

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 18th April 2019 - 7.00 pm Colsterworth Village Hall

Present

Councillor John Walden (Chairman), Sue Grant (Parish Clerk) and 23 parishioners.

Introduction and Welcome

The Chairman John Walden welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Meeting of the 20th April 2018 agreed and duly signed.

Chairman's Annual Report

The outgoing chairman of the Parish Council John Walden began by welcoming everyone to the meeting stating how nice it was to see so many parishioners present taking the opportunity of giving a short presentation about their organisations and an update of their activities this year. The Chairman explained that the Annual Parish Meeting is intended as a forum for all Parish organisations and parishioners to meet and report on their past year or voice concerns about Parish matters and hoped that those attending would find the evening enjoyable and informative. The Chairman also thanked the Parish Clerk, Sue Grant, who had put much time and effort into organising the evening and gave thanks and appreciation for all the work she does, which often entails going the extra mile, on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman then gave a short report on Parish Councils activities over the previous twelve months. Saying how firstly, and most importantly, that it had been most encouraging to see so many parishioners attending the public forum of the Parish Council monthly meetings in order to voice their concerns over matters such as the quarry and the Woolsthorpe playing field as well as the ongoing and ever-present pothole problems. The Chairman confirmed that the Council always ensures that these items are on the following month's agenda where they are discussed, appropriate actions decided upon and the Clerk requested to write letters, make phone calls or arrange appointments. It was explained that unfortunately, after these initial actions there is often a delay whilst waiting for a response and parishioners should not assume that, because things have gone quiet, it is because of our inaction. The Councillors are often frustrated by the length of time it takes to make any progress.

The Parish Council's new website is live and all the relevant material from the old website has been transferred. Here you will find, as well as local information and village history, the latest minutes of council meetings together with the archived minutes.

The Chairman was pleased to report that most of our Councillors have attended the Councillor's training course run by the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils which is an organisation which offers help and advice to Clerks and Councils and also runs a wide variety of training courses from allotment management to Clerk's training. Those Councillors who have joined recently will be attending a training day as soon as there are available places. Parish Councils have moved on since the 2012 Localism Act and it is essential that today's Councillors are up to date with rules and regulations.

This year finally, after many hiccups, the Parish Council has achieved its goal of electronic banking which has greatly simplified life for the Clerk whose other 'hat' is as our Responsible Financial Officer.

A grant was made of £1500 to North Witham Village Hall for a new ride-on lawnmower.

A working party has been formed for Highways and Footpaths and The Parish Council has signed up to the Community Speed Watch initiative. Passive 30mph signs have been placed on Woolsthorpe Road, Bridge End and Bourne Road and a 40mph passive speed sign placed at North Witham. The Parish Council has also received an SKDC ward member grant for £200 to buy equipment for traffic monitoring.

The Environment and Amenities working party tidied up the allotment leases, and the bonfire heaps at Stamford Road and Woolsthorpe Road have been removed to discourage fly tipping. Allotment holders are now individually responsible for disposing of their own rubbish in an attempt to prevent further accumulations.

A Public Meeting was held to discuss the future of the Woolsthorpe Road playing field and participated in another to present a unified voice in our objections to further quarrying. Both matters are still ongoing.

Finally, the Chairman thanked the Clerk and the Councillors for their support throughout the year and offered his successor, whoever that may be, his very best wishes for the future in the continuing efforts of the council to do their best for the parishioners of Colsterworth and District.

Clerk's Financial Report

This was the first year using the SCRIBE Accounting software package specifically designed for Parish Councils. There are now quarterly Finance and Administration meetings with reports extracted from SCRIBE. The Clerk now has online banking and Councillor Hainsworth has view only access.

The Statement of Accounts was handed out to the persons present and will be uploaded on to the website.

Bank Balances at 31/03/19

Community Account £25,619.15

Community Savings Account £29,207.60

Receipts for 2018/19 = £ 51,245.25

Payments for 2018/19 = £45,906.08

Leaving a surplus of £2,281.18 taking into account unpresented cheques at 31/03/19

Ear marked Reserves

£2,000 War Memorial Maintenance

£1,000 Nature Trail

£5,000 Highways and Footpaths working party

Internal Audit

The Internal Audit was completed on 14/04/19 and the Parish Council achieved a 'Yes' that all internal controls had been met.

External Audit

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018/19 has been completed and will be signed at the May Parish Council Meeting.

The Clerk answered a question from a parishioner asking why there was a payment to HMRC. The Clerk explained this was the PAYE income tax deductions due from

the two Community Cleaners and Clerk who are paid employees of the Parish Council.

District Councillor Bob Adams Report

District Councillor Bob Adams explained that although it is frustrating that decisions and initiatives can be slow from the District and County Council things do move along. Stressing that the more that the community is seen to be active this encourages others. It takes time but is well worth it in the end.

A question from the floor regarding the footpath at Bridge End and the potholes. District Councillor Adams suggested that the path be reported under the SKDC Big Clean and that he would take forward the potholes himself with Highways.

Update on the Nature Trail by the Nature Trail Ranger Mo Taylor.

Mo provided an update on the maintenance and accomplishments of the Nature Trail volunteers and the future ambitions. Repairs to the steps at Bridge End being a priority. The Nature Trail has got through to the judging stage of the Lincolnshire Environmental Awards 2019 and is awaiting the results of the Lincolnshire Community Wildlife Grant applied for by the Parish Council on behalf of the Nature Trail.

Update from Colsterworth and District Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association.

Jo Smith gave an interesting overview of the history of the association and their monthly coffee mornings to bring people together and share gardening experiences.

Update from the Focus Group

Rosemary Haw gave an interesting and informative overview of the history of the Friends of Colsterworth United Societies (FOCUS) group. The Kurling sessions have proved increasingly popular and runs two sessions a week. Rosemary's full presentation is on the Parish Council website. www.colsterworthanddistrictpc.co.uk

Update from the Women's Institute

Dot Williams gave an interesting and amusing insight into the Women's Institute proudly reminding all that the Colsterworth Women's Institute has been around for over 100yrs. Dot reminded everyone of their weekly meetings with inspirational speakers and their exceptional cake baking members. New members always welcome and not just ladies, men are very welcome also.

Motions by Electors

None

AOB

None

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

**Signed:
Chairman**

Date