

Minutes of the Preston under Scar Annual Village Meeting held on 19 May 2022 at 6.00pm

Sixteen residents attended the meeting.

Councillor John Amsden and County Councillor Sedgwick were also in attendance

1. Election of Chairman

It was agreed unanimously that Councillor David Amsden be elected chairman of the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting on 5 May 2021

These were agreed as a true record.

3. Issues arising from the minutes of the 2021 Village Meeting

Green Spaces – there had been no further progress on this initiative.

Village Flagpole –the Parish Council had obtained quotes from 3 companies for the supply and installation of a new flagpole in the village. The quotes received had all been in excess of £1,000 and the Parish Council had felt that this would not be a cost effective use of the village precept and so had decided not to install a new flagpole at least for the time being. A resident commented that they had seen less expensive flagpoles available on line and it was explained that the quotes obtained by the Parish Council were for flagpoles which met the specification it had said ie including an internal halyard and hinged at the base. It was noted that the Parish Council could reconsider its decision in the future.

Dead trees in The Stanney – the Bolton Estate were aware of the issues raised at the last Village Meeting and had carried out work to identify trees that required felling or remedial work. The Estate was currently waiting for the Forestry Commission to approve the necessary felling licence. This would enable them to remove the trees identified to date and any other trees that were deemed likely to become an issue in the future. It was noted that some of the overhanging dead branches had been in that condition since before The Stanney had been handed back to the Estate and that they now needed attention as a matter of urgency in the interests of public safety. The Parish Council was asked to emphasise this to the Estate.

Cemetery – there were now very few unreserved burial plots available in the current Cemetery and the Parish Council would, over the coming year, be looking at bringing the land donated by the Bolton Estate into a condition where it could be brought into use for burials/interments. This would require funding and the Parish Council had set aside some of its reserves for this purpose. It would also be investigating and applying for any grants that were available to help fund the works. The meeting was advised that it was also likely that there would be an impact on the parish precept in future years, both in terms of helping to fund the initial work required and then maintaining the area so it could be used. Works to be undertaken would include the likely removal of the hedge between the two areas and the use of a pasture topper to take the grass in the new area down to a level which could then be maintained in the normal way.

4. Preston under Scar Village Trust

On behalf of the Trust, Anna Hacket Pain reported that:

- there had been no payments into or out of the Trust since the last Village Meeting
- the current balance in the trust fund was £2,568
- the Trust had recently had to change its banking arrangements

Given that the trust fund was not being used and that only 3 payments had been made by the trustees in the last 5 years, the trustees were proposing to wind up the trust and to distribute its funds in accordance with its objects – which were that the funds should be used to benefit young people in the village.

5. Quarry

There was general agreement that there was a need for a meeting with the Quarry Manager. Particular issues identified for discussion were:

- The need to clarify the type of dust monitoring to be carried out
- The results of the quarterly sound monitoring

It was noted that a new water supply had been introduced and that wheel washing should have been improved.

6. Village Christmas Tree

Photographs of Christmas Trees and Christmas Lights which had been on display in various other villages in the dale were circulated together with some proposals for the possible provision of a Christmas Tree/lights in the village this year and in the future.

After discussion it was agreed that Helen Francis, Gareth Woodyer and Cheryl Clark would take responsibility for providing a Christmas Tree and lights to be sited in the same location previously used.

7. Open Forum

Residents were invited to raise any matters of concern and the following issues were raised:

Village Hall – it was reported that some residents struggled to hear conversation etc during events such the village hall coffee mornings because of noise levels within the hall and the possibility of providing sound baffles was raised. The meeting was advised that the Village Hall Committee had previously investigated installing a hearing loop but had been advised that the hall was not suitable. Parish Councillors agreed to ask the Village Hall Committee to investigate the possibility of providing sound baffles.

Potholes – Attention was drawn to the pot holes on the road through the west end of the village, one of which had been reported to North Yorkshire County Council a year ago and again more recently, but had not been attended to. A resident had used garden waste to fill the pothole but this was not satisfactory. County Councillor Sedgwick suggested that potholes should be reported to the Parish Clerk who could then log them with the County Council through the Parish Portal. She also undertook

to raise the issue with relevant County Council Officers at her next meeting with them.

Village Play Area – attention was drawn to the rabbit holes in the play area and also to its general appearance which it was felt was rather sad and uncared for.

The Parish Council had requested Richmondshire District Council (RDC) to deal with the rabbit holes. Councillor John Amsden explained that RDC was unable to take action in respect of the rabbits as the holes were part of a large warren which extended under other properties. Reference was made to other possible means of addressing the rabbit problem.

The condition of the rubber matting in the play area was also referred to and it was noted that last year this had benefitted from power washing. Gareth Woodyer offered to clean it with his power washer if another resident could provide access to a power supply.

It was felt that the seating area also required attention, either refurbishment or replacement. It was noted that this had originally been provided through the Village Hall Committee and Carol Fletcher agreed to raise this with the Committee.

It was noted that RDC was responsible for carrying out regular inspections of the play area and that a copy of each inspection report should be provided to the Parish Clerk. The Clerk was not receiving these and this would be taken up with RDC. The Parish Clerk would also ascertain who was responsible for maintaining/repairing the seating area.

8. Former Councillor David Brooks

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to former Councillor David Brooks, who had recently stood down from the Parish Council, of which he had been a member since 2014 and Chairman since 2017. He paid tribute to the work which David had undertaken as Chairman and also to the help and support that he had provided to the Village Hall Committee. All present agreed that David's presence on the Council would be sorely missed and the vote of thanks was agreed unanimously.