

LINTON ON OUSE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting
held on Tuesday 13th May 2014 at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall Linton on Ouse

Present Cllr Marston (Chairman Parish Council), W. Frost (Parish Clerk), County Cllr. Patmore, Patrick Lewis-Brown (RAF) and 5 members of the public.

1) Apologies Mrs Keegan, M Watson & M Lumsden (RAF).

2) Minutes of the Previous Meeting:- The Minutes of the Meeting held 14th May 2013 were approved by the meeting, having previously been circulated, and were signed as a true record.

3) Welcome by Chairman and Chairman's Report:- The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Cllr. Marston commented that one of the Council's major concerns was the condition of the roads, particularly potholes and verges and the seemingly uncaring attitude of the Highways Dept. Lost contracts within three years of work being completed and the appalling condition of the highway between Linton and Aldwark, following supposed work, were only two of the problems encountered this year.

On the positive side the support given to the Village Hall by the Village Hall Committee and others was to be commended and the improvements already carried out have enhanced the hall enormously. Further improvements were ongoing or planned. A further positive was the approval of the affordable housing scheme which had now received planning permission. S106 monies would follow the development and some of the money would hopefully be used to create allotments for the benefit of the village. It was intended that a management committee be formed shortly for the future running of the allotments. A new grass cutting contract had been agreed on the playing field and the Council were looking to make various improvements to the playing field in the near future for the benefit of the larger community. Councillor Marston thanked everyone who had supported him over the last year and confirmed that he intended to retire at the elections in 2015.

4) County Councillor's Report:- County Cllr. Patmore reported on various aspects of her work within the County Council. The Council had delivered £93.5m of cuts so far and a further saving of £73.4m was required for the years 2015/2016 to 2018/2019. The total figure equates to some 34% of total spend. As in previous years the funding of schools, through the Dedicated Schools Grant, will remain ring fenced. The Council is to spend at least £58m over the next 3 years to create extra school places and maintain school improvements.

The Better Care Fund was announced by Government in June 2013, a pooled budget for health and social service care. The object of the fund was to integrate these previously independent services.

North Yorkshire had an ever increasing elderly population whose problems were worsened by living in a sparsely populated county. Work is being done by Help the Aged, other voluntary charities as well as the Authority to try and alleviate the loneliness of some of the more isolated elderly people, particularly since bus services had been reduced. Further work was being done on extra care housing, which is recognised as more popular way of providing support for people who need it.

The Incinerator which has taken up so much time and money in previous years is still not a viable option. Planning has been obtained for the site at Allerton Park, just off the A1 for the proposed incinerator plant for N. Yorkshire but the Government grant, PFI funding, needed to build this plant was turned down in 2013. Consequently the future of this facility is unknown. Despite the Council have considerable costs riding on the project.

Due to the appalling winters of the last two years roads have deteriorated badly and a survey of all North Yorkshire roads showed that £400m is needed to bring them up to a proper state of repair.

The Council at the last full Council meeting voted for £5m to be added to the Highways budget to help with urgent repairs. This money was to come out of reserves.

A further sum of approximately £5m had also been added to by the Government towards reducing the backlog of maintenance. The roads around the route of the Tour de France in the Yorkshire region area were now in perfect condition and money has been taken from other areas' budgets in order to do this work. Cllrs. were informed that no further work will be done in these areas for some time to come. Locally the roads were in a terrible state and Road Traffic Accidents have increased considerably during this last year. The roadside verges of country roads were not fit for cyclists to ride over due to damage inflicted by wear and tear, but more pertinently by heavy vehicles and farm implements. Potholes were rife everywhere, but particularly on the country roads! Cllr. Patmore stated that most councillors were aware

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of this and they were doing all they could to ensure proper management of the funds available, and were also carefully monitoring the repairs which in some cases were not fit for purpose.

Cllr. Patmore also informed the meeting that N.Y.C.C. is required to keep 2% of its annual net revenue budget in an account for any emergencies or unpredictable events. e.g. flooding/train disasters etc. and that full council meetings have been cut from 5 to 4 to help save money. Councillors had again not received a pay increase for the coming year, this being the fifth year in succession.

County was endeavouring to turn around troubled families by offering support, primarily to stop the problems moving from generation to generation. The Council was, as always looking for people who are prepared to be foster carers.

Cllr. Patmore closed by listing the various committees etc that she was involved with including:-

- Member of the Adoption Panel
- Chairman of the Standards Committee
- Chairman of the ELAC Management Committee
- Member of the LAC Group
- NYCC representative on York Hospital Trust Governors Board
- NYCC representative on North York Moors National Park Authority
- NYCC representative on the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Cllr. Marston thanked Cllr. Patmore for her comprehensive report.

District Councillor's Report:- Report delayed to A.G.M. because of late arrival.

5) Parish Council Accounts to 31st March 2014- The Parish Clerk presented the Accounts for the Parish for the year to 31st March 2014 which were approved by the meeting.

6) Reports from Parish Councillors:- No reports received.

7) Any Other Reports:-

Mrs J Jauncey reported on the activities of the History Group which had had a very successful year and had been in receipt of a £3500 Heritage Lottery Fund grant. The group would shortly be able to make display boards available for general use and there was a growing village archive which already filled five lever arch files. An excellent 2 day event had been held recently which had attracted a lot of interest.

8) Comments and Questions from Members of the Public:-

Mrs Jauncey informed the meeting that John May DFC formally of 426 Squadron had recently died. He was instrumental in establishing the Memorial Cairn and had read the dedication at its inauguration and had subsequently attended V.E. Day services on several occasions.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.