

# THORNTON IN CRAVEN PARISH COUNCIL

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.00pm**

### **Present:**

**Councillor P Bowdler, Chairman**

**Councillor M. Graham-Roe**

**Councillor M. Lockyer**

**8 members of the public**

- 1. Apologies were received from County Councillor Mulligan, Councillor S. Briggs and Katie Smith – Thornton in Craven Primary School**

- 2. Approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015.**

Proposed by Councillor Graham-Roe

Seconded by Councillor Lockyer

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015 were approved and signed by the Chair.

- 3. Report from Councillor Mulligan:**

### **Local Authority Funding Settlement**

In the past, Local Authorities largely relied on the Revenue Support Grant provided by central government to fund many local services. Over the past several years, however, the government has been reducing this funding substantially; by 2020, this funding will have been reduced by about 40%. In order to maintain frontline services, many councils have had to reorganise directorates, amalgamate back office staff, and find efficiencies wherever possible. There is also increasing pressure on services not deemed statutory; for example, at North Yorkshire this past year we have seen more volunteers staffing libraries, more street lights being turned off overnight, and the withdrawal of grass cutting services on verges. Unfortunately, this trend looks set to continue as the government has announced further cuts to local authority spending.

### **Devolution**

Another large item on the government's agenda is devolving some powers from central control to local control. Initially, these powers would largely involve transportation and economic development/regeneration. Whilst several devolution deals have been announced (eg Manchester, Liverpool, West Midlands, South Yorkshire, etc), in our area things are at a bit of a standstill. This is due to the fact that whilst the government would like to see a "Greater Yorkshire" deal involving North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, and York, no agreement has been reached by the local authorities involved. This may lead to the establishment of two devolution agreements – one involving North Yorkshire, York, East Yorkshire and possibly Hull, the other involving West Yorkshire centred around the Leeds City Region. The Treasury expects each devolved authority to have an elected mayor. What this means for Craven is uncertain. While we are part of North Yorkshire, we also have strong ties to Leeds City Region; nevertheless, we could only be a member of one devolved body. It would be rather odd – and perhaps not in our interests- to be aligned with Hull rather than Leeds in any arrangement. I will continue to update the parish council as these events unfold.

### **Localism Funding**

On a happier note, this year witnessed the return of local grant funding by North Yorkshire County Council. I am pleased to note that due to the efforts of the parish council (and Steven Briggs in particular), the village received funding for two separate projects: £500 towards seating at the bus stop near the nursing home and £587 towards a seating area for parents next to the play area in Morrison's Meadow. We will have another tranche of funding available this year and I look forward to working with residents and the parish council in identifying further worthwhile community projects,

Finally, it is a privilege to be your representative at North Yorkshire County Council. Please contact me directly or through the parish council if I can be of service.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chair of the Parish Council thanked those who attended and welcomed new Clerk Mags Smith who was appointed in November 2015.

Thornton Hall Farm – Events are increasing and it is a very busy place. No problems have been brought forward.

Street Lights – The three new lights on Old Road are now complete and have been handed over to NYCC.

Lights on the Main Road will be completed this year.

- A member of the public mentioned a light out on Skipton Road which was reported some time ago. Lights which have been checked and condemned by NYCC are being replaced and this light is on order.
- A member of the public asked if turning the lights off overnight is likely to be introduced. In response the Chair advised that the Parish Council had looked into this in the past but the saving would be minimal. It would be a decision for Craven District Council to take but there are no plans at the moment. Those attending would prefer the lights to remain on overnight.
- Grass cutting – A new contract had been agreed with the current contractor to continue to cut the grass for the next three years.
- Grants – Thanks were given to Margaret for donating for a bench at the bus stop last year. This bench is very well used.
- Nuttercote Farm – As appeared in the Press this listed building was demolished. Legal proceedings are ongoing between the owner and the Council which will probably end in fines being issued to both the landowner and the contractor. Any planning permission has been revoked so the land cannot be built on.
- Council budget cuts – The Parish Council has tried to minimise any increases in precept and this year there has been no increase. This has been partly due to the villagers helping each other and we thank them for their support. Thanks are also given to Cllr Graham-Roe for producing the year end figures and Cllr Briggs who was described as the engine of the Parish Council ship, his help and support are very much appreciated.

#### **5. Financial Report from Cllr Michelle Graham-Roe**

The year end figures were distributed and explained by Cllr Graham-Roe who was pleased to announce that the precept has remained the same this year.

#### **6. Social Committee – Cllr Bowdler**

Cllr Bowdler ran through the various social events that had taken place this year.

Bonfire – Well organised by Cllr Briggs and very well attended. The field where the bonfire takes place has changed hands so the location may have to change this year. More help is required with the organisation.

Burns Supper – The Burns Supper is held every two years in January and this year's was the best yet.

Safari Supper – 24 households took part, the theme was ‘Movies’ and a great time was had by all.

Easter Egg Rolling – Thanks go to Ann N.....for organising this successful event.

Film night – Calamity Jane was shown and the next film suggested is Dirty Dancing.

BBQ – Weather permitting it is hoped to hold a BBQ on the 10<sup>th</sup> July on the cricket field.

One member of the public would like more publicity about events. Not everyone is online.

## **7. Public Question Time**

Churchyard – This is a disgrace and a lady advised that she had fallen on the path last year as it was covered in moss and very slippery.

The Parish Council had spent money in the past on cleaning, fencing and arranging for the grass to be grazed, however there was problems with moving the sheep. Following the tidy up money had been set aside but the Church had not kept up the maintenance. It was understood that the Church has won a Tesco grant to be spent on the grounds so things may change.

It was suggested an letter pointing out health and safety issues be sent.

Morrisons Meadow – The wall by the gate has fallen down and needs repairing.

Speeding through the village – Cllr Bowdler explained that the Parish Council has asked for the speed limit sign to be moved further out of the village but was told this cannot be done.

The 30mph limit starts at the first continuous houses coming into the village.

Parking on Cam Lane – People dropping off children at school are disregarding the ‘no parking restrictions’ and parking dangerously. The School has tried to encourage parents to not drop off on Cam Lane but this is being disregarded. Children are having to walk in the road as vehicles are parked on the pavements. If this is not enforced by Council wardens there is little the school can do to stop it.

Phone box – The public phone box is an eyesore, it needs painting and glass replacing and the door fixed as it keeps coming open. The Parish Council have looked into the purchasing of the phone box in the past but it is a listed building.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed at 8.10pm