

ELVINGTON

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Tuesday 28th April 2009 at 7.30pm
Elvington Village Hall

MINUTES

1. **The Chairman welcomed** 36 residents to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** were received from M. Lamb and D. Forster.
3. **Minutes** of last years meeting were accepted as a true record. (Proposed by T.Wilson; seconded by J. Wedgwood).

4. Ian Bailey presented the **Chairman's Report 2008-09**.

Policing. There had been no serious domestic incidents in the past year, although there have been crimes on the industrial estates. The village appears free of anti-social behaviour problems.

Traffic. This was the most important problem raised by residents – but very difficult to find a solution. The neighbourhood police recognise the concern about speeding and encourage the completion of Speed Concern Reports *[available from the website or the Clerk]* to raise the importance of the issue with traffic police. The case for a new pedestrian/cyclist bridge over the River Derwent is being investigated in conjunction with Sutton on Derwent Parish Council.

Buses. A significantly improved off-peak service has been introduced, although the timetable is still rather complex! Further improvements (and simplifications) are hoped for.

Flood Scheme. The village has been fully protected since January 2008 – but a few items are outstanding: new grilles and a measuring guage. The Environment Agency say that the trigger height for the Pumping Station has been reached on 98 out of the past 460 days and that the road would have been closed for at least 12 of those days.

Airfield. The application for hangars has been refused and no appeal lodged. The actions on noise abatement and the enforcement order are still being appealed. Ian Bailey reiterated his personal position that he was not against all activities at the airfield but that the owners had to consult local communities to ensure that any compromise protected the reasonable needs of local residents.

Turbines. Permission for a temporary measuring mast has been granted. The Parish Council has received an approach from a company wishing to use the River Derwent to generate hydropower. This would be a much better approach for Yorkshire Water to take. The Parish Council intends to take a proactive approach to green issues in the year ahead.

Precept. This increased by 10% this year – the first increase for five years (apart from the financing of the flood prevention loan). There are two reasons: a slight overspend on the pumping station and the costs incurred in trying to register the village green. An objector has forced the use of solicitors and a complex procedure has meant current costs are in excess of £4000. An amicable solution has been sought but the objector still insists on having extra rights which the Parish Council cannot allow.

Play Area. Elvington has been short-listed to receive £47,000 to fund a much-needed new play area. Other funding could take the total available to about £65,000. The money will not be released until June meaning deadlines are tight but Mark Gillett is working for opening this summer.

Thanks were given to Councillors, the Clerk, societies and the community for making Elvington the rich community that it is to live in.

5. The **Financial Statement** was presented by the Clerk. The accounts for the year showed the principle items of income and expenditure and the funds held in the two bank accounts.

6. **Presentations:**

York Maize Maze. Tom Piercey gave an account of the history and development of the Maze from its foundation at Heslington in 2002 to its move to the current site in Elvington Lane in 2008. Tom spoke of the highs when GPS took over from manual layouts, the use of marketing and the increased numbers enjoying the maze and its extra attractions to the lows of frustration when the weather and planning conditions made life difficult. In the future Tom emphasised that he wanted to continue to provide a farm-based attraction rather than a theme park. More flexible opening hours would allow other events outside the short maze window. He thanked the Parish Council for its support – and was thanked by residents for the removal of the outsized road signs.

Police Report. The neighbourhood police team could not be present so their report was read by the Clerk. It recognised that speeding was a major concern. It is intended that speed gun training will be given to local officers to allow more effective policing in the village. Section 59 of the Road Traffic Act gives police officers the power to warn and then seize any vehicle reported for anti social driving. It is regarded as a quick way of dealing with the problem as opposed to the court process which can be quite lengthy.

Allotments. Jo Wedgwood updated the meeting on the campaign to get allotments. Whilst there are about 40 people interested, it is proving very difficult to find landowners willing to rent a suitably sized plot of land. She has involved the MP, City of York Council and made many contacts, all to no avail. She appealed for anyone who could help to get in touch with her.

7. **General Forum.**

Nigel Wood raised his concern over the speed limits in the village and the narrowness of the pavements as speeding traffic passed through.

Fiona Appleton offered to circulate Speed Concern Reports through the school.

Elizabeth Lupton supported the reduction of the 40mph speed limit on the approach to the village from York.

George Wright reported that there had been cases of inconsiderate parking in White House Grove.

Jo Wedgwood and Judy Bailey said that vehicle parking on pavements was an issue for pedestrians and particularly parents pushing prams. Riverside Close was highlighted.

A selection of free items, made available by City of York Council, was available in the room for residents.

Ian Bailey thanked all those present for attending and the meeting ended at 8.35pm when light refreshments were served.