

MINUTES OF THE EAST WITTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2024 IN THE PARISH ROOM

Present

Mrs M Fawbert	Chair
Mrs Michele de Vaal	Vice Chairman
Mr Alan Fullerton	Councillor
Mrs C Dent	Councillor
Ms Sarah Sayer	Clerk to the Council
Dr J Brown	Elizabeth Barnett Charity

Item 1 - Introduction and Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received from Cllr R Wells, County Cllr Karin Sedgwick and Catherine Whitbread. The reasons were due to health and other commitments and were accepted.

Item 2 – Minutes of Previous AGM

Minutes of the last annual meeting on 17 May 2023, had been signed off at the Parish Council meeting in September 2023. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

Item 3 – Public Participation

None

Item 4 – Chairman’s Report

The Chair read out the report on the previous year’s Council business, a copy is attached.

Item 5 – Report from the Charity of Elizabeth Barnett

Dr Julia Brown verbally presented the annual report for the Elizabeth Barnett Charity. The Trust meets twice a year with the December meeting being the main one for allocation of funds. The Trust recently purchased additional fund units to reduce the current account balance and in turn to accrue additional interest. The Income for the year 2023/24 was £5437.00 and the Awards totalled £6665.00. The Trust contacts all eligible families and schools directly every year and also puts a Notice in Bridge magazine every September.

Item 6 – Exemption Criteria – External Audit

Considered the criteria: *Councils that are exempt from having an audit, ie those with gross budgeted income or expenditure (whichever is the higher) of less than £25,000 per annum*

Resolved: EWPC are exempt

Item 7 – Internal Audit Report

The internal audit was undertaken by Nicola Hunt. No issues arising, the signed report, included at page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 was noted.

Item 8 – Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement

Section 1, included at page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 was presented by the Clerk.

The Parish Council members:

- i) Considered the findings of the review and;
- ii) Approved the Annual Governance Statement by resolution.

Resolved to approve Section 1 of the Annual Return. Section 1 was signed as correct by the presiding officer.

Item 9 – Accounting Statement 2023/24 (Section 2)

The RFO presented Section 2 of the annual audit, which had been signed by the RFO in advance of the meeting.

The Parish Council members:

- i) Considered the Accounting Statements as a whole;
- ii) Approved the Accounting Statements by resolution.

Resolved to approve Section 2 of Annual Accounting Statements. Section 2 was signed as correct by the presiding officer.

The opening balance for 2023/24 stood at £1518

The annual expenditure was £4874

The annual income was £4476

The closing balance for 2023/24 stood at £1110

Item 10 – To approve the Publication of Documents

Approved.

Date for next AGM - May 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Room.

Signature.....

Date.....

Chairman's Report to East Witton Parish Council, May 2024.

There were four Parish Council meetings during the year May 2023 and May 2024.

On going issues brought to the attention of the Parish Council have been the flooding in Braithwaite Lane caused by the blocking of two historic channels which allow the water to run into the adjacent field. A representative of the Estate was present at the March meeting and was asked to advise the tenant that the channels should remain open.

The second issue is the permissive footpath through the fell. There are repeat offenders who flout the rules and this is an issue for the gamekeepers and the estate. At the March meeting when an estate gamekeeper and a Strutt and Parker representative were present it was decided that a letter be sent from the Estate to residents explaining when the path can be used. It maybe that new residents are unaware of the path or how and when to use it. The Parish Council would help to resolve transgressions.

A highway issue during this winter has been flooding due to a blocked culvert on the road to Jervaulx. Highways were awaiting a contractor to clear the culvert.

The village entered the Best Kept Village Competition. Again no feed back.

The council agreed to continue the contract with GCH Garden Maintenance to cut the green.

Applying for a grant to purchase new benches had been considered but the existing benches on the green had been repaired and power washed so no need for new ones. Thanks to Councillors Fullerton and Wells for their work.

Honey fungus had been identified on some trees, this is naturally occurring. The oak tree has mildew, the leaves will be gathered and disposed of once they have dropped.

The planned Summer BBQ did not go ahead but it is planned to have one on June 9th 2024.

There had been complaints about slurry tanker movements through the village and that slurry had covered a public footpath to the river. The contractors to be asked not to spread on the footpath.

The Parish Council expressed disappointment that the roadside parking space near Harker Beck was now closed.

There had been two breaks in the sewage pipe close to the water course. Yorkshire Water to be contacted to ask their long term plans for the system and that there is still detritus on the site which needs clearing.

Councillor Wells had attended the Autumn Parish Forum on line and had raised the issue of the condition of the River Cover. He had been advised that Coverdale was the most intensely farmed area of the National Park due to the presence of large dairy farms. The Environment Agency did not seem unduly concerned. Of the 10 rivers in the National Park, three are classed as 'not as good', this includes the River Cover.

Two PCSOs from the North Yorkshire Police attended the March Meeting to make the council aware that they are there if we need to raise any issues. They also asked about suitable sites for a speed gun

It was agreed to raise the precept from 3,850 to 4,000, as it was expected the cost of cutting the green would increase.

Four planning applications were granted.

Regular correspondence was received from:

YLCA,

North Yorkshire Police, monthly bulletin

YDNPA, Parish Forum invites.

NYCC

Police Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Once again it is important that I thank my fellow councillors for their work and support, particularly to Councillors Wells and Fullerton for their practical help and to others who act as a listening ear. To Sarah, our Clerk, there aren't words to thank her for all her knowledge and efficient work on our behalf so that the Parish Council runs smoothly.