

NORTH DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk/RFO: Mrs S Look, 72 Main Street, Wheldrake, York, YO19 6AA

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MINUTES of the Annual Parish meeting held on 18th May 2023

Village Hall, North Duffield

APM01/23 Attendees: Cllrs Cllr R Arrand, R Hemingway (Chairman), M Patten, L Richardson, M Walton and D Wint. S Look (Clerk). Members of the public. Apologies: Cllrs S Brown and B Wells. County Cllr Arthur.

APM02/23 Introduction: Cllr Hemingway welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

APM03/23 Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Thursday 12th May 2022 were proposed by Cllr Wint, seconded by Cllr Walton and unanimously agreed as a true and accurate record.

APM04/23 Parish Council Annual Report: The Chairman of the Parish Council gave a report on the preceding year ([see appendix 1 below for the full report](#)).

APM05/23 Parish Council Vacancy: The vacancy has now been filled by Cllr Steve Donoghue.

APM06/23 Cyber Crime: Daniel Fawkes from North Yorkshire Police gave a presentation on cybercrime. Advice given on what to do if you receive a request for money, clicking on links/files, sharing personal information, password safety, WIFI hotspots, online shopping/auction sites, reverse image searching, cold callers, dating online, recruitment fraud, holiday fraud, ticketing fraud, online banking and card fraud, identity fraud, courier fraud, door-to-door fraud, investment fraud, scam mail.

Useful contact information;

Action Fraud; www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

Report any information regarding those responsible for such crimes, contact www.crimestoppers-uk.org or call 0800 555 111.

Recruitment advice; www.safer-jobs.com

National Cyber Security Centre; www.ncsc.gov.uk

Report suspicious texts to 7726.

Further advice can be found at www.northyorkshire.police.uk/fraud

APM07/23 Citizens Advice Representative from CAB gave her apologies as she could no longer attend.

APM08/23 PCSO: Unable to attend.

APM09/23 Village Hall committee: No update received from the committee. It was noted that the parking problems due to the Bird Auctions have subsided.

Refreshments break

APM10/23 The pond/village green update: Cllr Wint gave an update. The PC have agreed for some bulbs to be planted which they have also funded. Wildflowers to be planted on the island. An area of the green has not been mowed to allow for 'No Mow May'. Cllr Patten to make a 'Wildflower Meadow' sign. The History Society have also planted some wildflowers in various areas of the village.

The village green electrics still to be done which will be a major project for the Parish Council this year. Essential tree work has been done on the village green over the past year and there is still more to do. A request was made by a member of the public to not plant any more pink Cherry trees on the village green. A book exchange cabinet has been installed.

A resident made a request to see the green left as green space rather than a children's play/picnic area. A complaint was made that there was a lot of litter left after the Kings Coronation picnic. It was noted that the Parish Council have purchased yellow wheelie bins to use at events in the future. The PC have also purchased a marquee and gazebo for village events.

APM11/23 Parish to-do-list (to be done Spring 2023):

Installation of a new picnic table;

Replace planking on the pond jetty;

Pond patio – drainage channel installation;

Pond hedge - height to be lowered rather than just new growth trimmed;

Pond/village green electrics – full electrical survey needed and upgrade to 16 amps, door needs new hinges, installation of additional sockets across the green, reburying of extension cable – awaiting survey;

Snickets – require weeding;

Footpaths – many narrowed due to overgrowth from verges across pin kerbs;

Planting on the island.

The list is quite extensive, and more volunteers are needed.

APM12/23 Village litter pick: Date to be confirmed at the next PC meeting. The PC have all the equipment required. More volunteers required.

APM 13/23 Community Speedwatch: Cllr Wells is leading the team of ten volunteers who have now completed their training. Speeding will be monitored on York Road and the A163. Sites have been agreed with NYP who have strict regulations on where this can be done due to volunteer safety.

APM 14/23 New Unitary Council: Reported presented on behalf of Cllr Karl Arthur, our elected Divisional Councillor for 'Cliffe & North Duffield' area (see appendix 2). Concerns were raised by a parishioner about the precept rise for 2023/24. It was explained that the precept was raised to £37,000 for one year only in 2018/19 to pay for the new LED streetlights which were required for both financial and maintenance reasons. The precept has remained low for the last three years but unfortunately due to the rising costs of electricity and other expenses it has had to be raised by £2500. This equates to a rise of £4.47 per annum for band D households (£33.06 to £37.53). The rising costs of electricity has affected the village green electric and the village streetlight energy. The cost of streetlight electricity for 2022/23 has risen from 16.93p/kwh to 36.91p/kwh energy. It is anticipated that there will be a further price rise in 2023/24. It was also noted that the electrical work required on the village green is quite substantial and the Parish Council has still got some essential arboriculture work to get done on the village green which is estimated to cost between £1000-£2000.

It was noted that if residents have any complaints/concerns about the new unitary council they should contact the Council Leader Cllr Carl Les at North Yorkshire; cllr.carl.les@northyorks.gov.uk.

Cllr Arthur has already supported the Parish Council financially this financial year by contributing towards the Kings Coronation bench that is soon to be installed on School Lane. It was also suggested that we look at installing another defibrillator in the village on the A163 side of the village.

APM 15/23 Highways Issues: Cllr Hemingway has met with a Highways representative throughout the year to highlight various issues around the village. The main area of concern is the condition of Green Lane. Some potholes have been manually filled but it needs completely resurfacing. This is on the current jobs list but may take several years to get done. Residents were advised to report all issues (with photos if possible) to North Yorkshire Council and also use the website [North Yorkshire Council - Summary reports :: FixMyStreet](#).

APM 16/23 Footpath to link Skipwith to North Duffield: This is a major project that would require grant funding in the region of over £100,000 to complete. It was suggested that a group of interested volunteers independent from the Parish Council could work on this project as there may be government funding in the future to support it.

APM 17/23 Playing Fields Association update: The AGM is on 19th June 2023. There are now vacancies on the PFA committee. It is made up of two representatives from each user group using the facilities as well as two representatives from the Parish Council. The meetings are held monthly. This year the PFA have extensively refurbished the back room which used to be the storage room installing a new kitchen, new flooring and decorated throughout. Funding used for this came from Awards for All and a Ridings Community fund grant. A new electrical upgrade has also been carried out including the installation of LED lighting throughout the building. The PFA have erected a new fence in a garden area for the Under 5's group. The PFA fully support the Under 5's request to extend their offerings of childcare to the community; offering a baby room and holiday opening. The baby room will be situated in the newly refurbished back room from September 2023. There are plans to resurface the overflow carpark which will be completed this year. Funding from the PC, football and bowls club is already ring fenced for this project. There is also an extensive jobs list to tidy up around the pavilion and field area including making a bin storage, extending the CCTV, levelling out areas in the playpark and replacing the spring on the rocker in the play area. They are also investigating the field drainage issues as there has been an increase in standing water this year. The club has been in discussions with East Riding Football Association to improve the quality of the field and look into the drainage issues. They are going to be planting a wildflower area and extend the pathway around the pavilion and tidy up the boundaries.

North Duffield Dragons Football Club have currently got 220 children over 14 teams starting at the age of under 7 and under 18s. The Under 18s team will be playing in the York league. The Little Dragons have got 30 children across the ages of 3–6-year-olds. The Annual Tournament will be held from the 9th to 11th June. The club has produced some extra signage for the village stating the village supports safe driving. There is also extra parking available this year to accommodate the tournament.

The Under 5's will hold their annual scarecrow festival from 8-9th July.

The Bowls Club have started their outdoor season. Their junior session is currently held on a Thursday evening (between 6pm-7pm) and they currently have ten junior members. They are planning a village treasure hunt and BBQ on 22nd July.

A member of the public asked what happens to the field in the summer months. It was explained that the summer months are used to let the ground rest. The club are interested in other user groups using the facilities. A walking track / running track / outdoor gym equipment / mountain bike track round the perimeter was suggested but they need other interested parties to get involved.

APM 18/23 North Duffield Conservation & Local History Society: Mr Brian Elsey represented the History Society and gave a presentation. The Society was formed in early 1980's researching the history of the village. They produced a book called 'Ducks Crossing'. A new book came out last year about the history of the village from the Iron Age to modern times. They meet the third Tuesday of every month in the village hall at 7.30pm (apart from June to August when they do not meet). They need new members. Mr Elsey has also had a book published which looks at three seasons of excavations at Park House Farm, the building of the Roundhouse, the battle on the village green. A more academic book has been published on the second archaeological project looking at Iron age Settlement in the Vale of York; an excavation at North Duffield, Hemingbrough and Wheldrake. Membership of the History Society is only £10 per year. They go on visits during the summer months including one to the National Arboretum this year.

APM 19/23 Open forum/ general feedback: A member of the public asked if there has been any progress with the Selby Local Plan. It was explained that the plan has been transferred to North Yorkshire Council now who have still not decided if further changes need to be made (this would mean it would need to go back out to consultation) or if they are going to send it to the inspector for independent examination in its current form. Further information can be found at: [Selby new local plan | North Yorkshire Council](#)

A request was raised by a member of the public to make Green Lane around the village green one way. This has been put to North Yorkshire Highways on many occasions. Cllr Hemingway to raise again with them.

Meeting closed at 21.30.

Signed:
(Chairman)
Date:

Appendix 1:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2022 – MARCH 2023

The Parish Council (PC) met on 10 of the agreed 11 occasions (there being no August meeting as per usual), the exception being January when the meeting was cancelled. Additionally, the Annual Parish meeting was also held after an absence of two years due to Covid.

Following the PC elections, we had two vacancies which were subsequently filled by Malcolm Walton and Darren Wint, both of whom have contributed considerably to the running of the PC. During the year Claire Walker resigned from the PC, and we would like to thank Claire for her exceptional service over many years. As a result, the PC has a vacancy for a councillor, and we would welcome interest for this role from any resident.

The PC would once again like to formally record our acknowledgment and appreciation to our clerk, Sally Look, who has consistently exceeded her remit in keeping us updated on issues arising and in implementing the decisions we have made.

As we enter 23/24, we remain an active PC but are now part of the new North Yorkshire Council following the abolition of Selby District Council. It remains to be seen how this will affect the running of the PC, but we anticipate some additional responsibilities will be offered to us in due course.

It is with regret that we must report an increase in vandalism in the village. This has included graffiti (including racial elements), damage to the pond drainage system, damage to the nativity scene, and the dumping of items into the pond, all of which cost time and money to rectify. If any examples of such activity are witnessed, we would ask that the police are notified immediately.

Below is a summary of the various events and activities undertaken/supported by the PC over the preceding 12 months -

Christmas

The Christmas nativity scene was again favourably received although we did experience a few minor issues with some of the lights. Subsequently a full survey of the electrics on the green will be undertaken this year.

Bus Services

In line with other parish councils along the route we continued to support via subsidy the retention of the Friday and Saturday evening bus service to/from York operated by East Yorkshire.

Village Maintenance

The contract was put out to tender and following due process was awarded to the incumbent supplier.

The Landings

As reported last year the Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group had expressed an interest in purchasing The Landings. This group works closely with national and local conservation organisations including Natural England, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and the Carstairs Countryside Trust. Having established ownership of The Landings, secured via the Land Registry, the sale was completed with a net revenue to the PC of £3,800.

Village Green

Several improvements have been undertaken in collaboration with the village green committee. These have included the planting of additional bulbs, installation of two new benches, some remedial work to the trees, and the planting of a commemorative tree to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The island has also seen some work carried out including the thinning out of trees and the siting of a bee house. A pump has also been installed to help aerate the pond.

Events

A committee was formed made up of four parish councillors and Emma Swires-Kemp to promote community events on the village green. This resulted in the Summer Fair and the Christmas Market, both of which were hugely successful, with some financial support provided by the PC. It is our intention to repeat these events this year. Huge thanks go to Emma who bore the brunt of organising these.

To help facilitate these events, the PC purchased the marquee from the football club. The marquee is now classed as a village asset and has been upgraded with legally compliant guy ropes.

Precept

Given the additional costs faced by the PC in 23/24 we took the decision to raise the precept for the first time in two years. This was not taken lightly, but increased costs of utilities, repairs needed following vandalism to the pond drainage system, and the anticipated costs of electrical upgrades on the green/pond made this unavoidable.

Speeding

Speeding along both the A163 and York Road remains a concern, and the PC continues to lobby NYC on further traffic calming measures.

A new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS), which collates vehicle speeds but not number plates, has been purchased and installed just inside the western edge of the village. This sign can be turned around so that traffic entering the village from both east and west are now being monitored. To date this has proved that although isolated cases of excessive speeding does occur, the average speeds do not at this stage warrant further action by the police.

A build-out was installed on York Road effectively reducing the carriageway to one lane thereby reducing speed of traffic as it enters the village.

A community speed watch group has been formed and they have recently completed the necessary training. The group is shortly to commence recording speeds on the A163, and on York Road where traffic exits the village. Where vehicles are recorded travelling in excess of the speed limit, this is noted and submitted to the police who will then issue a letter to the registered keeper.

Highways

The chair met with a representative from Highways and completed a village survey. Several points were raised, some of which have/will be actioned. These include-

- Repairs to the drainage and road surface at the junction of Broadmanor and the A163.
- Adhoc pothole repairs.
- Replacement of damaged street name boards.
- Remedial work to white lining throughout the village
- Installation of 'duck' warning signs near the pond.

Additionally, a new footpath was installed alongside the allotments co-funded by the PC and via a grant from the locality budget.

Other items in brief include –

- The PC continued its support in contributing 50% of the insurance costs associated with the North Duffield and Skipwith Playing Fields Association.
- Support was given to the primary school to cover the cost of the Christingle.
- Resident children were given commemorative badges to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
- An updated tree survey was completed.
- The village asset register was updated.

As we enter the new year our priority remains to support the village for the benefit of all residents. Key initiatives include -

- Support for the King Charles Coronation celebration with a vintage tea party on 6th May and the provision of commemorative badges to the village children.
- Repeat of the Summer Fair and Christmas Market.
- Commencement of the community speed watch.
- Future proof update to the electrics on the village green.
- Further implementation of the recommendations of the tree survey.
- Installation of a new picnic table on the village green.
- Siting of a Coronation bench on Priest Lane.
- The establishment of a 20mph speed limit on the school approach.
- Lobbying of Highways to improve the state of the roads in the village eg Green Lane.
- Repairs to the fence alongside the allotments.
- The support of appropriate development, especially affordable homes.
- Further investigate the potential for a footpath between North Duffield and Skipwith.

Renny Hemingway
Chair
May 2023

Appendix 2:

Key messages for Parish Council AGMs in the Cliffe and North Duffield Division

- The council is still in safe hands. For the last 25 years we have been a Conservative Council, stable, prudent and consistent in applying sensible policies that work for you and the communities we serve. Although the majority is much reduced, it is still a working majority, and not every member of the opposition groupings is opposed to our policies so this should provide the political stability needed to take things forward;
- The transition from eight councils to one unitary council has gone well. This is thanks to the hard work of officers at both tiers of local government who see this as a great opportunity to improve service delivery, reduce duplication and confusion about who does what and to eventually cut costs;
- Largely, the people who delivered services on the Friday before transition are the same people who deliver services after it. Where there have been problems they have been mainly minor, and our teams of back up people have put them right. Please report any problems you have been having to me as your local member, I will then feed them back to the centre;
- What has not changed is the fact that everybody and each division still has an elected councillor and we are here to serve you. Most of our communications came through the website now but we are committed to keep a face to face contact point in each main area of the county. In Selby's case, this will be the civic centre on Doncaster Road in Selby and for now, Highways Area 7 will continue to be based on Canal Road in Selby. Existing phone numbers will run for now but there will be a new contact number to use – this being **0300 131 2131**;
- Unfortunately, the authority had to increase the Council Tax to the maximum 2.99% this year and use the Adult Social Care Levy increase of 2% because of rising demand for services and inflation, particularly in energy costs, which have been hitting us the same as everyone else. In addition, residents who reside in Selby District as well as will face a levelling up of the district charges so that all the old district precepts will be the same across the county. This levelling up (or down in the case of some districts of boroughs) will be phased in over two years and in Selby Districts case will be around

£30 extra per annum in total for a Band D property. The authority has introduced mitigation measures such as a Local Access Fund and the Household Fund to help the most vulnerable amongst us and we continue to support Citizens Advice to help give advice and guidance to people who may be struggling with their bills

- A Green Bin Tax or Charge will be introduced for the first time in Selby District as part of the program to level charges for these items across the county. The consultation closed recently and once the Executive Committee (Cabinet) at Northallerton have discussed the consultation findings (probably in late May) the charge will be introduced across Selby District. The authority is able to charge for this service as it is a discretionary service unlike the rubbish and recycling collections which are statutory services and must therefore be funded by Council Tax. As the service is discretionary residents will be able to decide whether they wish to retain the green waste bin. If they do they will be charged, if they decide that they do not wish to possess a green bin then no charge will be forthcoming;
- The Authority is likely to make savings from the new Council in the future, which will then release funds to invest more in front line services or keep the council tax lower than it would otherwise have been or a combination of the two. The first results of these cost cutting exercises have already been realised with the reduction of Chief Executives from eight to one (saving £1 million per annum) and reducing the amount of councillors from 350 to 90 (saving £750K per annum). The authority will be looking at the disposal of surplus properties next and will conduct a general restructuring of staff in due course;
- The authority is working with central government to introduce devolution of decision-making powers to our sub region, decisions made at County Hall not Westminster or Whitehall, and there will be a flow of extra cash to come with it. If forthcoming this new pot of cash may be a means by which our parish councils will be able to bid for to partly help fund proposals such as the new footpaths between North Duffield and Skipwith, and Cliffe and Cliffe Common. I will update you more on this once I have further information;
- The authority will form a council plan for the next four years with priorities which various parish councils highlighted in the consultation process leading up to the vesting of the new authority in April. One priority across the council is to reduce our own carbon emissions, and the authority will help other organisations and companies in the county to reduce theirs. There will be a Climate Change Champion appointed at the Full Council on Wednesday 17th May 2023 to help implement and push through these changes;
- Key to the success of the new authority is working with you – our parish councils – and we are committed to double devolution. Under this double devolution we wish to discuss with you what services and powers you feel that you are willing and able to take on for your communities from the new unitary council. **BUT we won't dump anything on you and it will be entirely up to you which services if any you may wish to take on going forward;**
- The system for members to refer planning applications to come before the planning committee has changes since 1st April. Under the new system members can still refer applications to come before the committee within the allotted 21 days of it coming on the members weekly list. But the criteria has been tightened up and once submitted the Area Head of Planning – in Selby's case, Mr. Martin Grainger – in conjunction with the chair of the Local Planning Committee – in the case of the Selby and Ainsty Area Constituency Committees Local Planning Committee, Cllr John Cattanach – will have the final say over whether an application can come before the committee or not. In addition, the rules for speaking at the committee have changed. The same people can as before – ie. An Objector, A Parish/Town Councillor, the Local Member and a Representative of the Applicant – can speak. But they will be limited to a speaking time of THREE minutes rather than the five minutes that were allowed by Selby District Council rules;
- The authority is currently looking into ways to harmonise waste collection services across the county. Suggested solutions, which were explained to councillors at our recent members seminar, include keeping things as they are in the old Selby District (ie fortnightly rubbish collections and four weekly recycling collections), moving to a system of fortnightly rubbish collections and fortnightly collections for all recyclables, whether to keep two recycling bins or move to one and the possibility of introducing a caddy for food waste which would be collected on a weekly basis. Once it has been decided on

which path to take as far as waste collections are concerned the proposed route will then be put out for consultation with local communities and parish/town councils before the new service can be introduced, likely 2026 or 2027;

- The Councillors Locality Budget is back and I have £10k which I can recommend be spent on various initiatives and projects around the Cliffe and North Duffield Division. I have already recommended several grants for projects around the division after advertising the locality budgets on Facebook Pages throughout the division and I am happy to listen to any idea's which you may have to recommend finance for. The minimum grant that can be awarded under the scheme is £300 and I like to put in a maximum recommendation of around £2k or thereabouts so that I can help fund as many projects as possible from my pot. The final date for submitting applications is 31st January 2024. So far, since applications opened in April, I have arranged funding for four projects with another in the pipe line, and happily it looks like all four parishes within my division will receive help to fund at least one project within their parish; and
- Finally, when we propose changes to improve efficiency and make potential cost savings in the future – such as the waste collection proposals mentioned above – we will keep you informed.

Cllr. Karl Arthur

Cliffe and North Duffield Division