

**Appleton Wiske Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting**

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the **Village Hall Meeting** on **Monday 16 May 2022** that commenced at 8.00 pm.

**Present**

Cllrs Richard Hauserman (Chair), Derek Partington, Ken Blackwood, Richard Johnson, Jackie McReddie, Michelle Thomson, Shirley Duffield, clerks Sue McDonnell and Helen Johnson, and ten members of the public.

**2. Apologies & Declaration of interest for any agenda item.**

There were no apologies and no Declarations of Interest.

**3. Chairman's Report:**

Richard Hauserman presented his report for 2021-22 which is attached.

**4. Slideshow.**

Ken Blackwood presented a slideshow of events in the village over the past year. Highlights included new lights and redecoration in the village hall; new housebuilding on Hunters Ride and Hornby Road; repairs to the Church Porch; removal of storm damaged trees; the return of events including the Hog Roast and Bonfire Night; and the school receiving a good OFSTED report; the village library and the village minibus. Ken was thanked with a round of applause.

**5. Financial Report**

Sue McDonnell presented her report on the village finances during the year which is attached.

**6. Public comment**

Antisocial parking was discussed. It is an ongoing issue, with competition for parking spaces outside houses that have no private driveways to park on.

Electric car charging was discussed. Sales of petrol and diesel cars will be banned from 2030. How will electric cars be charged at homes that have no drives, and hence no guarantee of parking outside their homes? It was suggested the Parish Council investigates this issue.

Oil boilers are due to be phased out, and people encouraged to switch to heating their homes with heat pumps. A resident living beside a new heat pump commented that the pump is noisy, and disturbing during the night. In a city, this noise might be masked by ambient noise, but Appleton Wiske was formerly quiet at night. Hence, the resident urged the Parish Council to carry out a night noise survey, to set a 'baseline' of background noise, against which noise of heat pumps can be compared.

It was noted that Hambleton District and North Yorkshire County Council are to merge to form a Unitary Authority. It was requested that a representative come and explain how this will work in future.

A resident noted that there is litter in the road verges around the village and asked if something could be done about it. There was debate about what might be most effective.

Residents complained of dogs fouling their gardens, and asked if they can be kept on leads.

A resident asked what rules there are for bonfires, and how to complain about obnoxious ones. They were advised to contact Environmental Health.

Road safety was discussed, especially at the junction of the Picton and Rounton roads. The possibility of better signage was discussed.

Village shop update. Jackie McReddie explained that the village shop has to move premises this year. It is almost certain that the adjacent currently derelict area will be converted, **but a planning permission application has not yet been submitted.** But Jackie has heard that plans are with the architect, waiting to make a planning application. Meanwhile, the Post Office will charge just under £7,000 to relocate the services, and Jackie is fundraising for this sum. So far, just over £4,000 has been raised. She seeks volunteers to help with moving the shop, and thanked all those who have supported the shop.

New development was discussed. There were complaints of inconsiderate builders, not adhering to conditions placed on their activities. **Some residents thought that** Appleton Wiske lacks affordable housing **but it was pointed out that the last housing needs survey identified only three affordable dwellings required.**

The Hambleton development plan aims to develop only in market towns, where there are existing facilities.

Meeting closed at 9.45 p.m. - Next meeting. Monday 8th May 2023

Helen Johnson, Clerk, Appleton Wiske Parish Council

# Appleton Wiske Parish Council

## Chairman's report for year 2021-2022

In what continued to be difficult and challenging times for everyone during the year, the Parish Council (PC) was able to make significant progress in many areas.

The year started with PC meetings having to be completed remotely by zoom, before progressing through several months of social distancing and wearing of masks, before only recently returning to "normal" face to face meetings.

First and foremost I would like to express my thanks to all the Councillors and the Clerk for their support and efforts during this testing time.

As is usual, there are many activities which have been completed, or are well in hand, and a number which are being actively progressed. There are, of course, several items where we struggle to make headway.

So looking at the key activities which have been completed, and in no particular order or rank:-

- Tree planting along Front Street and Hunters Ride.
- Takeover of maintaining the flower tubs along Front Street and Hunters Ride – with help of several volunteers from the Village.
- Organising the Queens Jubilee celebrations for June – again with many volunteers from the Village.
- The introduction of a periodic Village clean up by the Appleton Wombles ! And yet again we recognise the help from volunteers.
- Confirmation (at last) that Baker Street will be properly resurfaced – date to be confirmed.
- Introduction of a tree survey which identified potential issues, which lays the base for ongoing action on our Village trees – which has already started.
- Installation of a permanent library in the bus stop. Again with help of volunteers
- Additional allotments as a result of reducing the size of a couple of existing ones.
- Registration of the Village defibrillator
- Transfer of a portion of the playing field that was owned by HDC to the AWPC

Then there are the activities which we have continued to maintain and support, incl.

- The Parish Newsletter which continues to give information about a wide range of things and which is well received within the Parish
- Grass cutting of the Village Green
- Organising and supporting the annual 'flu jab programme at the Village Hall.
- Support for the Bonfire celebrations and the Village Christmas tree.

As indicated, many of the above activities only succeed because we have help and support from volunteers. The PC recognises the contribution our Parishioners make and it is this community spirit which is key to making the Village the place it is.

There are many other small jobs that get done, but the above gives a good insight into activities the PC has been involved in during the year. There are several items which we continue to look at including, a Wildlife Map, and improvements to the centre of the Village. Small improvements to the procedure for requesting temporary storage on the Village Green, and clarification on waste bin storage on the Village Green have also been addressed. Unfortunately we still receive complaints about dog waste and have organised provision of bins for same but ultimately we rely on owners to take personal responsibility to address this.

As mentioned earlier there are a few areas where progress is slow, and invariably this is where we have to deal with various external bodies, in particular, HDC and NYCC. Nonetheless, we continue to press for 20mph in the Village, for improvements to road conditions, and for changes to the road junction by the Shorthorn Pub. For the time being we have "parked" our plans to register the Village Green with the Land Registry in part due to the costs involved.

Of course planning is a central to any community and is more often than not a contentious issue. Over the past couple of years we have seen a number of planning applications submitted and approved by HDC. These have exceeded the number of additional dwellings, identified by the 2016 Neighbourhood Plan, for 10 dwellings, by 6 and that number does not include outline planning permission for 12 dwellings at the Shorthorn site. In addition the recently adopted HDC local plan does not identify the need for additional housing in Appleton Wiske. The PC position is to oppose planning applications for additional dwellings as a result. We also believe this reflects the majority view within the Village, which, in addition recognises the need to protect the "Village" character which we all value and enjoy.

As well as these activities the PC recognised the need to improve its own internal procedures and standing orders. We took advantage of a six month free pilot scheme organised and led by YLCA (Yorkshire Local Council Associations ), called "Getting it Right". As a result improvements were made in a number of areas incl. preparing and issuing agendas and minutes, putting all relevant documents on the PC website and compliance with declaration of interests etc.

One key initiative from the Pilot Scheme was to set up a staffing committee with relevant procedures for managing the employment of the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. This proved to be very timely as the Clerk, Sue McDonnell

informed us of her intention to retire. I am pleased to confirm we have now recruited a new Clerk/RFO in Mrs Helen Johnson who has been undertaking training these past couple of months and who will take up her post officially, on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the PC meeting.

The PC wishes to record its' thanks to Sue for her work as Clerk /RFO these past several years and for helping with the handover and training of Helen. We hope you enjoy your "retirement" Sue and welcome Helen.

As we mention these changes in the position of the Clerk, we would like to take a moment to recognise the sad passing of a former Clerk to the PC, Leonie, who for many years was an invaluable help to the PC and the village activities in general.

Some final points. The PC is always conscientious of the money it takes as its share of the Council tax (the precept) and for the coming financial year has agreed a 2% increase which is significantly below what the Council tax increase is for homeowners. Managing this budget to the best benefit of the Parish is always uppermost in our minds and we have continually refined and improved our oversight and auditing of such expenditure.

Going forward we will see the end of the District Councils next year, as we become one Unitary Authority of North Yorkshire. What, and how, that will exactly impact Parish Councils is to be seen but we will endeavour to do our best for our Village

So in conclusion, it has been a challenging year but I am happy to report that despite that we have managed to deliver on many activities. I am stepping down as Chair, but look forward to continuing to support the new Chair, the new Clerk, fellow Councillors and the Parish.

Many thanks

Richard Hauserman

16<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## **Financial Report**

### **Monday 16 May 2022**

<b>Opening Bank Balances 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021</b>	<b>£14,616</b>
Add: Precept	£7,230
Add: Additional Donations and Receipts	£14,636
Less: Total Costs	£18,010
<b>Closing Bank Balances 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022</b>	<b>£18,472</b>

#### **Significant payments**

- £498 payment for Insurance
- £536 for village planting & maintenance
- £2,725 for grass cutting - Village Green & Grassed Areas
- £100 for Village Xmas Tree
- £2,002 for Clerk's Salary, Tax & Payroll Processing
- £280 for Subscriptions (YLCA & SLCC)
- £605 for Website & Newsletter
- £673 for Land & Tree Maintenance
- £2,122 for ARA Play Area Grass Cutting & Playground Safety
- £5,300 for Village Hall Electrical Work
- £2,340 for VAT to be reclaimed on Payments
- £160 donation to Pre-School towards fireworks
- £245 Councillor & Clerk Training
- £165 Website, e-mail server & laptop & security

#### **Significant receipts**

- £7,230 Precept from HDC
- £2,122 donations from ARA
- £1,182 VAT return (2021)
- £210 donations from Village Hall and others towards Village Planting & Maintenance.
- £5,242 Construction Industry Levy from HDC
- £430 from Newsletter Advertising & Sponsorship
- £5,300 Village Hall donation towards Electrical Work

All figures rounded to nearest £1.