

EARSWICK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

23rd May 2016

EARSWICK VILLAGE HALL

Present:- Councillor Jones (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mrs J Fisher (Clerk), P Leveson, B S Wiseman, B O'Connor, G Tate, J McTurk, W Gambold, A Nichols, H Mead, P Sokolow, J Ridley, S McEnane, I Jones, H Tate, I Yeowart, S Yeowart, F Jones, R Ridley, T Bright, L Farrar, S Bright, B Rigg, T Rigg, J Townsend, K Stranger, A Charlesworth.

1. Apologies

G Offler and Ward Cllr Doughty.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20th April 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 20 April 2015 are approved as a true and correct record.

3. Chairmans Report

Earswick Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2016:-

As usual I would like to start off my report by thanking my fellow members of the Parish Council for their commitment and dedication to the task of overseeing the various official requirements and issues that have arisen in the village during the past year and in particular Councillor Gill Offler for her continuous hard work in maintaining and improving the overall environment of the village. I'd also like to thank Joanne Fisher, our Clerk and Responsible Officer, for her hard work and guidance throughout the year, Jim McTurk for continuing to act as our internal auditor and Kate Pace for arranging and maintaining the displays in the planters at the entrances to the village.

This past year has also seen two new members join the Parish Council, Graham Tate and Barry O'Connor. There still remains one vacancy on the Parish Council so if anyone is interested in joining please contact either the Parish Clerk or any of the Councillors.

The Parish Council continues to review its expenditure and wherever possible reduce costs through the use of good financial management and prudent budgeting. However the interest being paid on the Section 106 investment bond has more than halved so unfortunately for the first time in 5 years the precept for the current financial year has been increased slightly. Most of the precept money is spent on maintaining the 30 acres of public open space as well as the general upkeep and repair of council property such as the village hall, which this year has benefitted from having the windows replaced with double-glazing.

The Parish Council has continued to provide financial support to local organisations and as usual would welcome applications for funding from any other groups or clubs within the village using the Grant Application Scheme. This year the village has been successful in applying for two grants from ward funds. The Scented Garden Committee was awarded £1,083 for the purchase and installation of a new information board in the Garden whilst the Parish Council has been awarded £2,250 towards the cost of replacing the perimeter fencing around the Village Pond, which hopefully will take place next month. We were also successful in obtaining a grant of £550 from Sport England towards the cost of cleaning the tennis courts after they sustained some minor damage during the winter floods.

Following the unlawful occupation, last year, of the Village Green by a group of travellers several measures have been put in place to prevent this happening again and to protect the security of the public open spaces. A fence has been erected around the perimeter of the village green paid for by residents of Fosslands, the owners of the green.

In addition the Parish Council has erected additional fencing at the "pond" end of Lock House Lane and has replaced some of the wooden fencing in the Lock House Lane car park with more secure metal fencing. Security gates have also been installed at the entrance to the Village Hall car park.

Once again my congratulations go to the Scented Garden Committee and their small band of volunteers for their success in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition where they again achieved an Outstanding Award. As well as an information board, new picnic benches have also been installed in the garden.

The monthly Coffee Mornings that are held on the first Monday of the month in the Village Hall from 10.30--12.00 continue to go from strength to strength. My thanks go out to the group of residents who organise it on a rota basis. Around 25 --30 residents attend regularly and recently a lunch was organised instead of the normal coffee morning and 32 residents helped to make it a successful event. It is hoped that similar events can be arranged from time to time in the future. Over the past 18 months the group have made donations totalling over £340.00 to a number of charities such as Marie Curie, British Legion, Childrens Liver Disease Foundation and SNAPPY.

Bookings for the village hall continue to grow with a range of different classes being available on most days. My thanks also go to the Village Hall committee who have kindly made a substantial donation to Parish Council funds.

In Earswick the previous draft of the City of York (CYC) Local Plan identified the potential for over 2,000 houses to be built on greenbelt land to the east of the Strensall Road. On behalf of residents the Parish Council and our ward councillors have fought to have this proposed development removed from the Local Plan and continue to fight against having an area of land on this scale "safeguarded" for potential future development.

However there has been little progress on the Local Plan since last year, although we have been told that an announcement on this is due to be made in the next few weeks.

The Parish Council last year approved the formation of a Working Party to create a statutory Neighbourhood Plan for Earswick. The issues raised by this Working Party, through its discussions and consultations with residents, have been considered by the community and the overwhelming support for the village to have its own Neighbourhood Plan is clearly demonstrated by the fact that an unprecedented 60% of households responded to the two residents' surveys distributed by this group.

The results from those surveys have shown that whilst the majority of residents do not want to see any housing development on the greenbelt, in the event that some development does occur most residents feel it is essential that policies regarding the location, type and size of development are in place to reflect the wishes of the community. On average 80% of respondents supported the Vision and Objectives policies proposed by the Working Party.

The next stage in the process will involve the preparation of a draft Neighbourhood Plan that will again be available to residents for comment prior to its finalisation.

Finally I would urge everyone, where they can, to play an active part in village life from helping in the Scented Garden and on environment projects to supporting events held in the village hall or by just simply helping to keep the village looking clean and tidy.

4. Any Other Business

A member of the public indicated their wish to address the meeting and insisted that this part of the proceedings be filmed.

A large number of residents objected to filming taking place.

The Chairman informed residents that there is no prescribed power for members of the public to record the proceedings of the annual parish meeting and asked for filming to stop.

The resident concerned refused to stop filming and as a result of the ensuing disturbance that followed, and concern for public safety, the Chairman terminated the meeting entirely.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish was therefore declared closed at 7.15pm.

Signed.....

Date.....