

Minutes of Borwick Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2019

Present:

Mr D Smith (Chair), Mr D Scott (Treasurer), Mrs C Helme ((Clerk), Mrs S Dowdall, Mrs D Fell, Mrs J Thewlis, Mr M Thewlis, Zain Thewlis, Kyla Thewlis, Mrs J Taylor, Mr S Thorns, Mrs J Tombs.

Apologies:

Co Cllr P Williamson, Mr B Fell, Mr P Sharp, Mrs S Sharp,

2019/19 Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2019/20 Matters arising:

There were no matters arising from the minutes which were read, approved by all present and signed by the Chairman.

2019/21 Chairman's Report:

There was an exceptional turnout for the litter pick on 2 March and several bags of rubbish were taken to the tip. The areas around the Longlands Hotel and Clearwater Fisheries were the most litter strewn. Thanks to Peter and Sally Sharp for providing bacon buns, tea and coffee.

It was decided at Committee level not to pursue further planning objections with regard to the Villa site as an extra 77 lodges (total 215 lodges) were at the planning application stage and it was unlikely that they would be turned down. Any further representations were therefore futile as the whole objection process had gone on for years, split between city and county councils, with little measurable success. Individual residents could continue to make objections if they so wished.

The fuel spill on the canal was reported on 7 April and dealt with quickly by the Environment Agency.

Openreach had gone through the entire village with new telegraph poles. One pole had caused damage to the bridge structure at Borwick Hall bridge and the owners were subsequently notified.

The tarmacing of the footpath/bridleway leading to Kingfisher Lodge/Borwick Fishing had been undertaken by the owners of Borwick Fishing as well as the extensive drainage works. It was not known whether the relevant permission was obtained but there had been no objections from residents.

2019/22 Clerk's Report:

A shed at Borwick Hall Cottages was broken into with the padlock cut off and the police had attended the incident. It was noted that vehicles were often parked on the tarmaced area next to Borwick Hall bridge overnight but it was not known why or to whom they belonged.

2019/23 Treasurer's report:

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 (see sheet). In 2019 income was £1,003.92 this being the annual precept of £1,000 from Lancaster City Council plus £3.92 in interest from the Skipton building society. Expenditure totalled £945 compared with £1,450 in the previous year. This reduction was due to a one-off donation of £500 to St Mary's church in 2017/18. This leaves a net surplus of £58.52 for the year compared with a deficit of £445.26 last year. Total funds at the end of the year were £58.52 higher at £1,315.55.

Borwick Parish Meeting has a certificate of exemption from external audit but the accounts must be published on the village website, on the noticeboards and be available for inspection within certain dates if anyone wishes to do so. Phil Horsfield has performed the Internal Audit and signed off the report with no comments made for which we thank him profusely.

2019/24 Approval of the accounts:

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Dave Scott, seconded by Claire Helme and accepted by all present.

2019/25 Annual Governance Statement:

The Annual Governance Statement (1-9) was read out and accepted by all present at the Meeting.

2019/26 Accounting Statement Approval:

Approval of the accounting Statement was proposed by Steve Thorns, seconded by Jane Taylor and accepted by all present. The annual risk assessment, which had been reviewed by the officers, was also read out and approved by all present.

2019/27 Internet banking:

The Treasurer briefly ran through the 2019/20 budget (previously discussed at the January meeting) with £41 allocated for web hosting fees, £46 LALC subscription, £197 parish insurance, £99 Clerk's honorarium, village newsletter expenses £50, Air Ambulance donation £100, one off donation of £100 to North West Blood Bikes, and an income of £1000 precept from Lancaster City Council. The Treasurer proposed setting up internet banking (for 2 users) to check the balance etc but cheques will still be used to pay all bills. Only the Treasurer would be able act on the account.

Acceptance of this proposal for internet banking was made by Steve Thorns and seconded by Mark Thewlis and accepted by all present

2019/29 Standing orders:

Due to changing audit requirements the standing orders have been updated and will be presented at the January AGM for approval.

2019/30 Signage:

The Clerk reported on the proliferation of signage on the village green and elsewhere for various leisure sites etc. Signage regulation is a very grey area but the Clerk agreed to seek the advice of Co Cllr Williamson.

2019/31 Trees on the village green:

The Parish Meeting could be liable if any falling branches hit anyone. Therefore it is necessary to get a professional to inspect the trees regularly to exercise 'due diligence'. A rough estimate was that it would cost around £50 per tree. The Treasurer agreed to get a quotation for regular inspections to present at the next meeting.

2019/32 Poors Land Charity:

The Chairman (Dave Smith), Clerk (Claire Helme) and Treasurer (Dave Scott) were all elected as trustees of the Poors Land Charity.

The motion was proposed by Steve Thorns and seconded by Joyce Tombs.

2019/33 AOB:

Difficulty accessing the rooms, for residents with mobility problems, at Borwick Hall for parish meetings was brought up by a resident. This would be checked out with the Hall but it is usually fully booked.

Large coaches dropping off school parties at the Hall reverse from the village green to the rear entrance or park at the front of the Hall causing obstruction. Issue to be brought up with Borwick Hall management.

The council mowing team have missed strimming the strip of grass outside Bridge House/Bridge Bungalow. The Clerk agreed to speak to Lancaster City Council.

The towpath under the canal bridge was extremely muddy. The Chairman agreed to speak to the Canal and Rivers Trust about this.

2019/34 Date of next meeting:

This was scheduled for Tuesday 22 October at 7.30pm in Borwick Hall.

Claire Helme,
Clerk
May 2019

