



Wheldrake Parish Council

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Chair: Cllr Graeme Urwin: graeme.urwin@wheldrake-pc.gov.uk

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

WEDNESDAY 31ST MAY 2023 AT 7PM.

1. Apologies
2. Welcome
3. Chair's Report

Firstly, welcome to all present. This is my first annual report having been in the role of PC Chair for the past 12/12 – a role which I have found both enjoyable and challenging in equal measure.

There have been significant personnel changes over the past year with resignations largely on health grounds but it is also with sadness that we remember our friend John Ellis who sadly passed away last year. That said, new councillors have been appointed and we are now up to our full complement of 13 with a great cross section of committed residents making up the PC, each bringing to the mix, their unique skills and life experiences.

Village Maintenance

We have been unhappy for some time now with the standard of village maintenance provided by CYC and we took the decision to offer the contract to Toby Johnson. I am sure you will agree that the village is looking a lot tidier – in particular the grass verges.

The planters around the village are now under the care of Bluebell Cooperative and I am sure you will agree that these have brightened up the place during the dark winter days. We have requested that they undertake a summer planting for us and we are always on the lookout for any resident or family who would wish to sponsor a planter and keep it watered regularly.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Magnolia which we planted last year seems to be thriving.

Playpark

Several developments this year – Big Green Tractor (BGT), new picnic tables, extensions to the perimeter fencing of the MUGA, new accessible swing and revision to the park entrance. Sad to say, there has been some low-level vandalism and antisocial behaviour, which in our opinion is unacceptable. We are monitoring the situation carefully.

Dog Fouling

Is a perennial problem. To this end, we have installed a new dog waste bin at the entrance of the track leading down to Mount Pleasant Farm and the old "bin on a stick" in the snicket behind Valley View has been upgraded to a hard standing model now located in the turning circle at the end of Valley View.

In accordance with the Dogs (fouling of land) Act 1996 "If a dog defecates at any time on designated land and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence." Bit about hazards to lengthsman. Several comments on Wheldrakians over the last few days.

Defibrillators

There are now three in the village – Wenlock, Village Hall and Buckle Court and I am grateful to Emma Elsey-Jeffree who undertakes weekly checks on the equipment and liaises with YAS when any have been deployed to ensure that fresh electrodes are installed and that the batteries are fit for purpose. We are still waiting the promised (December 2022) £1M from government as we would like to install a further defibrillator at or near the allotments.

Precept

Due to tight financial control of our budget we have kept the Parish Precept now at the same level for the last 6 years. However, there is only a finite amount of money to service the demands put upon it, and it may well

be the case that we should consider an increase in subsequent years. For example, the bus subsidy.....only a limited budget – if villagers want the service we either find alternative sources of funding or increase the precept.

Fake news, falsehoods and terminological in-exactitude

We have spent a lot of time and energy this past year defending our position and countering rumours. Indeed, this was largely the reason that we elected to take down our Facebook page. Although social media has its benefits, one cannot always believe what is published. Certainly, if recent posts are to be believed, the level of debate is IMO inflammatory, juvenile and unedifying and at the level of “he says – she says” – eg debate about dogs in Braithgayte Park.

For more examples, Elvington Medical Centre were discontinuing telephone ordering of repeat prescriptions – untrue. The PC were not in favour of subsidising the Friday and Saturday evening bus service – untrue. The football teams have left the village because the PC rejected a bid from the WRA for land drainage – untrue. All I can say is that we will endeavour to be transparent and open in our actions and decision making, that we will act impartially, fairly and on merit and crucially that we will submit to public scrutiny to ensure accountability.

Thank you

Graeme Urwin, Chair Wheldrake PC

4. Parishioner’s questions and comments

- Mr Pete Lindsay, proposal to make Walker Lane a one-way street

Mr Lindsay’s car-port has been hit several times and is having to get underpinned. Would like support following his application to CYC.

PC cannot make a full decision until it has been to CYC. The PC can only comment once consultation from CYC has been made.

5. Closing remarks

End of meeting:

7.13pm