

NORTH DUFFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the Annual meeting of the Parish held on 12th May 2022 Chapel Schoolroom, North Duffield

In attendance: Cllrs R Arrand, S Brown, R Hemingway (Chairman), M Patten, L Richardson, Cllr C Walker. and B Wells. S Look (Clerk). Members of the public. Cllr K Arthur.

1. **Introduction** – Chair to welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting.
2. **Parish Council Annual Report** – The chairman of the Parish Council gave a report on the preceding year (full report can be found below).
Other items raised by members of the public at the meeting were as follows:
 - Request to use the income from the sale of North Duffield Landings to purchase some land to develop a re-wilding area. Suggestion made regarding the land on York Road next to the playing fields. Concerns raised about the cost of land. Clerk to add to PC agenda for the next monthly meeting.
 - Request to get a footpath installed linking North Duffield to Skipwith (up to Sandy Lane). Another resident confirmed they have already approached Sustrans and unfortunately, they have not got funding. Councillors support the initiative if a group in the village would like to pursue it and fundraise. The Parish Council cannot fund this due to excessive costs involved; £100 per linear metre. Previous quote given was £78,000 from North Duffield to Sandy Lane.
 - Report that the road condition on Green Lane is deteriorating. PC confirmed that NYCC have already been made aware of the issue. This has been added to the carriageway resurfacing scheme, however it is on a two-year rolling programme so unlikely to be resurfaced prior to 2024. This is unless it rapidly deteriorates and then it will be given priority. In the meantime, potholes will be repaired as required.
 - Request made for a 20mph speed limit throughout the whole village. Explained that NYCC will not support this unfortunately due to costs and enforcement.
3. **Village Hall committee** – Update from Barbara Dickinson (full report below).
4. **Playing Fields Association** – report read out from the PFA (full report below).
5. **The pond / village green** –
Report given on behalf of the Village Green Working Group. New bulbs have been planted and work ongoing on the pinfold. Suggestion made to use some of the Parish Council CIL funds to install more seating on the village green. This would include a wheelchair accessible picnic bench opposite the Kings Arms; a round table near the pond/Rowan tree and another bench. It has already been agreed by the PC that the WI will install a bench near to the current memorial bench on the green.
It was noted that the Sycamore trees have self-seeded near the pond and it was suggested that they should be replaced with native hedges.
A Magnolia tree is to be planted in the pinfold. Safety concerns raised by residents about the suggestion to put seating in the pinfold.
A request was made to have more seating around the whole village; i.e. outside the village hall.
Resolved to install one WI bench (already agreed), one picnic bench (near the Kings Arms end of the green) and one bench near the pond. No seating to be installed in the pinfold.

A representative from Natural England/resident explained about potential options for the village pond. Suggestion made to plant Water Lilies and Frog Iris to make the pond a more aesthetically pleasing environmental pond. Suggestion made to install a fountain to oxygenate the pond.

Resolved to plant some oxygenating plants in the pond this winter. Resident to organise for Natural England to arrange a volunteer day to plant them in winter.

Resolved to remove some of the non-native trees from the Island in early winter.

It was noted that the cherry on the green will be replaced in autumn. The dead one will be removed on 16th May. Thanks given to Cllr Arrand and her husband for removing the Pampas grass.

6. **Parish to-do list** – Chairman ran through all the jobs that need doing in the village by contractors and volunteers. Resident to realign and service the flag-pole on the village green on 21st May. Benches on the green to be cleaned and varnished by councillors within the next few weeks. Street signs require cleaning. To be arranged. Dog bins – some of the bins need attention and cleaning. To be arranged.
7. **Village litter pick** – Village litter pick has been organised for Saturday 28th May 2022, 10am meet on the village green. All equipment will be provided.
8. **Highways Issues**
 - a. **Community Speedwatch** – Before lockdown a group of residents got together to look at forming a 'Community Speedwatch' group. Now that life is getting back to normal and we are seeing an increase in traffic and speed around the village we would like to see this progress. Several volunteers agreed to get involved. Clerk to arrange the training and co-ordinate.
 - b. **Speeding on York Road** - Update given on plans for new speed prevention measures for the village including the extension of the 30mph limit on York Road out of the end of the village towards Skipwith. A request has been made to NYCC Highways for speed prevention measures near the pond on York Road, in particular a chevron on the bend near the Kings Arms pub. Unfortunately, Highways will not erect signage due to street clutter without valid reasons such as 'reported' incidents. The Parish Council would like to encourage all residents to report any speeding issues on a 95 Alive form to the police so that we can build up evidence of issues.
 - c. **School 20mph zone** – A request has been made to NYCC Highways. The Parish Council would have to (at their own expense) commission a speed survey in order to prove that it would be beneficial in the area. Then in order for a 20mph limit to be considered the speed survey would have to show that speeds do not currently exceed 24mph.
 - d. **Speeding on the A163** - The Parish Council have been lobbying for a 30mph limit on the A163 through the village with no success as the location does not conform to the criteria. NYCC reported that to reduce the speed here would be inappropriate in line with the guidance as set out by the DfT. Also, the results of a speed survey conducted in 2021 showed an average speed of 36/37mph and 85th percentile of 42/43mph which does not indicate a speeding issue requiring engineering intervention at this location.
 - e. **Parking problems on Back Lane** – Concerns have been raised to the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee about the Bird Fair that is held on the village hall as parked cars are blocking access on the public highway. A suggestion was made to put cones and signs up and put a condition of hire to use the village hall car park only.
9. **New Unitary council** – Cllr Karl Arthur was introduced as the newly elected North Yorkshire Councillor for 'Cliffe & North Duffield' area. The area covers North Duffield, Lund, South Duffield, Cliffe, Hemingbrough and Osgodby. Cllr Arthur and Cllr Topping will also continue to be the Derwent Ward Councillors for the next year. Cllr Arthur gave an update on the new Unitary council for North Yorkshire and implications this may have for the parish. In April 2023, the new North Yorkshire Council will take over providing public services for every resident, household and community in the county. This new organisation will replace the county council and seven district/borough councils, which currently operate and it will produce a single rate council tax. Planning and licensing will be dealt with at county level but there will also be area committees. Waste collections and disposal will be dealt with by the unitary authority. There is a locality budget

of £16,000 across the division to be allocated to community initiatives. Parish Councils will be invited to apply.

10. Open Forum / General feedback from residents: Electors present at meeting were given the opportunity to raise any queries or make any suggestions to the Parish Council. The following items were raised by residents present:

- **Bio-diversity** - Suggestion made to encourage bio-diversity in the village.
- **Peacocks** - Complaint raised about the Peacocks roaming freely causing damage to property, making noise and concern raised that they should not be kept in residential environments. It was explained that any complaints need to be reported to Environmental Health. Other residents present expressed how much they like the presence of the peacocks in the community.
- **Parking issues** - Concerns raised about people parking vehicles on pavements causing accessibility issues, parking them in the wrong direction on the highway and blocking the bus stop on Main Street. It was advised that all dangerous obstruction incidents need to be reported to the police on 101 and all civil parking incidents need reporting to Selby District Council (with photographic evidence if possible). Harrogate Borough Council operates on enforcement on behalf of Selby District Council. www.selby.gov.uk/report-it
- **Verges**- Report that the verge on York Road that was dug up by Northern Utilities has not been re-seeded. Clerk to report to Highways.
- **Climate Change** - It was noted that the Parish Council still support the Friends of the Earth 20-point guide for towns and parish councils which was published in 2020.
- **Pumping Station on Back Lane** – Ongoing concerns about the capacity of the pumping station. Cllr Karl Arthur to follow up with local residents. To request a full survey is done of the site.
- **Litter** – Concerns raised about the amount of litter on the verges on the outskirts of the village. Cllr Arthur to raise with Selby District Council.

Meeting Closed at 10pm

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date:

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT APRIL 2021 – MARCH 2022

The past year remained challenging due to the continued Covid situation. However, we still managed to meet as a Parish Council on 10 of the agreed 11 occasions (there being no August meeting as per usual), the exception being January when the meeting was cancelled. As restrictions on gatherings eased these meetings were a combination of face to face and remote via zoom. Fortunately, the Annual Parish meeting will go ahead in 2022 after an absence of two years.

The previous chair resigned as a parish councillor in May 2021. We would like to place on record our thanks to Nigel Taylor both as chair and as councillor. The vacancy created was subsequently filled by the welcome return of Bob Wells.

The local government reorganisation meant that the Parish Council elections scheduled for 2023 were brought forward to this year. Seven councillors sought re-election and were duly elected, with two councillors, Nancy Gray and Jo Smith, deciding not to stand. Our thanks go to Nancy and Jo for their exceptional service over many years. As a result, the Parish Council now has two vacancies and efforts to fill these are underway.

The Parish Council would also 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.

The Christmas nativity scene again was received favourably despite some issues with the lights. Those around the pond tripped out on occasions particularly after rain. These have subsequently been evaluated, resulting in the older strings being discarded and new ones sourced for this year. The lights in the tree on the green were subsequently found to be faulty and replacements have been provided by the supplier free of charge. These will be installed in time for Christmas 2022.

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.

The insurance and village maintenance contracts have entered their respective final years and an appropriate tender process will be held in due course.

Speeding along both the A163 and York Road remains a concern. In an attempt to further raise awareness along the A163 councillors have agreed to install a new Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) just inside the western edge of the village which can also record vehicle speeds. This sign can be turned around so that traffic entering the village from both east and west can be monitored. With regard to York Road a build-out is to be installed by NYCC Highways to reduce the carriageway to one lane. The parish council will continue to lobby NYCC Highways and the relevant agencies for further traffic calming and speed restriction measures as deemed appropriate.

The village continues to grow at a controlled rate in 20/21, the development of which was supported by the parish council. These majority of the new builds were all 3+ bedroom detached properties which were welcomed, however the need for affordable housing in the village remains an issue which will hopefully be addressed in the future.

A committee was formed to evaluate how we could improve the village green for the benefit of all residents. This is ongoing and further discussion will be held during the annual Parish meeting.

Given that no requests for funding had been received for several years the Parish Council decided to close the millennium fund. The balance was donated to the North Duffield Conservation and Local History Society which they used towards the publication of their book entitled North Duffield From Ancient Community to Modern Village.

Since 2019 the Friends of the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group have been in contact with the parish council to purchase The Landings. This group works closely with national and local conservation organisations including Natural England, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and the Carstairs Countryside Trust. The parish council finally established ownership of The Landings in 2022, secured via the Land Registry. This will allow the sale to go through in 22/23, with the proceeds to be used for the benefit of the whole village.

Other items in brief include –

- The appearance of the defibrillator box was much improved by means of a repaint.
- The overgrown nature of Priest Lane was cleared following lobbying by the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council continued its support in contributing 50% of the insurance costs associated with the North Duffield and Skipwith Playing Fields Association.
- An updated tree survey was completed.
- The pampas grass on the village green was removed and replaced by a more appropriate and native Poplar tree.
- A memorial bench was positioned on the western side of the green.

Given the current inflationary pressures we decided to hold the precept for 22/23 at the same level as last year.

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 Jubilee celebrations 2nd to 5th June.
- A thorough survey of the electrics on the village green.
- Implementation of the recommendations of the tree survey.
- The support of appropriate development, especially affordable homes.

- Installation of the VAS on the A163.
- Establishment of a build-out on York Road to reduce speeding.
- The establishment of a 20mph speed limit on the school approach
- The sympathetic development of the village green.
- Completion of the sale of The Landings to the Lower Derwent Valley Conservation Group.
- Installation of the footpath alongside the allotments adjacent to the A163.

Renny Hemingway (Chair).

May 2022

North Duffield Village Hall Committee Report

Good evening everyone. Thank you for inviting the clubs and societies in our village community to take part in this Annual Parish Meeting.

What is the Village Hall?

The Village Hall is an independent charity registered with the Charity Commission and being vested with the Official Custodian of Charities. The land was bought for £40 and the village community raised the money to build it by public subscription, together with a donation from the Carnegie Trust. North Duffield Village Hall Charity was established to operate and maintain the village hall for the use and benefit of all residents. The hall opened in 1938.

How is it run?

It is run by a committee. The appointed committee are the Managing Trustees responsible for the day to day operation and maintenance of the property.

The committee consists of representatives of various local groups such as Playgroup, Parish Church Council, Women's Institute, Primary School governors and the Parish Council, plus appointed members of the public. We are not at full complement. Vacancies are currently available.

How is it financed?

The expenses of the hall are normally covered by the income received from the hirers. Hire fees are reviewed annually in November for any adjustments to come into effect from the following 1st January. The hire charges have remained low for many years, just £7 per hour for either room, and £14 for both rooms. Unlike some local halls, we do not charge extra for use of the kitchen or crockery.

However, because of the recent restrictions due to the pandemic, the level of hiring naturally fell. Fortunately, the hall received government support through grants and our bank balance has not suffered. Bookings are almost back to pre pandemic levels.

Who uses the hall?

Currently, there are a wide variety of users which were listed in the last edition of Round Up.

Our website, www.northduffieldvillagehall.co.uk is due to be updated shortly and is to include the list of regular users. Janet Clark is our Bookings Secretary and she will always be pleased to answer your enquiries.

North Duffield and Skipwith Playing Field Association

The North Duffield and Skipwith Playing Field Association is an independent Registered Charity No.504380 with the land vested with the Official Custodian of Charities. The charity being managed by a committee formed from representatives of the organised User groups and members of the public and representatives of the Parish Councils who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting which is held in June each year.

The income to upkeep and improve the facilities is derived solely from the fees paid by the organised User

Groups and 50% of the Annual Insurance -£835.32 received from the North Duffield Parish Council. £1670.65 being the premium at the last renewal. At the present time the organised User Groups are, North Duffield Under 5's Village Preschool, North Duffield Dragons Junior Football Club and the North Duffield Bowling Club. The Orchard Trees Day Nursery who are based at the Old Woodyard, Thorganby did for some time operate a Before and After School Club from the premises but unfortunately during the past 12 months this has become uneconomical and has now closed.

To the general public the actual field area may not appear to cost much to maintain but unfortunately in order to keep a healthy playing surface, vertidrainning and fertilising are a necessity and has cost £1700 during the past twelve months. There are several waste bins around the field which are emptied by members of the committee into the normal waste bins which are then emptied by the Council at a cost of £346.36 per year. The Association are very indebted to Lindum Turf for cutting the main part of the field free of charge. Of course any building has constant on going costs and during the last twelve months the central heating boiler in the pavilion has required replacing at a cost of £5485.

The play area is a very well used area by the general public and it is a requirement of such an area that a Safety Inspection Report is carried out by ROSPA annually in September and any defects from low risk, with no action required, to high risk where immediate action required are highlighted in the report and add a further 'unseen' cost to the general public who use the facility.

The Association have been successful in being accepted on to the Tesco Blue token scheme in the Selby branch. For anyone who is not aware of how this works shoppers at Tesco are given blue tokens when they pay at the tills and can then place their tokens in the container to support one of the qualifying good causes. The present scheme runs until 30th June with North Duffield Playing Field being accepted on the scheme with the project being to replace one of the elephant rockers in the play area. The group who receives the most tokens will receive £1500, second £1000 and third £500. Please help us by using your blue tokens to support us if you shop at Tesco.

The Association also run a 100 club at a cost of £1 per month with prizes of £15 and £5 monthly. Although not raising a vast amount of money it is a simple and easy way of helping us. Please get in touch if you are prepared to support us in this way.

It is not easy to raise additional funds to help with the improvement and general expenses of maintaining the pavilion, play area and field as each User Group have their own group to manage and finance. The Bowling Club cover all their own expenses in maintaining the bowling green and the bowling club pavilion as well as paying an agreed amount towards the general costs of the Association.

Plans are in hand to improve the surface area at the far end of the field used as an overflow car park. Any assistance in researching and applying for grants to help us achieve this would be greatly appreciated. At the present time the Association are researching grant giving bodies to assist with the cost. This is not a quick or easy process as most funders prefer to support capital costs or promoting new activities for specific areas of the community. Our application to the Heart of Yorkshire Selby District Fund has already been declined and we are now looking at the FCC Communities Foundation – commonly known as the Landfill.

There are vacancies on the committee and we would appreciate more involvement from the general public as, at the moment, the work rests solely on the appointed members of the User groups.

Janet Clark- Chair