

ELVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Tuesday 24th April 2007 at 7.30pm
Elvington Village Hall

MINUTES

1. **The Chairman welcomed** 26 residents to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** were received from T. Wilson, P.Rees, J.Ripley.
3. **Minutes** of last years meeting were accepted as a true record.
4. Ian Bailey presented the **Chairmans Report 2006-07**.

Anti Social Behaviour. There had been little crime or misbehaviour which was an excellent result. Policing had therefore become incident related and less visible.

Environment. City of York Council aim to repair damage as it occurs but budgetary constraints sometimes limits response times. During the past year: two vehicle activated speed signs have been installed – with a third to go in near Elvington Park; a grant of £3000 had been awarded to repair the bus shelter; a grant of £200 had been awarded for bulbs in the verges in the autumn; and it is hoped to site a dog bin in Church Lane.

It was generally agreed that the changes to Grimston Bar had been a big improvement - courtesy of the Highways Agency.

Thanks were also expressed to Peter Stamp for all his litter collection and sign cleaning.

Amenities. The Sports Club has been refurbished and is running successfully – and similarly the Village Hall. Sadly the Post Office has closed because Royal Mail could not agree a new postmaster and is now unlikely to reopen. Special thanks were expressed to the postmen and ladies who have had to adapt to the new arrangements.

The Air Museum introduced its offer of free entry to Elvington residents but relatively few take advantage.

Airfield. An apparently fair compromise at the first noise abatement trial has been appealed – so activities continue at the airfield for the present.

Flood Defence. The Environment Agency started work in September 2006 but the full scheme is unlikely to be completed for 12 months. The site is currently flooded. The pumping station should be installed by CYC in June 2007 and then there will be landscaping work. Ian Bailey detailed the funding package pointing out that the parish council was responsible for any overspend. When completed the scheme should give a 1 in 100 year protection.

Looking forward. Footpaths, roads and verges - are in a generally poor condition. Traffic volume – and the noise and speed of it – is an increasing problem. Buses – a petition has been presented for an improved service. A meeting with the local MP and CYC Councillor discussed the problem but it was felt a more radical approach is needed. A simple, frequent and affordable service feeding to Park & Ride sites would be attractive to car owners and help remove traffic from the roads.

Thanks were expressed to the local societies and clubs for ensuring a friendly and pleasant village environment – and to the parish councillors who have all been reelected in an uncontested election.

5. The **Financial Statement** was presented by the Clerk showing the accounts for the year, split between ongoing activities and flood defence.

6. **School.** Joanna Rawling gave a description and flavour of the work being undertaken at the school. She focussed on the Vision and Mission Statement and new developments. There are still many changes to come – for example foreign languages will be taught - but enrichment of lives is still the main aim of the school. Along with new dining furniture, a new choice of menu has raised the number of pupils taking school meals. Water is being given to each child – which has the added benefit of improving their work. The school is now looking for national accreditation to recognise the work being done. A meeting room is available – contact Joanna.

7. **Surgery.** David Lightwing gave a presentation in which he showed the new surgery and aspects of the work undertaken there. The facilities now include parking, disabled access, waiting rooms, clinics, confidentiality, dispensing (nearly 100,000 items per year), training and record keeping. A meeting room enables involvement in the education of new GPs. A total of 30 people work out of the surgery, which means a large volume of letters, emails and telephone calls are received and made. The surgery is working towards an Investors in People qualification. For the future the provision of extra services is being considered and this may include dentistry.

8. **Scout Group.** Gill Jones (standing in for John Wharton) described the activities and issues facing the scout group. It is the centenary of the movement and there will be many events both nationally and locally. But lack of leaders remains a problem and Gill asked for people to consider becoming one. The parish council was thanked for its support through the year.

9. **General Forum.**

Two residents questioned why the former post office sign was still sited. Ian Bailey replied that the council did consider it inappropriate but that the owners had refused to move it. The owners are still to decide on any future trading there. CYC are looking whether to seek enforcement and it was decided it was best left with CYC for the moment.

Andrea Lawson queried whether the traffic calming measures were adequate and the state of the verges. A discussion ensued about various solutions to a recognised problem. The parish council will be liaising with the CYC councillor to see what action can be taken.

Christine Fewster wanted to express thanks for the work being undertaken by the parish council on the flood defences.

Ian Bailey thanked all those present for attending and the meeting ended at 9.15pm when light refreshments were served.