trehwitt, Alison Farrar, Keith Farrar, Wendy Hoare, Neil Kern, Sue Sharp, Lesley Zimmerman, Ian Harmer, Sue Harmer, Cecilia Colver, Andrew Sharp (later part), Neil Stanton (last part), Jan Buczak, Vicky Buczak (Chair)

Apologies – Guy Wilman, Yvonne Wilman, Sarah Whitney, Neil Armstrong-Nash, Jim Brierley, Carol Brierley, Maureen Ayre, Peter Thompson, Ann Kern

Vicky Buczak (Parish Clerk) chaired the meeting. Meeting commenced at 18.30.

1/ Agree last minutes

Agreed.

2/ Discussion of 2024/25 financial forecast and set precept for 2024

Vicky presented TSPM (*) budgets for 2024 and 2025, as agreed between her and Neil Armstrong-Nash (Chartered Accountant). Based on this, Vicky suggested a figure of £3500 for the Precept for 2024, noting that the budget forecasts included generous contingencies. This figure was approved by the majority of those present.

(* TSPM = Thornton Steward Parish Meeting)

3/ Vote on the amount of money to give to the Institute

The above budget for 2024, and the Precept amount based on it, suggested a figure of £550 to be transferred from TSPM to the Institute. This represents a 10 per cent increase on the amount transferred last year.

The Meeting approved this number. Paul Booth-Burke (Chairman of Institute Trustees) indicated that the Institute would seek to negotiate a considerably higher figure for 2025.

4/ Discussion and vote on moving TSPM savings from NSI to Barclays saving account

Vicky noted that the option of using Barclays would yield a considerably higher interest rate than using NS & I – in fact one of the best rates available to a Parish Meeting like TSPM.

The Meeting approved the move.

5/ Discussion about Parish events notice board and votes on the following:

A/ Does the Parish want a notice board?

B/ Should it be permanent or pre-event only?

C/ Board location?

This refers to the notice board currently positioned on the grassy area at the East entrance to the village:

A/ 10 voted for, more than half of those present

B/ 7 voted for permanent, 5 for pre-event only

C/ 12 voted for current location area, more than half of those present

Thus the Meeting established that a permanent notice board will continue to stand in approximately the same position as now. Vicky confirmed that the Council have no objection to this siting.

In view of this, Keith Farrar suggested that TSPM seek a more professional-looking board, and volunteered to research possible options and their costs. The Social Committee will then propose a solution to be approved at a later meeting. Keith stated that the current board was intended to be temporary only – nevertheless he would try to make it a little more pleasing – and vertical - in the interim.

The board could be used to advertise all types of Events and Meetings in the Parish, representing any of the various groups within it. With this in mind, Sue Sharp suggested that the writing materials should be made accessible to anyone in the Parish who wanted to place a notice, this giving all its residents more of a sense of ownership.

6/ A plea for more people to join the social committee

Vicky re-iterated the plea sent out separately via the usual media, pointing out that the current committee have very few members, and would benefit from a more diverse input of ideas.

Keith and Jan both agreed to join.

7/ Update on unauthorised development and mis-use of agricultural land at Back Lane

Vicky is getting no meaningful responses at all from Planning. She will lodge an official complaint.

8/ Discussion re D-Day celebration in the village 06/06/2024

The Parish have been invited to light a beacon at 9.15 pm on this day, to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. If so, registration for this National Celebration must be completed by 30th May.

The Meeting agreed that we should participate in principle. Paul volunteered to use his farming community contacts to seek approval from the owner of the site used before (on Arklow Hill).

9/ Discussion re first aid course including use of defibrillator

Vicky informed the meeting that a St. John's Ambulance volunteer Ian Ward could arrange such a course, free of charge. There is no minimum or maximum number of attendees demanded, and the course could take place at The Institute in the evening or at a weekend.

The Meeting expressed interest in such a course. Vicky will seek to arrange one evening or weekend course to start with, and will ask potential attendees to pre-register.

10/ Vote on installing dog access by stiles on footpath next to the Village Institute

Ian Harmer, who owns the land which includes the footpath, explained that he unexpectedly received a letter from the Council concerning this footpath. As a result he cut away the two upper rails of the wooden stile at the northern end of the path, where it meets Back Lane. Thanks to him for this.

No vote was called.

11/ Discussion re bonfires in the village and excessive noise from parties in Jervaulx and the village

It was suggested that a polite notice be issued to Parish residents, requesting that party organisers inform the Parish in advance, set a party end time, and try to keep noise to a minimum.

However, the Meeting on the whole did not consider parties a problem, and so deemed this suggestion neither necessary nor desirable, especially as guidance is already available on the North Yorkshire Council website.

(Commercial wedding venues such as Jervaulx have their own regulations.)

Similar comments apply to bonfires.

Additional Info

- a. Grass Cutting:** Would those who noted damage resulting from insufficiently frequent cuts please email details to parishclerk@thorntonsteward.org.uk, to help Vicky make appropriate representations to Farm & Land Services about their contract.
- b. Registering Village Green:** Vicky has been told that we would hear back in October 2024 earliest. In view of this delay, the process of registration for the two other areas claimed by TSPM will be started soon.
- c. Potholes:** Please report directly at www.northyorks.gov.uk (search for potholes). Multiple reports are acceptable. Three areas have already been reported and marked by the Council in white.
- d. Bus Shelter window:** Keith volunteered to fix/replace rotten wood, and Vicky to paint afterwards.

Thanks to all who attended, especially to those who have volunteered to help