

Minutes Of The Annual Meeting Of The Parish held on
Monday 20th May 2024 at 7:30pm in the Earswick Village Hall

There were 2 members of the public present.

1. Apologies received from Cllrs Offler, Wiseman & Ellis
2. It was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 29th May 2023 be adopted as a true & accurate record and were duly signed.
3. Cllr Jones gave a report on Community Affairs – see appendix 1
4. Cllr Jones gave the Neighbourhood Watch Report on behalf of Linda & Tony Murphy – see appendix 2

The meeting closed at 07:35pm

Appendix 1

Community Report 2023-2024

Whilst this is not a designated parish council meeting I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the Parish Council and the Clerk for their commitment and dedication to the task of overseeing the various official requirements and issues that have arisen in the village over the past year.

My thanks also go to Jim McTurk, for continuing to act as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor.

This past year has also seen two new members join the council, Martin Lumley-Holmes and Craig Ellis both of whom have already made valuable contributions to the operation of the council.

The Parish Council continues to review its expenditure and wherever possible reduce costs through the use of good financial management and prudent budgeting. Despite the loss of income due to the ruling party on City of York Council withdrawing the Ward Grant system the Parish Council has been able to limit the increase in the parish precept to 1% for the current year. The majority of the precept money is spent on maintaining the 30 acres of public open space as well as the general upkeep and repair of parish council assets such as the village hall, scented garden and the tennis courts.

The public open space continues to be well used by residents and visitors alike, particularly dog walkers although it has suffered from the effects of the constant rain during the past 6 months which has restricted some maintenance work being carried out. Thanks must go to those residents who help keep the area tidy by picking up rubbish on their daily walks. New notices have been erected at selected points around the open space reminding dog owners to keep their dogs on leads whilst on the public footpaths and in the car parks. With the help of volunteers from St Nicks the area around the pond has been cut back and given a general tidy up. 2 replacement life buoys have recently been installed by the pond. On the Flower Meadow wild flower seeds and plants have been planted to try and increase the number and variety of wild plants.

Bookings for the village hall continue to grow with a wide range of classes/activities taking place on most days. Residents are able to participate in all of the classes though in most, if not all, a fee would be payable.

Current activities include:

Monday evenings- Pilates class

Tuesday mornings (alternate weeks)- Sewing/upholstery club

Tuesday evenings (monthly)- Flower Arranging

Wednesday mornings- Pilates class

Wednesday evenings- Puppy/Dog Training

Thursday lunchtimes- Rhythmtime activities for Babies/Small children

Thursday evenings- Puppy/Dog Training

Saturday mornings- Drama Kids drama classes for 3 ranges of year groups

Under the guidance of the Parish Council the Scented Garden is now being run by a small, but extremely dedicated, group of volunteers. These include Martin Lumley-Holmes, Jackie Holland, Lesley Edington, Judith Stevens, Vanessa Gill, Donna Hodgson and David Jones whose wife Irene Jones sadly passed away this past year. Irene was a founder member of the Scented Garden Committee and was for many years its Chair. It's good to see that Irene's legacy will live on in the Scented Garden. The volunteers would love for other residents to join them and everyone is welcome to come along to meet them on the first Friday morning of every month.

The tennis courts have recently had their annual spring clean and continue to be used by a keen core of residents. All residents in Earswick can use the courts for a very small annual fee of £30. This allows EVERY member of the household entry to the tennis courts and each member can be accompanied by guest players within the same fee. Details can found on the parish website earswick.org.

The Earswick Coffee mornings that are held on the first Monday of the month in the Village Hall from 10.30-12.00 continue to be well supported throughout the year. Around 25-30 residents attend regularly and once a year a lunch is held instead of the normal coffee morning. This year attendees were treated to a interesting and highly informative talk and slide show on gardens from Peter Mathers. This year some £200 was raised in donations and given to the Salvation Army. Thanks go to Pat Leveson and Gill Offler for organising the coffee mornings, Di Ridley, Geraldine Covell and Judith Stevens for helping out in the kitchen and to Vanessa Gill and Dave Scobie for their delicious cakes. The next coffee morning will take place on Monday 3 June when it is planned to theme the morning as part of the D-Day celebrations.

Residents may be aware that the proposed dualling of the A1237 Outer Ring Road and improvement of the Strensall Roundabout has now been approved.

The existing roundabout and approach roads will be enlarged, with a new pedestrian and cycle underpass constructed linking Huntington and Earswick. Preliminary work is expected to commence this year and is forecast to take 2 years to complete. A parallel pedestrian and cycle zebra crossing will also be constructed on Strensall Road about 150m north of the roundabout.

Finally I would urge everyone, where they are able, to play an active part in village life from helping at the coffee mornings and in the Scented Garden to supporting events in the village hall or by just simply helping to keep the village looking clean and tidy.

Appendix 2

Earswick Neighbourhood Watch Review.

The past year has fortunately been quiet in terms of local incidents that have been reported to us, the most significant being a noise disturbance caused by teenagers in the park by the Village Hall overflow car park. This took place last summer around the time when the pupil's examinations had been completed. We, along with other residents reported this to the Police and the response was fairly quick. Police were again called a few days later and they were swift with their response, this follow up action seemed to get the message through to the young people.

We will contact North Yorkshire Police in June to raise awareness of the issue of post exam gatherings, so it is on their radar.

Membership of The Earswick NW group remains stable, with a few people moving out of the village and new incoming people joining up to the group. We continue to circulate out NW bulletins that are relevant to our locality when we receive them. If anyone else wants to join up to the scheme, our detail are on the Parish Council webpage.

I would like to thank Linda and Tony Murphy for acting as the Earswick

Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators and all those residents who are members of the NW group helping to keep the village a safe and relatively crime free environment in which to live.

Signed: D J Jones

Date: 26th May 2025