

BYLAND WITH WASS AND OLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

16th September 2024 7.00 pm

1.0 Attendees

Councillor Christine Bradley
Councillor John Williams
Councillor Stephen Cain
Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk

Peter Gilrouth
Rosie Thompson
Gill Williams
Jane Cain

2.0 Apologies

Councillor Charles Skeffington

Councillor Peter Williams

3.0 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13th May 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4.0 Matters Arising

4.1 North Yorkshire changes to on-line storage of Parish documents

Due to concerns about compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) the Parish Council decided to develop its own website to allow Parish Council minutes etc. to be published online. The website is now live.

4.2 Register of Interests

All Councillors with exception of Councillor Skeffington have confirmed no change to Register of Interests.

5.0 Finance

5.1 Balance of Accounts end August 2024

Current Balance	£7290.15
Expenditure to date	£1523.40
Uncommitted funds remaining	£746.60

Most of the annual expenditure for the current financial year has been spent.

5.2 Website Costs

The total costs of the website development were £498.00 comprising £239.20 Web development and £208.10 for annual support costs.

The Parish Council confirmed that the expenditure was acceptable and reasonable. **ACTION: Agreed unanimously.**

The site will be administered by the Parish Clerk who will update the website with Parish documents as they become available. All Parish Councillors can input to the website via the Parish Clerk and suitable news items are to be encouraged. Submit them to the Clerk for review and he will upload the content. In the event of change of Clerk the Web designer can be contacted to upload material until another is appointed. Web designer contact details to be forwarded to Councillors. **ACTION: Councillor Bradley**

Web designer to be contacted to determine how many “hits” website is receiving. **ACTION: Clerk**

6.0 Verges/Environmental Initiatives

Councillor Bradley attended a meeting in July organised by North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and Howardian Hills National Landscape.

NYC and the parish have a new duty to help and manage their environment due to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act. A recent survey identified over 700 species in the verges. The recommendation is for 1 or 2 cuts per year in August/September and perhaps in winter. They should not be cut between April and August. The cuttings should be removed to allow the fertility to be reduced year on year which will reduce the amount of grass produced.

Unfortunately farmers cut the verges at times that are convenient to them and not usually in August/September when they are busy. Need to negotiate with local farmers if possible. **ACTION: Councillor Bradley**

NYC have problems with disposal of cuttings as they are classed as a hazardous waste. Only 2 waste sites in North Yorkshire are available to accept the cuttings.

ACTION: Investigate whether the road between Byland and Oldstead can be cut in August rather than July although the problem was less about grass growth and more about overhanging ferns restricting visibility for traffic. **Councillor John Williams**

7.0 Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission are commencing an Electoral Review of North Yorkshire following the changes brought about by the formation of York and North Yorkshire combined Authority. Little impact on the Parish is anticipated from the review which is mainly focusing on numbers of Electors per County Councillor and a review of their district boundaries. Results are expected by September 2025 resulting in implementation during 2027.

8.0 Emergency WhatsApp

Only 16 residents in Wass and Byland have signed up to the Emergency WhatsApp group. Further plea to join the system required. **ACTION: Councillor Bradley.**

A test of the system is to be implemented. **ACTION: Councillor Bradley**

9.0 Walling Day

North Yorks National Park Authority organised a Dry Stone Wall demonstration on Saturday 14th September by Tom the Waller who is currently rebuilding the Dry Stone Wall around Rose Cottage Pond. A steady stream of people visited the site and had the opportunity to get some practical experience.

10.0 Planning

No new planning applications

11.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 7.00 pm, Wass Village Hall.

Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk