

ELVINGTON
ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Wednesday 21st May 2014 at 7.30pm
Elvington Village Hall

MINUTES

1. **The Chairman welcomed** 145 residents to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** were received from Derek & Gill Jones; Mollie Lamb; Anthony Monaghan; Anne Taylor; Jenny Woodford.
3. **Minutes** of last years meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Phil Rees; seconded by Terry Wilson.
4. Ian Bailey presented the **Chairman's Report 2013-2014**.
The year had been a quiet one, apart from CYC's Local Plan which will be discussed later.
Crime. There had been a small number of burglaries but little anti social behaviour. Please report anything suspicious. Whilst neighbourhood policing is unnecessary, we do require traffic policing to control speed.
Roads. CYC is not minded to impose a weight limit currently but we hope to try again if there are changes in CYC.
City of York Council. The effects of cuts are beginning to show. Salt bins have been summarily removed, but the Parish Council pays for pavement clearance so will not pay CYC to have the bins returned. Ward funding of local projects has been withdrawn.
Bus Services. These are maintained for the present but subsidies to operators are due to be cut as from next year. Use it or lose it!
Finances. The Parish Council donated sums to the Out of School Club and the Under Fives. Improvements to the Play Area should again be funded this year.
Planning. The application to change Holgate House into a cafe was contentious but the application has been withdrawn. Reluctantly, one of the horse chestnut trees on the village green has to be felled for safety reasons, as it is diseased.
The Flood Defence Scheme proved its worth during a very wet winter as Main Street would have been closed for some weeks without it. New telemetry is being introduced by the local Drainage Board which will improve management of the Pumping Station. An approach has been made to the Environment Agency to ask for de-silting or dredging to be re-introduced to the Lower Derwent. The lock gates have been closed to boat traffic whilst structural surveys are undertaken.
Ian Bailey thanked fellow Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their work throughout the past year.
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. The main expenditure had been on two grants to village groups and new items in the Play Area. The Parish Council precept is unchanged for this year (in cash terms).

6. Presentations.

Rural Broadband. Roy Grant and Steve Dann of City of York Council described the way public funding was used to contract private companies to invest in high-speed broadband in rural communities. They provided maps to show the extent of the roll-out in Elvington at present, and as it will be by the end of 2014.

Local Plan. Ian Bailey summarised the current situation before opening up the meeting to questions. He said that the first draft of the Plan ('Preferred Options') had three proposed residential sites in Elvington: an extension of Beckside; a development behind the school; and a pitch for Travelling Show People at The Stables. All were on Green Belt land and all had previously been refused planning approval after appeal – although The Stables had been granted temporary permission until 2016.

The second draft ('Further Sites') was about to go to consultation which proposes a further three residential sites: two further pitches at the Travelling Show People site; a seven pitch site for Gypsies and Travellers opposite the Sports Club; and a large area of 'safeguarded' land – i.e. taken out of Green Belt for future residential development – behind Hill Garth. The Parish Council will determine its response to the 'Further Sites' proposals at its June meeting, but residents were urged to email or write individually if they have comments when the consultation period commences.

Questions from the floor were wide ranging.

Had anyone consulted the travelling community to see if they wanted to live in Elvington? It was not known but thought unlikely.

Will other areas of York be made aware of our concerns? Ian Bailey said that the issue would be raised at the next meeting of the York Branch of the Local Councils Association.

There was a question on if there could be alternative uses for the Gypsy site – such as for use by the Sports Club? It was pointed out that it was financially better to get residential use of the land, but that it was easier to get Gypsy use approved. At the end of the day, it was a decision for the owners.

Although the next phase of the consultation will be on the 'Further Sites' only, the earlier 'Preferred Options' should not be forgotten as they still stand. Together they would mean a potential increase in housing in Elvington of about 50% in a short period of time. It was suggested that the village should not be wholly opposed to all development and that some small-scale, controlled development would be welcomed.

Ian Bailey concluded by saying that the Local Plan should not be political and should have the support of the local community. The scale of the current proposals plainly does not have that support. All who wished to comment (on the 'Further Sites' only at this stage) were urged do so.

Ian Bailey thanked all those present for attending and the meeting ended at 9.05pm when light refreshments were served.