

TOCKWITH WITH WILSTROP PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 21st May 2003
in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Chairman: Cllr M O Kennett

Present: Cllrs W J Bowyer, N Waller, R Lumley, C Saunders, Mrs Wardman, B Alderton,

In attendance: Mrs J Bygate (Internal Auditor), Mrs G Firth (Clerk to the Council)

3 members of the Public

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Cllr Savage, District Cllr Sturdy, who would arrive late after an earlier meeting, Cllrs C and Mrs L Billenness and Cllr Pick.

2. Election of Chairman

Resolved that Cllr M Kennett be appointed as Chairman for the coming year.

Cllr Kennett signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

Resolved that Cllr C Billenness be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the coming year.

4. Election of Representatives to serve on the following:

Tockwith Village Hall Management Committee

Resolved that Cllr B Alderton be appointed as the Council's representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Tockwith Primary School

Resolved that Cllr Mrs L Billenness be appointed as the Council's representative on the governing body of Tockwith Primary School.

Sportsfield Trust Committee

Resolved that Cllr Billenness be appointed as the Council's representative.

Youth Club Committee

Resolved that Cllr Mrs Wardman be appointed as the Council's representative.

W.A.R.D.E.N.

Resolved that Cllr Bowyer be appointed as the Council's representative.

YLCA

Resolved that Cllrs Bowyer, Mrs Wardman and Saunders be appointed as the Council's representatives on the Harrogate Branch Committee.

Lower Nidd Community Minibus Committee

Resolved that Cllrs Bowyer and Saunders be appointed as the Council's representatives.

CaP Group

Resolved that an appointment not be made but Cllr Bowyer be given authority to attend on behalf of the Council if anything of relevance to this area should come up.

Ainsty Conservation Society

Resolved that Cllr Mrs Wardman be appointed as the Council's representative.

County Community Education Committee

Resolved that Cllr Mrs Wardman be appointed as the Council's representative.

Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Resolved that Cllr Bowyer represent the Council.

It was suggested the Contact Police Officer, PC McPartland, be invited to address a future meeting of the Council, to which all co-ordinators would be invited. The Clerk and Cllr Bowyer to arrange this.

5. Report from County and District Councillors

Report from County Councillor - Poppleton Ward 2002/2003 - Councillor John Savage

All three schools in the ward have had a very successful year with Long Marston School about to have a £200,000 extension starting this summer holiday.

From my Councillors Area budget I've donated £1000+ each to Kirk Hammerton School and Tockwith School for various projects plus £1350 to the Village Hall at Tockwith for essential plumbing repairs.

The stone crushing plant on the airfield was I believe the major challenge of the year, which thankfully culminated in victory for the residents of Tockwith and resurrected the Tockwith Residents Association into an active body. Howard's may go to appeal but hopefully time is running out.

After notifying NYCC of a 4 axle wagon going over Cattal Bridge which then entered the Biffa site I've had meetings with Biffa, North Riding Waste and the Solvent company both at County Hall and with North Riding Waste at Tockwith. The three companies wish to be good neighbours and as such have visited Tockwith School to meet the Headmistress to discuss various projects. All three companies are very happy to meet with representatives of the Parish Council and the TRA on site at the business park.

Cattal Bridge has now got traffic lights after 6 years of campaigning but alas we appear to be still waiting for the electric supply, which will be delivered from the northern side of the river. The weight limit is to be changed on the bridge from a 5 tonne axle weight to a 13 tonne GVW which will stop the anomaly of 4 axle wagons being within the previous 5 tonne axle weight limit.

The long awaited safety scheme along the B1224 should be starting this May and this will be along the whole stretch from the Leeds to York boundaries.

Moor Monkton crossroads had further safety improvements after Moor Monkton PC rigorously complained to NYCC after a spate of serious accidents.

Skewkirk Bridge is still in store with NYCC; the county and the landowner are still in various discussions.

The increase in rates for this year 2003/2004 was a result of North Yorkshire being short by £14,000,000. Despite the 11.5% rise Education will be short of £2,000,000 and Social Services could be short of £6,000,000. Environmental Services are also badly effected due to lack of funds.

Social Services for 2002/2003 will possibly have an underspend of £600,000 mainly due to children's services. The County has 350 looked after children and a few have very expensive placements, some costing £3000 per week because of their complicated and demanding needs.

Bed blocking due to a lack of space in the diminishing private sector will create further costs as the Government will fine the authority £100 per night for each bed blocked, in the Harrogate area alone we have 90 people who are "bed-blocking".

Because many private sector homes are closing due to staff costs and the property boom when the County finds a space the released hospital bed is soon filled with another potential "bed-blocker".

I started 2002/2003 as Cabinet Member for Social Services with a responsibility for Children's Services and was moved May 2002 to Chairman of Social Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Our Committee has sat more than any other O & S committee and has also many sub groups looking at such things as provided meals, SS transport etc. We also has a very successful "call in". The most interesting item at present is the Community Stores that are scattered around the county in partnership with local PCT's. After a visit by Harrogate CHC and a damning report we are investigating all the stores and we should conclude our findings at a public meeting at County Hall in July when all 7 PCT's and Social Services Officers will be thoroughly scrutinised.

I also sit on:-

- the Northallerton Adoption and Fostering Panel
- Breakaway APC Harrogate
- Harrogate Transport Forum
- Harrogate Environmental Forum
- Harrogate Community Health Council
- Director of Harrogate Theatre
- Interact
- The Harrogate Area Committee
- Planning & Regulatory Committee
- Best Value Committee for Care and various other Cross Party Committees

· North Yorkshire Valuation Tribunal

Finally, my thanks to all the Parish Councils and their Members for their tenacity and hard work and for always making me feel welcome at all meetings.

Report from District Councillor - Councillor Julian Sturdy

This has been a very interesting and enjoyable first year for me as District Councillor.

I have learnt an awful lot but I feel there is still more to learn.

In May 2002 I was appointed to sit on the Regulatory Committee and Area 2 District Development Control Committee.

In September 2002 I became Conservative Party Spokesman and the Shadow Cabinet Member for Public Works at Harrogate Borough Council.

The Council Year

In the early part of the council year a special meeting was held to debate the future of the Royal Hall in Harrogate. The possible options were to put it into mothballs or go ahead with the restoration programme. It was voted to restore this historical building by large majority and accept the Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Progress reports will be coming back to Council through the Community Services Commission as this will be a long term project.

Two Kerbside recycling schemes were set up for a one year trial within part of the District in October to try and help the Council meet its' new recycling targets coming out of Central Government. One is for Glass, Tin cans and Papers and the other is for Papers only. Part of Marston Moor is in the first trial.

During the Council Year I have put through a number of Notices of Motion to the Council.

The first being: "This Council undertakes as part of its Policy to increase Recycling in Harrogate Borough, to expand mini re-cycling centres to allow for the deposit of plastic bottles and other plastic waste."

The outcome of this has been a recently set up trial in Ripon of a plastic bottle re-cycling bank, if successful this could be adopted throughout the District which, I hope, would benefit Marston Moor Ward.

The second:- "This Council undertakes to use all powers at its disposal to control Noise levels on Tockwith Airfield generated through go-karts and high performance Cars which is damaging the quality of life for residents".

The Council agreed to a four month trial of noise monitoring on the airfield, which is still ongoing.

Member's Budget Scheme - £2000 to spend annually on good causes in the Ward.

May 2002-2003 £750 towards Tockwith Village Hall Heating System

£350 Bilton Village Seat

Total spent £1,100

Surplus carried over to current year, £900

In May 2002 a Planning Application for a Stone Crushing Plant on Marston Moor Airfield was put into the County Council, Harrogate Borough Council were a Consultee. This caused great concern for the residents of Tockwith, Bilton and Bickerton and other surrounding areas. This application was heard in September and deferred for more information and was eventually turned down at a meeting in January. This was a good outcome as a result of much hard work from everyone involved.

May 1st Election Results

19 seats up for Election, which saw the Conservatives, gain two Seats in Harrogate from the Liberal Democrats and lose 1 Seat in Ripon to an Independent.

The new makeup of the Council is as follows:

Conservatives 27 Seats, Liberal Democrats 25 Seats, Independents 2 Seats

This still leaves Harrogate with no overall control, but with the Conservatives being the larger Party. Consequently a change of Leader on the Council and his Cabinet is being put forward at the Annual Meeting of the Council on Friday May 16th.

6. Appointment of Responsible Financial Officer

Resolved that Mrs Gill Firth, Clerk to the Council, continues to fill this position.

7. Appointment of Internal Auditor and Annual Report

Resolved that Mrs Janet Bygate be appointed as the Internal Auditor.

Mrs Bygate gave her Report for the previous financial year.

"This report covers Internal Audit activities up to 14th May 2003 and includes the Final Accounts for the year ended March 31st 2003.

The overall audit risk within the Council was assessed as low and Internal Audit activity has been confined to:

- 1) Monitoring of authorisation of and reports of expenditure through Parish Council meetings.
- 2) Intermediate Review of financial records of the Council on a Receipts and Payments basis.
- 3) A year-end test on the accuracy and completeness of the financial statements.
- 4) Assessment of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

As the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations of Tockwith with Wilstrop Parish Council have been in place for some time, it was recommended that these be reviewed. This review is now taking place.

No matter has arisen during my work which is required to be drawn to the attention of the External Auditors appointed by the Audit Commission. No matters have been raised by the External Auditors requiring action by me as Internal Auditor."

8. Report from RFO and Annual Accounts of the Council

The Clerk/RFO produced the finalised accounts for the Chairman's signature prior to External Audit and explained briefly the current financial position of the Council. A Receipts and Payments Summary was given to each Councillor and questions were invited.

Resolved that the Chairman sign the requisite sections of the External Audit form to confirm that all necessary procedures had taken place. The form would be complete once the Internal Auditor had signed the sections relevant to her position and then could be sent off to Mazars.

The balance carried forward at 31st March 2003 was £7,255.46