

ELVINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Tuesday 8th May 2012 at 7.30pm
Elvington Village Hall

MINUTES

1. **The Chairman welcomed** 46 residents to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** were received from George Barton, Dave Forster, Anne Taylor.
3. **Minutes** of last years meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Steve Etherington; seconded by John Webster.

4. Ian Bailey presented the **Chairman's Report 2011-2012**.

The year had been satisfactory with little crime, no flooding and fewer HGVs.

Crimes are only minor and there has been no anti social behaviour.

Flood Defence. The pumps had failed on one occasion but are now repaired.

Precept. This year's increase has been criticised by the CYC leader, but our precept is still lower than two years ago – unlike CYC's Council Tax.

Ward Grants are being heavily cut by CYC, but Elvington is less dependent on these than many other villages.

The Road Surface is very poor but patching is the only solution on offer.

Speeding remains an ongoing problem.

Snow Clearance was undertaken for the first time, funded by the Parish Council, to clear pavements. Lessons were learnt (such as salting at the same time as sweeping) and CYC is being asked to supply the salt for next year.

HGVs. East Riding has removed the weight limit on the Bridge despite protests from virtually everyone. The principal objectors were East Riding villages. An application for a weight limit on Main Street is being progressed but CYC seem reluctant to grant it.

Planning. There have been various developments in the Green Belt despite the Parish Council attempting to protect the Green Belt at all times.

The Airfield is currently subject to court action alleging contravention of noise abatement orders.

The Sports Club and Play Area are well used and new equipment has been added. Allotments are not going ahead for planning reasons.

Diamond Jubilee. A Big Sunday Lunch is planned with modest financial support from the Parish Council. It is intended to have a Hurricane on display on the village green, courtesy of the Air Museum.

Thanks were given to Parish Councillors, the Clerk, but particularly to residents for making Elvington the enjoyable place it is in which to live.

5. The **Financial Statement** was presented by the Clerk. The accounts for the year showed the principal items of income and expenditure and the funds held in the two bank accounts. Increases were highlighted because of snow clearance, the bus service grant and new play area equipment – offset by the absence of the final payment for the Flood Defence Scheme. The increase in bank balances is to provide for expected expenditure on bus grants, the Diamond Jubilee, snow clearance and a ring fenced amount for future Play area improvements.

The Clerk confirmed that the precept had been increased by 5% this year, after a reduction of 10% last year.

6. Presentations:

Andrew Bradley, CYC Sustainable Transport Operations Manager

Andrew explained CYC's role in bus services since deregulation in 1986. It cannot operate buses but provides the infrastructure, bus lanes, traffic light control etc. It has a budget to subsidise services and to fund bus passes. He gave details of the 'Better Bus' grant whereby Government has awarded £2.9 million to improve real-time information and interchanges etc. A 'Bus Improvement Study' is currently due to report.

As far as Elvington's bus service is concerned, it has always been difficult to justify due to high levels of car ownership but various services have been attempted. It is hoped to improve the current service but budget cuts may limit this.

A resident asked why two buses arrived virtually at the same time (at around 10.10am) on three days of the week. Andrew will investigate.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for subsidising the early morning direct service to York as it was essential for their employment.

Julian Sturdy, MP

Julian summarised the current national political issues and highlighted that he believed the Government should always consider the needs of rural areas. He cited the National Planning Policy Framework which has now been strengthened from its original draft. He also thought that the cuts to Ward budgets was another example of cuts to rural areas.

Weight Limit. Julian was disappointed with the decisions taken so far and will write to Dave Merrett at CYC. In answer to a question, he said that the neighbouring MP (Greg Knight) supported a weight limit.

Green Belt. A resident expressed concerns about Green Belt, as locally it has never been formally adopted. Julian stated that it will be a part of the Local Development Framework currently being prepared. Further concern was expressed over the timescales of preparing the LDF.

Mobile Phones. A resident questioned the strength of mobile phone reception in the village. As part of the solution, Julian stated that rural broadband is currently being rolled out nationally.

7. General Forum.

Residents' questions were primarily about the continuing threat of HGVs to the village. Comments included the damage to buildings and the threat to the safety of children walking or cycling to school. Frustration was expressed over the lack of things that could be done. A petition was called for.

Further questions were about the snow clearance trialled last winter. Requests were made for the extension of paths and roads covered but it was pointed out that there had to be a limit due to the costs involved.

Ian Bailey thanked all those present for attending and the meeting ended at 9.10pm when light refreshments were served.