

Byland with Wass Village Meeting

7:30 pm 13th May 2024 Wass Village Hall

Minutes

Welcome

Cllr. Bradley welcomed everyone to the Annual Village meeting commenting that it was an opportunity for the village to take stock, to look back and forward to the future.

This year there was no Jubilee, no new King, no pandemic and no Santa. What we did have was lots of grey skies and lots of rain.

The Abbey Inn opened almost a year ago and Stapylton Arms changed hands recently. The village is changing and evolving all the time, sadly losing some friends but also welcoming new residents.

It's a wonderful village to live in where members of the community go out of their way to help with or run various events in the church, the hall, the WI and all around the village where thousands of pounds have been donated to charities.

Welcome to Elspeth Ingleby, Senior Ecologist for North Yorkshire Moors National Park who is talking this evening about "Wild about Wass".

In total 16 people attended the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received prior to the meeting from Peter and Diney Gilruth, Mick Tew, Paul Johnson and Annie French.

Speaker

Elspeth Ingleby's presentation on "wild about Wass" was very well received.

Elspeth's presentation covered a number of aspects namely:

Nature's decline – Out of 8 million species estimated on the planet approximately 1 million are threatened with extinction. The UK is not performing well internationally to stem the tide where we are rated 228 out of 240 countries.

Nature's Needs – Nature needs space to change and grow, Variety and above all connections between Nature rich areas.

Role we can play – Ensure we have proximity to different habitats and ensure we have plenty of Woodland cover.

Small actions help – "Wetter is better" so encourage small ponds < 10cm which are great for Variety of life. "Feed the Young" by maintaining "Wild" areas in gardens, nettles and brambles etc. "Dead is Alive", keeping dead wood great for beetles and insects. "Drop the Bottle" and get rid of chemicals. "Home with a Home" to encourage Swifts, Martins and bats in our houses garages and sheds. "Keep the Dark Dark" preventing light pollution. After all we are in a "Darks skies area.

Finally Eslpeth spoke about the many and important verges around Wass. A plan for the verges by NY Council is nearing completion which will restrict size and timing of cutting throughout the year to help promote a greater abundance of Flora and Fauna in the verges.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting 15th May 2023 previously circulated were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Blocked Drains

Highways Area 4 regularly attend to remove debris from Blocked Gullies and following reports of continued flooding are water jetting connecting drains

Problems with Roads or Drains in Wass use the NY Parish Portal or contact the Clerk Mike Bradley.

North Yorkshire Council election update

David Skaith was elected the first Mayor of a combined North Yorkshire and York City Council.

Lighting between crossroads and Car Park

Over the last year we have looked at various Solar Light solutions to light the route from the Stapylton Arms to the Village Hall Car Park. None of the solutions have proven to be acceptable. Highways Area 4 were contacted to see if it would be possible to install lighting bollards on the left hand side of the road leading from the Crossroads to the Car Park as the Highways are responsible for the verges. Sadly they were not able to offer any assistance. In view of this we will maintain a "Watching Brief" on technology and solutions but for the moment no further action proposed.

Matters to be discussed

Dark Skies Lighting in the Village

Wass is in a Dark Skies area and we have signed up to the NY National Park code for Dark Skies Lighting. When external lights are installed on properties in the village advice on "Dark Skies" compatible solutions is available. In the first instance contact Christine Bradley for more information.

Precept/expenses driven by NY Council

The precept was held at the same level for 2024/25 as 2023/24. There is a surplus of funds over expenditure but we are still waiting to see if the new Council impose additional costs on Parish Council. One cost that has already been passed to the parish is their decision to no longer support the Parish online document storage which is required under the government's "Democracy Transparency rules". This now requires the council to set up a website with associated costs to provide this function. Fortunately the Village Hall had already received a grant to develop a website and they have kindly agreed to work in partnership with the Parish Council which resolve the issue.

Other parish Matters raised by meeting

Hedge overhanging road at Abbey Inn

A Hedge requires cutting to prevent cars straying into the path of oncoming traffic at the Abbey Inn. Abbey Inn have been requested to cut it back.

Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk