

# **Byland with Wass Village Meeting**

## **7:30 pm 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 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 is the time of the year when we celebrate living in this beautiful and unique village, to look forward to another year in Wass and Byland and to remind ourselves about what has been happening in the past year.

We have welcomed new residents and said farewell to those who have moved out. Some will be remembered by their neighbours and some by the whole village as they were here for many years.

A number of events have become regulars in our calendar such as Open Gardens, the Litter Pick, the MacMillan Coffee Morning and Pantomimes or rather A Bit of a Do. The church has its Byland Service and other seasonal services. Other events are more recent but fast becoming regulars such as the monthly coffee mornings, the Fire Pit Party and the barbecue after open gardens in Rose Field.

It is marvellous that these events are organised by different people or different combinations of people and many others who work hard to support them. As a village we raise large amounts of money for good causes especially the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

The WI celebrated Yorkshire Day by having a barbecue on 1st August and it would be good if the village could do something for Yorkshire Day or St. George's Day in the future. The WI also recently pulled off a major coup by getting Tommy Banks to come as a speaker and bring some of his Michelin starred food with him.

Byland and Wass now have a website which showcases our village to a wider audience.

In total 10 people attended the meeting including 2 from Oldstead.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received prior to the meeting from Mark and Karen Saurin, Peter and Ros Williams and Jenny and Nick Watson.

#### **Speaker**

The speaker this evening is Ray Wood, Emergencies and Resilience Officer at North Yorkshire County Council and he is accompanied by Tim Townsend, the Emergency Planning Manager. They spoke about how Wass might become resilient to the many risks we face as a village.

They outlined the principal risks as: Weather/Flooding, Pandemic, Utility Outages, Cyber Attack and Woodland Fires.

The NY website has all the local contacts and proformas to prepare emergency plans for the community including a 2-page template for smaller communities. Ray Wood recommended that Wass prepare an Emergency Plan.

The most significant questions to ask in preparing a plan are:

- Do we have a group to support the emergency
- Do we have somewhere to go in case of emergency
- What assets are available to the village
- Do we need to practice our response
- Have we shared our community plan with NY Council and key parties

#### Power Outage

Register with Northern Power Networks as a priority user to ensure emergency generators available. They also provide support through their charitable trust to allow communities to purchase their own generators. Warm packs for residents are also provided by Power Networks.

#### Water Outage

Notify Yorkshire Water where the emergency centre for the village is and boil water.

#### Flooding

Less of a risk on Wass but localised flash floods possible. Register with Met Office for Rainfall alerts. The nature of the risk implies that little can be done to prevent it occurring so actions deal with "Recovery" scenarios.

#### Fire in the local woods

High risk for Wass as we are surrounded by trees. Register with North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.

#### Questions

Is Civil Defence still active in the UK – Civil Defence has been replaced by the Contingencies Act requiring the preparation of Emergency Plans and supporting Voluntary schemes.

#### **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting 13th May 2024 previously circulated were signed as a true record.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### Wild about Wass

A reminder that we can all do something about wildlife in the village ensuring that we keep areas of your gardens for insects and bees and don't cut verges until late July.

##### Dark Skies Lighting

Reminder that when you install outside lights ensure they are compatible with Dark Skies Policy, namely try and use downlighters.

##### Hedge overhanging road at Abbey Inn

Thanks to Sandy Lee for organising the Abbey Inn to cut back the vegetation.

#### **Matters to be discussed**

##### Highways

New website up and running from North Yorkshire Council allowing Highway problems to be reported.

Recent road closure in Wass caused some disruption

#### 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 of £423.53 for 2024/25.

#### **Other parish Matters raised by meeting**

##### Abbey Inn Parking

Councillor Bradley to have another word with the Abbey Inn about parking on the verges which potentially causes a traffic hazard. Action: Councillor Bradley

##### Caravan Waste

Caravans have been parking overnight in the lay-by at Byland Abbey and leaving rubbish as well as emptying their toilets. NY Council to be contacted for advice: Action Councillor Bradley.

Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk