

The Minutes of the virtual **Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Acaster Malbis**

held on Monday, 15th March 2021

Present: Councillors W G Taylor (Chairman), C Booth, B Hawkins, R Jones, J Smith, D Walker, J Galvin (Ward Councillor)

Public: J Booth, G Hall, J Hall, V Joughin, P Walker

Clerk: - M G Davies

(Note – These minutes were produced by Cllr C Booth as the clerk at the time Mr M G Davies sadly passed away before they could be produced. The minutes have been compiled from notes provided by the contributors and a recording of the Zoom meeting.)

1. Welcome and Introductions:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:31 pm by welcoming everybody and introducing the members of the Parish Council. The Chairman asked that questions other than those to the guest speakers be asked at the end of the meeting (under Agenda item 9).

2. Accounts:

(i) Parish Council for the Year Ended 31 March 2020:

Reports are no longer given at the meeting. Full details of the Parish Council's financial matters can be found on the Parish Council website.

(ii) The Knowles Educational Foundation: Mr James Hall presented the accounts.

Income from investments was reported as £3,094 of which £791 were required for management expenses.

The grants awarded totalled £2,762. Although this exceeded income by £458, the overspend was considered justified for two large worthwhile applications from Naburn and Bishopthorpe schools.

Cash Funds stood at £2909, and the total value of investments was £97,386. This valuation is less than the previous years but not surprising given the current economic climate. Thanks were extended to Mr David Walkden for providing an independent examination of the year's accounts.

Tribute was paid to trustee, Mr Murray Addison who died late last year. Murray was a popular man and had been a trustee for a number of years and he will be missed greatly by many. To fill the vacancy, the Knowles trustees would like to propose Mr Geoff Appleby as a trustee.

No other nominations were received, and it was **resolved** that Mr Geoff Appleby was elected as a trustee of the Knowles Educational Foundation.

The trusteeship of Mr James Hall is due for election, and Mr Hall indicated he would be pleased to put his name forward for re-election.

No other nominations were received, and it was **resolved** that Mr James Hall was re-elected as a trustee of the Knowles Educational Foundation.

(iii) The John Knowles and John Kettlewell Charity: Mrs Vicki Joughin presented the accounts.

The income from the investment (currently valued at £3,198.09) totalled £156.11 and the cash brought forward from 2019 brings the total cash balance in 2020 to £229.41.

Due to the economic conditions caused by the pandemic, the value of the investment has significantly decreased, and it was agreed by the trustees that the charity was unable to offer grants in December 2020. As there were no payments in 2020, the balance in the current account is therefore £229.41. Thanks go to Bob Nicholls for auditing the accounts again.

Due to lockdown restrictions, only 1 of the 2 required meetings of the trustees was held. The chairman was elected at the meeting which was held outside and observed social distancing rules at the time.

The trustees continue to implement the data privacy policy agreed in 2019, and the annual audit will take place in June 2021.

All trustees have agreed to remain in post in 2021.

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 March 2020:

The draft minutes were agreed unanimously as a true and correct record on the proposal of Councillor D Walker and seconded by Councillor J Smith. The minute book was therefore duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Guest speaker – Mrs Pamela Walker: Acaster Malbis volunteer Flood Warden and Village Emergency Team Leader.

In 2020 there was a total of 5 flooding events with a max height of 4.48m in February. In 2021 there have been a total of 6 flooding events to date with a max height of 4.64m in January. A number of homeowners have improved flood defences, and the only property that continues to be badly affected is the Ship Inn and its attached cottage. Road closures have been trialled in place of flood traffic signs. We await the outcome of the trial.

As part of the village response to the pandemic, a team of 40 volunteers was established to help with collection and delivery of shopping, prescriptions and other help as needed. Approaches were made to food companies to deliver to the village and some still are doing so. Information leaflets were delivered to all vulnerable residents. A village plant swap arranged due to garden centres being closed and this lasted all summer. A popular sunflower competition for the children was arranged. Subsequent lockdowns needed much less support due to distribution improvements from shops and suppliers.

We now know much more about our neighbours than last year.

5. Acaster Malbis – Cllr Rob Jones: Acaster Malbis Community Events

Rob reported that it was not possible to hold the re-arranged event in May 2020 but does intend to put on a significant event in May 2022. This will no longer be a VE themed event, but will remain a family focussed event with music, dance, entertainment, food and drink. The date will be announced as the year progresses and the situation with respect to COVID gains clarity.

Tickets already sold for both the event and raffle will be held over until the revised date or refunded on request.

6. Matters Arising:

There were none.

7. Chairman's Report on the Work of the Parish Council:

Councillor Taylor reported this had been a difficult year for the parish facing restrictions and hardship dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, a large part of the report was to say thank you for all those involved in helping the community.

Last year's annual parish meeting on 16 March 2020 was the last face to face meeting for many of the councillors attending. All subsequent meetings of the Parish Council were held using Zoom.

An extraordinary meeting was held on 23 March 2021 in the car park of the Memorial Hall, in order to give authority to the clerk to continue the business of the council. The meeting was attended by the chairman, two councillors and the clerk and lasted 1 minute – the shortest meeting of the council on record.

Seven virtual meetings were held throughout the period, and the Planning sub-committee met once.

As always, all agenda, minutes and financial reports are available on the council website. Thank you to Councillor P Harlington, and the Clerk Mr M G Davies for their work on this.

Thank you to Mrs P Walker who continues to work diligently and tirelessly as Flood Warden for the parish. One of Pam's task this year was to inform the new landlord of the Ship Inn that the property will be flooded within 48 hours – not the welcome expected only one week after moving in.

As Emergency Team Leader for the village, Mrs P Walker has had a year never to be repeated nor forgotten as COVID restrictions, lockdowns and shielding took their toll. Pam organised the village response gathering a group of volunteers who collected and delivered groceries and prescriptions and kept in contact with the vulnerable who were unable to leave their homes. A heartfelt thank you to all those involved in the efforts.

There is an ever-growing number of volunteers who are working in the village doing jobs such as:

- Cutting and clearing weeds along paths and hedgerows.
- Litter picking throughout the year
- Leaf collection and disposal
- Cleaning the bus shelter on Intake Lane
- Cleaning and check the defibrillator kiosk on Mill Lane
- Watering, weeding and deadheading the flower tower

Unfortunately, the Bishopthorpe Scouts annual riverside litter pick could not take place this year.

Thanks were made to Councillor J Galvin for ongoing support the village providing the following services:

- Updating of the flower tower with new planting from Brunswick Organic Nursery
- Organising the replacement of the seat near to the Pinfold (restrictions permitting)
- Arranging the culverting of the ditch outside Lakeside for safety reasons (restrictions permitting)

Thanks as always to Mr D Walkden for the auditing of the parish council accounts, and sympathies were expressed following the loss of his wife Beryl.

The passing of our former clerk Geoffrey Smith was noted who served in both last century and this century. It was a common sight seeing him around the village putting up notices.

We also note the passing of John Hoynes who served as a councillor around the millennium, and also served for a while as chairman.

8. City of York Council – Ward Member: Cllr John Galvin

Councillor Galvin reported that culverting of Dimple Dyke is on the list of jobs to be carried out, but the Ainsty IDB is operating in difficult circumstances, and the time of implementation is highly uncertain.

Condition of the highways is a never-ending job, with Intake Lane in particular in poor condition. In general, holes and potholes under 40mm deep are not repaired. Intake Lane from Manor Farm to Lakeside requires re-surfacing, but this is unlikely in the near future due to lack of funding.

The flower Tower is due to be restocked, but as Brunswick Nursery is not faring well in the pandemic, timing of the replanting is uncertain.

The flood notice at slipway is due to be reviewed, the timescale for the review is not known.

9. Open Forum

i) Beer Garden at Ship Inn

A question was asked regarding the status of the Orchard Garden, belonging to the Ship Inn and located at the end of Cobblers Trod, that is being used as a beer garden.

Cllr Galvin advised that after investigation, there is no legal or licensing reason why it cannot be used up to 28 days per year.

Mrs Joughin reported that she had spoken with the new Landlord, and he stated that it was only a temporary measure until regulations are lifted in June 2021 and was intended to be used only as an overflow garden.

ii) Traffic Calming at Ship Inn

Concern was raised about the addition of traffic calming speed hump at the Ship Inn.

Cllr Galvin reassured the meeting that speed humps were a highly unlikely measure, and his recommendation would be some signage warning road users of pedestrians crossing in the area.

Minutes approved at the Annual Meeting of the Parish and duly signed by:

Chairman _____

Date _____