

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 28th April 2021 via Zoom at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Rafelt, Newall, Aston, Harper, Hull & Maddison-Potts, Parish & District Cllr Threlfall, County Cllr Les, District Cllr Rowe

Cllr Threlfall is hosting this Zoom meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Bolton on Swale School Representative
2. Election of Officers. Cllr Rafelt elected as Chairman, Cllr Harper elected as Vice Chairman, Cllr Threlfall elected as Treasurer.
3. Chairman's report. I started writing this a few weeks ago and began with an apology to everyone that we hadn't achieved much due to current circumstances. Then Vicki sent me all the minutes to check through and I soon realised that really isn't the case. The following list reads as a testament to everyone's hard work, resilience, desire to achieve and creativity of approach. I'm going to start with benches - almost too many to mention - and our thanks goes to Ian for his perpetual bench renewal programme; and I know he's starting to work on some of the notice boards as well. Looking at the village green now and seeing the new football posts is fantastic especially when local people are enjoying them so much - they were a bit of a challenge; not so much to build but more to move across the road! Great bit of funding finding by Vicki there. The repainting of the weather-vane/wind-sock post and cemetery bench - a true Parish Council team effort - they look great especially with the new Black Widow bench. Trees - there were quite a few trees which looked a bit sad round and about, including the jubilee chestnut. Some have been removed and many more planted to replace them; great idea from Jenny regarding trees which produce food for Bridge Green - looking forward to seeing cherries, apples and walnuts; and, of course, the beech outside the pre-school which will see many generations of future village children playing around it. A dominant topic of many meetings has been the Vehicle Activated Signs, we're not quite there yet but again great work from Vicki obtaining funding and we're 95% there - a job that requires tenacity - soon we will have signs! We have a new street light! And this story really sums up what we do, I think. Helen and I were walking home after a meeting in late 2019 and as we got to the snicket, we both said 'it's a bit dark here'. It was then mentioned to Vicki, put on the next agenda, discussed, funding obtained, and..... we have a new light! Fame was achieved this year as we hit the front page of 'Clerks and Councils Direct' regarding the registering of our newest piece of village green; also, now used by the 'Open Spaces Society' as well. Worth mentioning as well that our local MP visited the village last week, not for the council but to see the excellent work by Ian and the Scorton buddies - good to know we're being visited. Finally, as a sign off I think we all need to congratulate ourselves on what we've achieved this year; in difficult personal and work circumstances we've all grappled with the new technology to ensure all the day-to-day admin of the council - the correspondence, the planning, the concerns of Parishioners - has been dealt with in an appropriate a timely manner; and, as always, my thanks to Vicki - a Parish Council is really only as good as it's clerk and ours is great! Here's to another good year...and maybe some face-to-face meetings!
4. Financial report & Adoption of the accounts for year ending 31st March 2021: It was reported that the combined balances at 31.3.21 £16372.48
The Bank reconciliation and year's accounts were distributed to all councillors, and it was resolved to adopt the year's accounts.

Summary of Accounts for 2020/2021

Income

Grants (VAS signs, noticeboard, plaque, football posts, RAF Bench) 9200
Precept 15500

VAT refund 1800

Urban grasscutting 1000

Outgoing

General maintenance 3000

Projects (RAF bench, noticeboard, football posts, VAS signs – 30% down payment, dog bin) 7200

Grass cutting 6300

Wages & admin 6000

Insurance 1000

Broadband 500

Donations 1000

5. Parish Council documents annual review. Clerk working through these, Resilience plan almost finalised – just needs COVID19 requirements adding, will bring to June meeting.
 6. Bolton on Swale School Governors' report. Everyone was delighted to be able to return to school in September. Friends of the School donated towards the redevelopment of the pond and Reflection Garden area. The school is currently unable to go out of school for educational visits, but schemes such as Skip2Bfit have been enjoyed in school. Parent teacher consultations took place over the telephone and the children took their exercise books home to share. Many annual events have taken place within COVID restrictions but Class 4 weren't able to attend Marrick Priory outward bound visit this year. Wraparound childminding service continues. Lockdown 3 and children requiring a laptop computer were provided with one in January. Eco excellence continues and working towards the school's 6th Green Flag award, with handmade posters "Keep Scorton tidy" to be distributed around the noticeboards. Cllr Harper asks if Bolton School would like to us to publicise their recycling initiatives, clerk to enquire.
 7. Trustee Michael Sydall Representatives' report. Cllr Les gave the report, not every member was able to attend a virtual meeting so it was resolved to continue to make the annual payments to the Michael Sydall School for swimming, insurance and classroom support. Also, to repair the front fence of the school.
 8. Parish Council Representatives for YLCA x 2, Scorton War Memorial Institute Committee & Tarmac liaison meeting. Clerk & Cllr Threlfall elected for YLCA reps, SWMI – Cllr Harper, Tarmac Liaison – Cllr Harper.
 9. Matters raised by members of the public. None attending
- Meeting closed at 7.30pm