

ELVINGTON  
ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.30pm  
Elvington Village Hall

MINUTES

1. **The Chairman welcomed** 29 residents to the meeting.
2. **Apologies** were received from Jonathan Laverack.
3. **Minutes** of last year's meeting were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Tim Tozer; seconded by Andrea Headlam.
4. Ian Bailey presented the **Chairman's Report for 2014-2015**.

He started by explaining that the Annual Meeting was lower key this year because of forthcoming elections, which in Elvington meant three different ballots – for MP; CYC Ward Councillor and seven Parish Councillors. However the year had generally been a good one.

Policing. There is little visible policing as there is very little crime. Again virtually no anti-social behaviour this year and only one instance of burglary. Speeding remains an issue, although ANPR cameras are being used on occasions on Elvington Lane. Be warned!

CYC Local Plan. The most recent version from CYC has not progressed and we are now awaiting the new Council to publish further proposals. Ian paid tribute to the 'Keep Elvington Rural' action group (and the alliance of other such groups) who are fighting unreasonable developments in the village and have drafted a Neighbourhood Plan to state what is actually wanted. The new Local Plan, when eventually adopted, will result in the Green Belt being legally defined.

CYC. Relationships are generally excellent with the Ward Councillor and officers, although were more difficult on occasions with the former CYC ruling group. No S106 payments are currently being imposed on small, local building developments which will impact on our ability to fund future improvements in the village. The next Parish Council will pursue this with the new MP and the Local Councils Associations. The Parish Council has been warned that further, deeper cuts to services are inevitable in the coming years.

Bus Service. The current 36/X36 service receives the highest subsidy of any route in York. It had been recommended to be withdrawn, but it has been reprieved and will run until April 2016 at least. However with very low usage, it needs to carry more passengers or the daytime service will continue to be under threat. Quite simply, 'use it or lose it'!

Roads. CYC are still not minded to impose a restriction on HGVs passing through the village, but the Parish Council believes this should be pursued to avoid the inevitable accident and/or casualty that is thought to be inevitable. The improvements to signage and capacity at Grimston Bar have helped access to the B1228 and Elvington.

Planning. Yorkshire Water is proposing to install solar panels at its Treatment Works to generate enough power to partially offset their high electricity costs. The Parish Council has visited the site and with some improvements to current screening, the visual impact

would be minimal, apart from some visibility from the north side of the Riverside development. Yorkshire Water has promised to leaflet the village before the formal submission of their planning application.

The future of the lock is still undecided by the Environment Agency as expensive work is needed and the number of boat movements is small – and the bottom gate is owned by the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, who are opposed to boat movements. Of equal concern is the lack of maintenance of the River Derwent generally.

At Home Lea (opposite the Airfield), an application to install static vans, rather than touring vans, has been refused by CYC but is currently being appealed.

The development of 18 affordable houses at Jubilee Court has been completed and is to be commended as a pleasing and useful addition to the village's housing stock.

BT has offered to sell the kiosk to the Parish Council (for £1) and remove the telephony. The new Council will consider this if alternative uses can be identified and if it is worthwhile. Superfast broadband is available in many areas of the village, but residents should complain to their providers if they have problems with the service.

Thanks. Ian Bailey thanked fellow Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their work throughout the past year, and also residents for creating the positive atmosphere that exists in the village. In particular the First Responders should be congratulated on the service they provide, covering not just Elvington but in the surrounding villages as well.

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 exceptional expenditure had been on felling a tree on the Green and new equipment in the Play Area, mostly paid for by S106 payments from house developers. The Parish Council precept is unchanged again for this year (in cash terms).

6. **General Forum.** Richard Pearce asked if there was a parallel between the flooding on the Somerset Levels last winter and the threat of flooding due to the lack of maintenance on the River Derwent. Ian Bailey pointed out that our Flood Defence Scheme incorporated a penstock which is designed to prevent the Derwent flooding the village. When the penstock is closed, the Pumping Station will then pump our beck into the Derwent. However it was agreed that the Environment Agency should be doing much more to maintain the river banks, clear vegetation and de-silt the river bed.

Terry Nundy asked what had happened to the proposed water screw mooted for the island at the weir. Ian Bailey said that nothing further had been heard from the developers.

Richard Pearce asked if the proposed solar panels at the Water Treatment Works meant that this replaced the former proposal for wind turbines. Ian Bailey replied that he had been given that assurance during the site visit.

Ian Bailey thanked all those present for attending and the meeting ended at 8.20pm when light refreshments were served.