

SCORTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Meeting of the Council was held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 in the Scorton War Memorial Institute at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Rafelt, Aston, Harper & Maddison-Potts, Parish & District Cllr Threlfall, County Cllr Les, PCSO Wilkinson & Long, Bolton on Swale Primary School Governor, MOP x 9

Cllr Rafelt thanks everyone for attending our annual meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Rowe
2. Election of Officers. Cllr Aston elected as Chairman, Cllr Rafelt elected as Vice Chairman, Cllr Threlfall elected as Treasurer.
3. Chairman's report. A year of change with probably more to come – at a high level we are seeing the global effect of Covid and price rises across every sector, at a European level we have a war; something we haven't seen for many decades; and our hearts go out to those who are suffering in the east of our continent at present and we all hope and pray for a swift conclusion to the current situation. At a national level we seem to be seeing the end of Covid – certainly in its present form – which is great to see but other national issues such as the cost of living which is affecting everyone is making life generally quite challenging. At a regional level we are about to see a transition from small district councils to a larger unitary authority; it will be interesting to see how this affects us locally – this could provide some great opportunities to proactive Parish Councils.

At our local level I think it is fair to say it's been a year with some challenges; the previous 2-years, with on-line meetings, are thankfully gone. However, the transition back to face-to-face meetings has been an adjustment we have all had to make. We have sadly had a couple of resignations from the Parish Council; there is an inevitability to this and having an element of turn-over on the Council can be good to keep a dynamic group; I would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen and Linda publicly and also extend that thanks to each member of the council here and the clerk who all put in many hours in addition to attending the monthly meetings. The two big challenges we have had in the past year – not dissimilar to previous years – are the issues surrounding the annual visiting of the travelling community and a substantial number of quite large planning applications; two issues which affect us all and we should take very seriously.

A few things worth mentioning – Jubilee Green has had a much-needed face-lift after 20 or-so-years; new play equipment (very well used already) and bench, new fence, new hedge and a trim of the existing – now quite mature – trees. The VAS signs have been installed and regularly moved – a great project involving the cooperation of several small councils around the region; it will be interesting to download the data from these to give us some guidance on future road-safety initiatives. The new notice board outside the shop looks great – even with modern technology the village notice boards remain an excellent way to communicate. And the quarry works are almost gone! They have been Scorton's neighbour for many years and soon it will all be footpaths, ponds and wildlife; we live in a great place which is about to become more beautiful – we should probably all take time to remember that occasionally. I'll finish with my favourite thing from the past year – small but effective – the new lights which we put on the village hall; they look great and brighten the whole village through the winter.

4. Financial report & Adoption of the accounts for year ending 31st March 2022: It was reported that the combined balances at 31.3.22 £19415.59

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 2021/2022

Income

Grants 22500

Insurance claim 700

Precept 15500

VAT refund/wayleaves 2800

Urban grasscutting 1000

Section 106 open spaces 12700

Donation 3400

Outgoing

General maintenance 1900

Projects (Solar street lamp, noticeboard, football posts, VAS signs & posts, JG refurbishment, JG pruning and fencing works) 38500

Grass cutting 6400

Wages & admin 7200

Insurance 1100

Broadband 450

Donations 1000

Cllr Threlfall noted that the precept remained at 15500, this incoming was increased greatly by grants and funding.

5. Parish Council documents annual review. Clerk working on the cemetery regs presently, and the new memorial permits. The standing orders require review, there is a new YLCA model and now that we have internet banking this should be updated within the standing orders. Clerk will bring to September meeting.
6. Bolton on Swale School Governors' report. Everyone was delighted to be able to return to school in September following two years of COVID restrictions. Weekly newsletters continue to be emailed to parents. Parents were able to come into the school for parent teacher consultations. Many annual events have resumed this year including a residential trip to Marrick Priory, and a virtual visit to the Houses of Parliament. 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: gymnastics, multiskills, eco/gardening, choir, art club. 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 has many sports teams including football, hockey, netball & cricket. Eco excellence continues and working towards the school's 6th Green Flag award, recycling crisp packets, tin foil, batteries and ink cartridges; the school has planted an oak tree as part of the Queen's Green Canopy and the children are looking forward to the Jubilee celebrations. Fundraising for various national and international causes. Bolton on Swale School Governor leaves.
7. Trustee Michael Syddall Representatives' report. Cllr Threlfall gave the report, and attended their meeting, there was a small attendance. The fund continues to pay for the insurance; however, this is increasing. Michael Syddall school undergoing major changes.
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 & Threlfall. Cllr Threlfall adds that Tarmac is planning to hold an event in the SWMI to inform residents.
9. Matters raised by members of the public. This is to be discussed under the normal monthly meeting. Meeting closed at 7.30pm