

Littlethorpe Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 19:30 on Monday 29 April 2019 at Littlethorpe Village Hall

Present: Cllr Spoors (Chair), Cllr Winterburn, Cllr Gray, Cllr Laughher, County Cllr Harrison, 14 electors, 3 invited speakers, and David Duthie (Clerk).

1. Apologies Cllr Orme, District Cllr Atkinson, Julia Jowett sent apologies
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 April 2018 were proposed as a true and accurate record by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Laughher and passed unanimously.
3. Chairman's report: The Chairman began by welcoming all present to the Littlethorpe Annual Parish Meeting and made the distinction between this and a Parish Council Meeting.
The Parish Council
 - 3.1. All agendas and minutes of Littlethorpe Parish Council are available on the Harrogate Borough Council website:
https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/downloads/download/129/littlethorpe_parish_council_documents.
Agenda and minutes of the most recent meeting are also available on the Littlethorpe Village website:
<http://www.littlethorpe-northyorkshire.co.uk/parish-council>.
 - 3.2. Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council has met 6 times.
 - 3.3. All 5 Parish Councillors were elected unopposed in May 2018 for three-year terms.
 - 3.4. Comments were made on all 28 planning applications within the Parish boundary, notified to the Parish Council under Harrogate Borough Council planning consultation. 12 new separate dwellings within the parish have been permitted. 5 of these are changes to previous permissions at Grange Farm, 5 new properties next to Little Crossing and 2 new dwellings at Hollin Farm on Knaresborough Road. Two further properties on Pottery Lane await results of gypsum surveys. This is in addition to 390 dwellings on West Lane that were allowed on appeal. The application for 150 houses at Bellwood Farm is undecided.
 - 3.5. Representatives are sent to:
 - 3.5.1. Village Hall Committee – Jackie Laughher
 - 3.5.2. Entertainments Committee – Chris Winterburn
 - 3.5.3. Alderman Spence Committee – Annie Gray
 - 3.5.4. Ripon City Quarry Restoration/Aftercare Committee – Gerry Spoors
 - 3.6. Historic boundary stone between (Little)Thorpe and Givendale was placed in the pinfold and a commemorative plaque added to the outside wall of the pinfold.
 - 3.7. Bluebell bulbs were planted in the Autumn either side of Littlethorpe Lane at the Littlethorpe signs.
 - 3.8. Two sessions of litter picking on the road verges.
 - 3.9. Training courses have been attended by the Clerk
 - 3.10. Council is opposed to major development within the Parish.
 - 3.11. A picture story board for the railway line is planned for near Littlethorpe Triangle where the verge is enclosed around a hydrocarbon monitor.
4. Jonathan Ledley, North Regional Manager of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust presented 'From Quarry to Wetlands

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- 4.1. Quarrying has taken place since the 1960s. The centre of the racecourse was first. Aggregate Industries bought the mineral rights and proposed extensive quarrying with S106 agreement to return land to farming, create a wetland nature reserve, and establish a lake. The site has been leased to Yorkshire Wildlife Trust for 50 years.
 - 4.2. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust has been in existence for 70 years with 100 small nature reserves. Large landscape scale developments are what are needed to preserve species. The river Ure now has 7 reserves along its length.
 - 4.3. With the City Wetlands there is a Canal Reedbed for bitterns, reed warblers, reed buntings, water voles, dragonflies, marsh harriers, bearded tits. Fen meadow grassland was created by green hay spreading and will provide habitat for insects. some areas were supplemented with seed. Riverside Lagoon received washings from quarried gravel giving water of varying depth for snipe and jack snipe. To the north east there is a sluice that acts as a water reservoir from the river to limit flooding in Boroughbridge. Water quality is improved, but litter retained. Avocets, little ring plovers, and sand martins are encouraged. Rafts provide habitat for common terns. On the lake ducks and insects proliferate. Littlethorpe Meadows replicates habitat lost to intensive farming.
 - 4.4. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is a charity dependent on public subscription. Visitors will be allowed from the Boroughbridge Road from Saturday 4 May 2019, 9 am to 5 pm except for the 17 race days. Pedestrian access is available from Littlethorpe.
 - 4.5. No dogs will be allowed onto the site.
 - 4.6. There are no toilets
 - 4.7. Free entry but donations will be sought.
 - 4.8. Volunteers are welcome to participate on the site. Strimming and raking, cutting willow, removing invasive species, and monitoring wildlife species.
 - 4.9. Guided walks, pond dipping and other events will take place regularly.
 - 4.10. First opening will be 10-5 pm, 4 May 19.
 - 4.11. @YWT_North , www.ywt.org.uk , 01904 659570 , info@ywt.org.uk
 - 4.12. Cllr Atkinson was elected to the Borough Council for the Fountains and Ripley Ward at the May 2018 election. Cllr Harrison continues as County Councillor for Lower Nidderdale and Bishop Monkton division.
 - 4.13. Parish Council income was £3490.52 of which £3000 (86%) came from the parish precept. Expenditure £3709.99 of which £2494.17 (67%) were staff costs and training.
 - 4.14. New financial regulations were adopted on 5 Nov 18.
5. Ripon Motor Boat Club, Allen Blake, Commodore
 - 5.1. Drainage along the track to Nicholson's bridge has been improved with the help of the County Council.
 - 5.2. The bank has been planted with wild flower.
 - 5.3. Cyril's hill will be allowed to grow to encourage wildflowers.
 - 5.4. Toilet block will be improved and a wet room added.
 - 5.5. Wifi is available over the whole site.
 - 5.6. Open day 14 September, all villagers welcome.

Reports from Village organisations and societies

6. Entertainments Committee – Chris Winterburn
 - 6.1. The Entertainments Committee was set up several years ago with the sole aim of bringing together the people of Littlethorpe (and friends) in a social setting.

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- 6.2. The functions that have been put on are many and varied - including BBQs, Themed Evenings, Quizzes, Musical Evenings, Food & Drink Events, Plays and Celebrations of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee & VE Day.
- 6.3. We have also, over the years, given donations to charity as well as raising money for the Village Hall and to aid the purchase of a Defibrillator for the village.
- 6.4. Our most recent event was a quiz which was very well attended and great fun was had by all. The Village Website has pictures and a report.
- 6.5. Our next event is a BBQ which will be held on Saturday 27th July at the home of Robert & Sue Ankcorn. Since this is close to Yorkshire Day, the theme will be "Yorkshire" - interpret this as you wish! This is still in the planning stage but full details can be found on the Village Website shortly. There will also be an article in "Roundabout", the parish magazine and posters will appear in the village.
- 6.6. We hope to see you at some of our future events and if you would like to become involved in our small group, then please let me know.
7. Littlethorpe Village Website – Sandra Roberts
 - 7.1. The average number of people visiting the site each month has risen from last year with August being a record of 308 probably due to the open gardens.
 - 7.2. A few months ago, I was contacted by the parish clerk of Roeccliffe as they were wanting to start their own website. They had looked at lots of sites and liking ours wanted information about our host and cost.
 - 7.3. Unfortunately, in October, our website was hacked into and I was unable to access it for a while. It led the hackers to my personal email and my laptop had to go in to be sorted. With new and very complicated passwords I have had no more problems.
8. St Michaels and All Angels Church
 - 8.1. Peter Moss is Church Warden. Since Trevor Vaughan, there is no permanent vicar, but preachers visit from the Cathedral.
9. Village Hall Committee
 - 9.1. Run by a committee of volunteers. Peter Moss is booking secretary for the hall. Hall hire is £9 per hour for villagers, more from outside the village. Pilates, yoga, old time dancing, karate, archery, and folk dancing are available.
 - 9.2. Heating system is now a nest and can be controlled remotely.
 - 9.3. Contact should be by mobile phone number only.
 - 9.4. The hall is available to hire for children's parties.
10. Littlethorpe and Sharow book club – Carol Edmonstone
 - 10.1. There are 8 members based in Littlethorpe & Sharow.
 - 10.2. The Club meets monthly in members' homes, taking it in turn to choose the book and host the afternoon.
 - 10.3. Reading matter covers both fiction (the majority) and non-fiction (occasionally). Recent books read have been "A Death at Fountains Abbey" and "The Secret Life of Bees".
11. Dates of next Annual Parish Meeting
 - 11.1. Between 1 March and 1 June inclusive 2020

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