

Fylingdales Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 6.30pm Methodist Church Room, Fylingthorpe

ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
1	Welcome and Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Watkinson (Chair), Sutterby, Hoyle and Gibson Also in attendance, Jude Wakefield (Clerk and RFO) and 6 Parishioners. Cllr Watkinson welcomed those present to the meeting.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting: Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13 April 2022 were available but could not be signed as the Jody Nightingale who was Chair of the PC at the time has since resigned.	
3	Chairs Annual Report: Please see attached.	
4	Plans for 2023/24: Please see attached.	
5.	Parish Council Defibrillator: The box housing the defibrillator and the battery have both ceased working. Cllr Clive Pearson kindly provided funding from his Locality Budget for the purchase of new equipment, and it had been the intention of the Parish Council to re-locate the defibrillator to the fire station where it could be better maintained. However, having listened to public opinion, the Parish Council will reconsider this decision at the FPC meeting which will follow.	
6.	Public Participation Session: - A Parishioner asked if it remained economically viable for the PC to manage the Bank Top Toilets. The Chair confirmed that end of year accounts show that the toilets are self-funding and in fact make a small profit. It was however acknowledged that the doors need replacing the cost of which will come from Parish Council reserve funds. - A Parishioner asked if it was appropriate for the PC to be involved in maintenance of a defibrillator and suggested that a more holistic approach to the provision of defibrillators within the Parish would be more appropriate. The Chair agreed that this was something that could be explored but, felt it would be difficult to identify individual(s) who would be prepared to take on this responsibility.	

Signed Councillor Watkinson, Chair

C Watkinson

Date 17/4/24

CHAIR'S REPORT

April 2023

First of all. I want to thank Councillors Sutterby, Hoyle and Gibson for their hard work and support during this year.

Claudia, you have done a sterling job taking responsibility for the regular oversight of the Bank Top Toilets. Thank you for that. With my looking after the dog bin at the end of Pooh Alley, I think you and I have earned our positions as Pooh Queen's for the village. Also, many thanks to our Clerk, Jude Wakefield who has given us excellent support and guidance as she has developed in a role to which she has brought lots of skills and experiences but to a new context. Jude, you are forthright, firm and lots of fun. It's my pleasure to work with you.

This has been a year of challenges and highlights, with situations that include both.

Key challenges

1. **Loss of valued councillors:** Les Atkinson, David Bowes and Jody Nightingale. We miss their valuable input and are grateful for their continuing support, which they still give in various ways. Sadly, Jane Mortimer also stepped down from the PC in May 2023, although she has continued to support us as Borough Councillor during 2022-23 until she stepped down from that role at end of March 2023.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Les, David and Jody for the contributions they made. Les, in particular had been a parish councillor for many years and carried an important role in representing us at a number of regular networks, including preserving footpaths in the area. We also thank Jane, who has served the PC for a long, long time and congratulate her on her new status as Alderman of the Council. All good wishes to you, Jane, in retirement from this particular scene.

Grateful to Jane for introducing us to her successor, Clive Pearson. Clive has already become a regular presence at our PC meetings and has already been a great source of support, information and advice to us. Thank you, Clive, we look forward to continuing to work closely with you in the future.

This does, of course, leave the PC with a major challenge. We are delighted to welcome Lydia to the Council and we are grateful to Dick Hoyle for stepping back to the table with all the years of experience he brings. However, we are still small in numbers and would welcome more members from among the residents of the Parish.

2. **1 April saw the inception of the new Unitary Authority.** At surface level, there has been and probably will be little impact on day-to-day matters such as continuation of regular services and reporting hitches. There may be deeper impacts just around the corner and we will need to be aware and able to adapt as necessary. This is where we look forward to working with Clive so that we can establish a productive working partnership with North Yorkshire Council.

3. **A major highlight for the year was the announcement in March that the restoration work on the seawall was due to begin in April.** Understandably, this announcement came as a surprise to us all (a thing long expected often takes the form of the unexpected when at last it comes", *Mark Twain*) and will inevitably cause disruption to residents and businesses and residents alike. Businesses in particular have not had time to plan for how this will affect tourism (our main industry) and what this may mean for incomes and livelihoods.

The seawall restoration is long awaited and is absolutely essential for the safety of almost 200 residential and business properties that are in danger of falling into the sea if nothing is done.

Restoration work will cost around £1.7 million, towards which the Parish will have paid £50,000 over 10 years. This is stage 1 of the restoration will protect the homes and businesses in danger for a number of years. Stage 2 will need to begin in 10 years' time, as more sections of the seawall become ineffective.

The key challenge here was how to inform as many people as possible within only a few days. We are grateful to the RHBT, Bayfair and others for helping to disseminate the information quickly and as widely as possible. Our colleague, Robin Siddle, Senior Project Manager, SBC gave a very interesting and informative presentation at a public meeting attended by around 30-40 people. The slides and information are available on the Parish Council website for all to see and Robin has set up a 'questions and answers' line, details of which are with the information.

However, we are very aware that many people did not see the information, whether it was by email, FaceBook, websites, notice boards or word of mouth and were still taken unawares. The timing is unfortunate for our tourism industry – but we appreciate that the contractors need to take advantage of the months of longer days to be able to maximise their working time in conjunction with the tides.

4. **A significant challenge, particularly for tourists, has been the failure of the doors at the toilets at Bay Bank.** This is a constant source of frustration. However, the PC has ordered new doors, with both coin operation and contactless entry points and we are awaiting an installation date – hopefully within the next 2 months.
5. **Financially** the Parish Council does not have money to spare – but we are financially healthy and able to fulfil our responsibilities.
6. **On a bright note, the PC is delighted to have secured a grant for £30,000 for some upgrading of the playgrounds at Bank Top and Fylingthorpe.** The Sunshine Project grant is specifically to make the playgrounds more inclusive. Although we had hoped to create a more wheels-friendly access to Bank Top playground, SBC engineers have advised us that this is just not feasible. Instead, the grant will be used to refurbish some of the existing equipment and surfaces and will include a wider range of play facilities to suit younger children and children with sensory needs. After evaluation of tenders, we have contracted Playscheme to undertake the work. Again, although there will be periods of disruption while the work is carried out, this should make our playgrounds safer and more inclusive in the longer term.

7. **We have also received a grant from Anglo-American to help fund a 'street party' in celebration of the imminent coronation of King Charles III.** The party will take place in the village hall on Sunday 7 May, from 2-6pm and will be for residents of the parish and their families (children and grandchildren). It's a 'bring your own food' party with plenty of entertainment, including fancy dress parade and talent show. So polish your crowns, your voices and your dancing shoes and join us on Sunday 7 May.



Carolyn Watkinson

Chair

Fylingdales Parish Council

Wednesday 17 April 2023

PLANS FOR 2023-2024

I don't propose to go into too much detail about plans for next year – and particularly not in terms of the day-to-day business of the Parish.

Strategically, though, I think there are some key points arising from events of last year that will demand a focus in 2023-24.

1. The Unitary Council has been a major local development that has an inevitable impact on us all. We will need to work out how we develop the best working relationships with North Yorkshire Council. I'd like to work in close touch with Cllr Pearson, with the Yorkshire Local Councils Association (YLCA) and other networks to make sure we are in the best position to understand the drivers that shape our community and how best to respond to these.
2. There have been times during the year when feedback from the Parish is about dissemination of information and communication generally. We have the long-established but limited ways of communicating: the website (which still needs serious attention), the notice boards across the Parish, Bayfair, RHB Facebook and more recently, we have worked with local organisations such as RHBTAs who have helped disseminate information quickly to business owners who are members. I can't imagine that we will ever be able to please all of the people all of the time and we can't consult on everything; but a key priority for us must be to establish how best to find ways of sharing information accurately and widely through the parish and also understanding and responding to the needs and priorities for our residents and businesses.
3. One of the most important priorities will be recruitment. The current team works incredibly hard for the Parish, usually in ways that are unseen by most people. But the team also have busy lives and cannot be everywhere all at once. We need to swell our ranks with local people who can make a commitment to generally one meeting per month + a role that might be of interest or something that can be integrated with daily life (eg monitoring the health of the defibrillator, monthly checks on the playgrounds, keeping an eye on footpaths so that they remain open for residents and visitors to enjoy). It is important to note that the role of a parish councillor is quite bounded. It's about keeping in touch with how best to promote the wellbeing of local people, local economy and the local environment. If your passion is that – people and the environment, you'd make a great councillor.

These are headline strategic priorities. How we set about achieving these is something for discussion at a later date. However, if you have ideas about any of these topics – or other topics that you feel we should be addressing, please let us know.