

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 24th May 2023 in the Scorton War Memorial Institute at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Rafelt, Harper & Cllr Threlfall, Alan Coe (REMS), Bolton on Swale Primary School Governor, MOP x 7, Cllrs Richardson, Bell & Calvert later

Cllr Rafelt thanks everyone for attending our annual meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Les
2. Election of Officers. Cllr Rafelt elected as Chairman; Cllr Threlfall elected as Vice Chairman.
3. Chairman's report. Recently, in fact a few weeks ago, we saw the launch of our new website – Scorton was one of the first villages to have its own website almost 25-years ago, at that time the smart phone hadn't been invented! But now all the content is accessible on all devices. This is part of a continuous programme of improvements and efficiencies we have implemented over the past few years which have enhanced the way the council is run and how we communicate; along with the on-line banking, the change of the S&D times to twice a year, changing of broadband supplier, and the improvements with councillor's email accounts and the dedicated mobile phone.

There are a couple of themes which have dominated the past 12-months – the royal events; the Jubilee, Queen Elizabeth's passing and the Coronation of King Charles a few weeks ago. I would like, on behalf of all councillors and the village, to thank all those whose help and hard work made each of those events so memorable. The other change we have seen is the move from the district councils to the one North Yorkshire Council; our thanks go to Councillor Carl Les and his team for their excellent communication throughout this process and we look forward to a strong working relationship with the new authority in the future.

The cemetery and Parish Council have become closer this year as our accounts have merged and we have also extended the cemetery this year; a substantial fencing project almost doubling the size of the enclosed area. Extension to paths and placement of new bins will follow soon. The cemetery is a huge asset for the village - our gratitude goes to Vicki and Hilary for their work administering its demands - it's great to be able to offer residents a permanent place to rest after they have enjoyed their life in Scorton.

Finally, I would like to extend thanks to the Councillors – some new to the post this year - and the Clerk for their work over the past 12-months. It is a role which occupies a lot of time beyond the meetings and although it is impossible for all decisions to be universally welcomed it is vital for the village and surrounding areas that the matters raised are given the appropriate consideration by people who live and work within the Parish.

4. Financial report & Adoption of the accounts for year ending 31st March 2023: It was reported that the combined balances at 31.3.23 £10356.30

The Bank reconciliation and year's accounts were distributed to councillors, and it was resolved to adopt the year's accounts.

Summary of Accounts for 2022/2023

Income

Funding/donations 4000
Precept 15500
VAT refund/wayleaves 8000
Urban grasscutting 1000

Outgoing

Park checks 1200
Donations 1300
Grass cutting 7000
General maintenance 2000

Projects (Flying saucer, cemetery extension) 7500
Admin (Wages, S&D Times, PC phone, training,
audits, defib replacements) 7350
Insurance 850
Broadband 450

5. Parish Council documents annual review. The standing orders review has been completed earlier this year, financial standing orders to be reviewed over the summer.
6. Bolton on Swale School Governors' report. The school is full to capacity with 110 children, two Ukrainian children have also been welcomed into the school. Weekly newsletters continue to be emailed to parents, and are available on the website. The death of Queen Elizabeth II was noted with a book of commemorative prayers. Keeping children safe takes priority with regular updates accessed by all. Parent teacher consultations continue, as do class assemblies. Many annual events have taken place this year. Shelly's Childminding continues with wrap around care and runs a successful holiday club. The school continues to support students from Durham University. Extra-curricular clubs are enjoyed: multiskills, eco/gardening, choir, art club, recorders, board games, volley ball, tennis, rounders, athletics, drama, cricket and Lego. Class 3/4 have weekly class lessons on violin or cello, and The Open the Book Team continue to deliver weekly Collective Worship sessions. The school is represented by many sports including football, hockey, netball, golf, cross country, basketball, dodgeball & cricket. Eco excellence continues and working towards the school's 6th Green Flag award, recycling crisp packets, tin foil, batteries and ink cartridges. Fundraising for various national and international causes. The Coronation was celebrated with a Street Party and a re-enactment of the Coronation service. Summer Fair on 14th July. Bolton on Swale School Governor leaves. Cllr Richardson arrives.
7. Trustee Michael Sydall Representatives' report. Cllr Threlfall gives the report. The fund continues to retain their obligations to MS School, with financial assistance to school swimming lessons and insurance. The trust is able to help support individual children from the surrounding area. Cllr Bell arrives.
8. Parish Council Representatives for YLCA x 2, Scorton War Memorial Institute Committee & Tarmac liaison meeting. Clerk & Cllr Threlfall elected as YLCA reps, SWMI – Cllr Harper, Lakes liaison, Cllr Threlfall states that this is evolving presently. Cllr Calvert arrives.
9. Matters raised by members of the public. Alan Coe (REMS) attending to give a summary of the management of the lakes area. Earth moving, fencing, footpaths and planting completed. In the 5 year aftercare currently, and it is the responsibility of Tarmac to carry out this aftercare. The new North car park is open, the gates are closed in the evening; with a new footpath nearby. Maintenance is being carried out around the site, currently pulling ragwort. The seeded areas are 80% grass and 20% wildflowers (specifically suitable for the site). Cllr Rafelt queries about the possible involvement of the site for university research, Alan replies not at this site. Tarmac will appoint a management committee towards the end of these five years and then this will be the agency who continues the care of the site. The handover will need to be approved by the land owner, NYC & Tarmac. There is a need for more feedback from residents/local councils/groups about the site and so a liaison group will be established for giving & receiving information, all will be welcome. This will assist with clear and open communication links. Stephen Cowan (Tarmac) is hoping to arrange a meeting in July. Cllr Richardson asks about the footpaths and the patches which are very muddy, Alan Coe replies that they are working towards disabled access in the areas near to the car parks. A resident asks if more benches could be placed around, Alan Coe will action this but likely to be resting points and not benches. There is a bird screen above the upper lake, a resident

asks if the word quarry could be removed from all the notices around the lakes. Alan Coe will action this, and also some education/interpretation boards are being designed. Another guided tour will be arranged in the near future, clerk to put this in the S&D Times. A resident queries about the appropriate body to take over the management of the lakes, Alan Coe replies that this has been discussed with RSPB & Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. Lakes map to be put onto the website, clerk to action

Meeting closed at 8.00pm