

Scagglethorpe Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 in the Village Hall

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mr Paul Douthwaite, the Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Open Meeting

2. Apologies for absence/councillors present

Councillors present: Maureen Danby-Smith, Paul Douthwaite, Sheila Cook, Pauline Carruthers, Sarah Hopper, Nancy Wilson, Janet Bates. The Parish Clerk and one parish resident were also present.

3. Minutes of the last open meeting

The minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated to attendees before the meeting started. The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1 The buckled wall outside of Brow Farm was still in a precarious state. We had been advised by NYC to contact the land owner. The clerk will contact him by letter to request that the wall be repaired.

4.3 *****We had been unable to adopt the telephone box as RDC had requested it to stay available and working. It was suggested that BT should be approached to replace the windows.*****

4.5 As the monkey puzzle tree in Charlton Place was not a native species, it would not be possible to have a preservation order applied to it.

5. Chairman's report on the last year

5.1 *Well, let me start on a positive note by mentioning that Scagglethorpe village is expanding! Those of you who have been observing the progress of the old Scagglethorpe Manor Farm housing development will have noticed how the building rate has moved up a notch or two, and unofficially, we've heard that the first houses will go on sale by the end of August. When all the houses are occupied that will mean that the total number of houses in the village will increase from 91 to 101, an increase*

of 10%. The new cul-de-sac will be called "The Warrens" – a name chosen by the builder.

5.2 Something else that will not have escaped your notice is the extended closure of the playing field. We had a new access ramp built earlier this year. But the Parish Council must apologise for what we have put in place, which we believe is unsatisfactory. Our view has been confirmed by a number of comments that have come our way. The majority of people would be able to use the field entrance as it is now, but those with restricted mobility and families with push chairs would have some difficulty because of the number of turns in the path. So despite the extra expense, we believe that we can't leave it as it is and we are going to re-model the entrance. We expect work to commence at the end of this month.

When the playing field reopens we will be able to make use of the splendid new wooden shelter, and the two pieces of adult exercise equipment, all of which is ready for use and bought with the aid of the grant money from the new housing development. Two other pieces of play equipment are on order.

5.3 We have continued to develop the Scagglethorpe Hub as a means of bringing the community together, with a number of events held over the year. The Parish Council will consider options for making this an independent body and how it might assist development of a greater selection of local activities.

5.4 In 2013 with the help of the residents of Scagglethorpe at the time, the Parish Council wrote a 5 year development plan, and in the next month or so, we will begin to put together another plan for the next 5 years, designed to deliver benefits and make Scagglethorpe a better place to live. The initial work has already been done and we intend to engage as many residents as possible, starting with a general survey questionnaire which will be delivered to all homes.

5.5 If you have been out in the village after dark, you will have seen that all the street lights have been replaced with energy efficient LED illumination units. This cost us about £5400 and we should see the pay back in energy savings over the next 6 years.

5.6 Every year the issue of traffic passing through the village is a dominant topic for discussion, both in Parish Council meetings and between neighbours passing in the street. I think we are all resolved to the fact that the situation will not change significantly until the Norton Grove link road is built, and all we can do in the meantime is look towards minimising the damage and disruption. It doesn't help that the Settrington quarry is to expand its operation and the number of lorries passing through many fold. The Parish Council has been a consultee in the planning application process and we have made it clear that the quarry should follow strict criteria for sending traffic through our village.

5.7 We still have the Vehicle Activated Sign in place for up to two months each year. The latest figures show that we have about 650 - 850 vehicles a day passing through from the Settrington direction; so perhaps double that figure in total with an average speed of under 25mph. Using this evidence we are approaching NYCC to request a 20MPH speed limit to be put in place in the village.

5.8 *Next month we have the open gardens charity event organised by Sarah and Rebecca in aid of the Air Ambulance which we hope to welcome visitors from around our region. I hope you will be able to join in with this in some way. But before that, on Thursday 6th June is the D-Day 80th anniversary event. This is a national event and we shall be joining in with an evening beacon lighting ceremony.*

6. Financial Statement and presentation of accounts

The Clerk circulated copies of the Parish Council Receipts and Payments statement for the year ending 31st March 2023. The Clerk mentioned that although the accounts showed a much larger balance than previous years, there were some large invoices that had been delayed and not yet received for payment. There were no questions on the accounts.

7. Open Forum

In recognition of the amount of time and effort put in by Mr Paul Douthwaite in keeping much of the village grass cut, the meeting felt that he should be rewarded for his service in some way as he receives no payment. The clerk will investigate whether or not the Parish Council can offer him an honorarium.

There was no further discussion from the floor.

8. Chairman's closing remarks

The chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

D.R. Sonley, Parish Clerk

Email:

Scagglethorpepc@hotmail.com