

PRESTON-UNDER-SCAR ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING 2016

The meeting was held at 6.30pm on Tuesday 21st June in the village hall and was attended by 21 members of the public. The meeting was chaired by Jan Jowett, the Chairman of the Parish Council.

The following items were transacted:

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27th June 2015.

These were reviewed, approved by those present and duly signed by the Chairman

2. A review of action since the 2015 meeting

There were several action points from the 2015 village meeting. The Chairman informed the public of the following updates:

i. Grass Cutting Procedure

The Chairman explained how NYCC have been instructed to cut the visibility splays at road junctions within the 30mph zone of the village. The Chairman explained about the area of grass verge which has been cut outside Rowangarth and how several residents have kindly cut the high level verge themselves recently.

- One resident expressed concern about road safety on Mill Lane and asked the PC to consider what should be done in terms of maintaining the grass verge.
- One resident highlighted how Mill Lane has a school bus using the lane regularly as well as tractors with trailers, and therefore the maintenance of the grass verge is important particularly as it is quite dangerous and very narrow in places even without the additional problem of the overgrown verge. It is difficult to pass other vehicles as the verge is almost inaccessible in places.

It was agreed that the grass verge down Mill Lane will be discussed at a PC meeting.

ii. Quoits Pitch

Last year Dave Brooks organised a survey following last year's village meeting, which in turn resulted in Dave organising a quote for the development of a quoits pitch. The initial quote was for approximately £2500, although it may be possible to apply for a small grant to offset some of the cost.

iii. Village Maintenance Event

The village maintenance event was held last year and was a success. The chairman thanked everyone who was involved.

iv. Highways

Grinton Moor – Leyburn cross roads.

The chairman explained how she had received several accounts of 'near misses' and other information which has since been forwarded to highways in connection with the Grinton Moor to Leyburn Moor Road cross roads. She explained that Highways have stated that the fatalities collision severity factor signified that the area is not high risk. The signs from Grinton Moor to Leyburn Moor Road have been upgraded.

Two residents expressed how they would like to have STOP signs rather than GIVE WAY signs placed at the junction.

It was also noted that the stone wall has been recently knocked down which may also cause confusion for drivers.

It was agreed that Highways should be asked to replace the GIVE WAY signs with STOP signs.

v. Main road outside Cairn View.

The instance when water had gathered outside Cairn View had been reported to Highways as requested. Highways were unable to help in any way due to funding constraints.

vi. Safety Mirror

A safety mirror costs around £150 and following discussion at a Parish Council meeting it was felt that whilst such mirrors may be helpful to people entering traffic from their residences, this is not the situation at the East End and a mirror would not be helpful. Two residents felt that this warranted further discussion and the chairman encouraged anyone else to contact her to discuss this matter further.

3. Preston-under-Scar Village Trust

David Ashforth gave a report and presented the accounts for the year.

The current balance of the fund's bank account is £3263.11.

During the last year the trust balance has remained the same.

4. To consider ideas to improve the open spaces in the village

i. Consider planting additional plantings in the Stanney

There was general agreement that The Stanney would benefit from additional bulb and wild flower plantings, but that these should be of indigenous and not garden varieties.

ii. Consider planting a replacement tree on the east end village green

In 2009 the Chestnut tree was cut down from the east end village green as it had been affected by disease and was in ill health. Since then the PC has considered a replacement tree and decided that this should be discussed at the village meeting.

One resident asked that if a replacement tree was planted, could a slight relocation be considered.

Residents discussed how planting a different variety of tree might be preferable to replacing it with another Chestnut tree. A discussion surrounding the removal of the tree stump took place, and it was highlighted how all preventative measures should be taken to avoid any chance of the disease redeveloping.

It was agreed that both matters would be discussed at a PC meeting.

5. Village Telephone Box

It is now understood that the telephone has not be disconnected by BT and should still be in working order.

A show of hands indicated:

Yes in favour of having a public telephone	20 people
No not in favour of having a public telephone	1 person

Residents expressed the importance of having a working telephone box available in the village and it was decided to contact BT and ask that repairs be made to render the phone operable again.

6. House numbering

A discussion took place about how emergency services and delivery drivers have difficulty finding properties in the village because the properties are named, rather than numbered. Residents were asked whether or not they would be in favour of a house numbering system for the village properties.

A show of hands indicated:

Yes in favour of having a house numbering system 0 people
No not in favour of having a house numbering system 21 people

A suggestion was made that the village should organise a laminated map of the village and that it should be placed in a prominent position, as well as organising a copy of the map to be included with the next village newsletter.

7. Open Forum

Rats

One resident highlighted how they had seen three rats in their garden during recent days and confirmed that they have no food sources available whatsoever that might attract them. The resident expressed concern especially in light of the recent rat activity which had involved RDC in the village. The chairman explained how the PC had been vigilant in acting upon the recent rat activity, and reiterated the recent message in the village newsletter about how residents are requested to be extra vigilant and not leave anything out that will attract rats.

One resident expressed how they felt that the rat problem should be addressed by the village as a whole, rather than leaving it to individual residents to fund and tackle the rat problem individually. The PC clerk explained how the PC had worked very closely with the pest control department at RDC, the clerk reiterated the earlier message about how each household needs to act responsibly to remove anything whatsoever that might attract rats in their gardens.

One resident also mentioned how the highways department had previously highlighted the extensive rat activity in the culverts under the main road.

Signed

Date

Chairman