



MINUTES OF THE PARISH OF CONONLEY'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT CONONLEY VILLAGE INSTITUTE, 12 MARCH 2024

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor A Powell.

24 electors of the Parish were **present**, as were the Clerk to the Parish Council Hannah Sherriff-Jackson and North Yorkshire Councillor Andy Brown.

1. WELCOME BY CHAIR

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were approved as a true and accurate record of the following:

- Annual Parish Meeting held 14 March 2023

3. REPORT FROM PARISH COUNCIL AND PC CLERK

a) Allotments

The Chair reported that the waiting list for the allotments has been reduced due to the splitting of full-sized plots into smaller mini plots.

The Chair informed the meeting that Cononley Seed Swap will be taking place on Saturday 13 April between 10:00-12:00 at Cononley Village Institute.

The Chair explained that the Parish Council are intending to spend some Section 106 money on improving the allotments. Allotment tenants had been asked for ideas. The Chair explained that providing another water supply would not be possible due to finances. However the Parish Council intend to repair and replace fences, rebuild the walls and widen and resurface the paths.

b) Canal Towpath Access

The Chair informed the meeting that the works to improve the current muddy access point would be starting soon. The Parish Council are working alongside the Canal and River Trust on these works.

c) Accessibility Throughout the Village

The Chair reported that the Parish Council is working with residents to find ways to improve accessibility throughout the village. The Parish Council is organising a meeting with Highways to discuss the installation of more dropped kerbs.



d) Clerk's Report

The new Parish Council Clerk introduced herself to the meeting.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish Council have set their budget for 2024/25 with the budget figure of £38,454. The Precept has been set at £33,166 which represents an increase of £6.13 per band D household per year.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council currently has two vacancies for Parish Councillors. She invited electors to come along to Parish Council meetings if interested to find out more about the workings of the Parish Council.

Finally, the Clerk reported that the Parish Council are in discussions with Northern Rail to have a second defibrillator installed on Platform 1.

4. CLEANER GREENER CONONLEY

A representative from Cleaner Greener Cononley spoke to the meeting about the formation of the group.

The representative informed the meeting about a number of upcoming events including the Seed Swap and the Big Spring Clean to be held on Saturday 16 March.

5. NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCILLOR REPORT

Councillor Brown reported that, as Cononley is on the commuter line to Leeds, it is often viewed as a target for development. The Meadow Close development was included in the Local Plan and was passed on appeal after being initially rejected by the planning committee.

Councillor Brown informed the meeting that any noisy works should be carried out in reasonable working hours and that any Section 106 agreements are negotiated between the developer and North Yorkshire Council.

Councillor Brown informed the meeting that he sits on both the Skipton and Ripon Area Planning Committee and the Central North Yorkshire Planning Committee.

Councillor Brown reported on recent North Yorkshire issues that he has been involved in resolving including potholes, canal towpath funding, gulleys and floods and rubbish collections. Councillor Brown stressed the need to use the network of footpaths around the village in order to keep them open as public rights of way.

Councillor Brown informed the meeting that North Yorkshire Council will be raising council tax by 4.99% but there should not be a reduction in services. He also gave information on the Second Homes tax coming into force in April 2025, with all funds being used to build affordable housing.

Councillor Brown explained that an election for the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire will be taking place on 2 May 2024.



Councillor Brown confirmed that Locality Funding will be available for local groups and will require some match funding. This is for small initiatives on behalf of the community ranging from £500 to £4,000 with £10,000 next year to cover the needs of 6 Parishes.

Councillor Brown informed the meeting of the home to school travel policy consultation. He explained how the new policy states that a child must attend the nearest school in order to receive help for transport. He has requested that this should be changed to the nearest non-selective school.

Finally, Councillor Brown informed the meeting that he is currently serving as a Parish Councillor on Cononley Parish Council as a temporary measure during a period when there was a danger of the Council becoming inquorate and that whilst there are still vacancies this situation has eased and so he is intending to leave the Parish Councillors so he can represent the 6 Parishes in Aire Valley equally.

Questions

Electors asked Councillor Brown about affordable housing in Cononley, specifically on the Meadow Close site. Councillor Brown informed the elector that the Meadow Close development will not have affordable housing as, although it was requested, this request lost on appeal.

An elector asked about the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Brown informed the elector that the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan requires a lot of work and must fit inside the national planning rules which have a presumption towards development. He informed the meeting that the Craven Local Plan specifies allocated development sites.

An elector expressed concerns about a lack of trust in North Yorkshire Planning Officers. Councillor Brown informed the meeting that North Yorkshire Council are in the process of restructuring.

Electors enquired into the enforcement of promises made by developers, mainly those relating to biodiversity net gain. Councillor Brown reported that a document detailing these plans was exchanged between the developer and North Yorkshire Council. This document has since been removed from the North Yorkshire Planning Portal.

Finally, an elector expressed concerns about the brown bin collections. The cost for these collections has gone up by £5 but now only cover 9 months, not 12. Councillor Brown informed the elector that rates are being standardised across North Yorkshire however he will look in to this matter.

6. VILLAGE INSTITUTE TRUST

A representative from Cononley Village Institute Advisory Committee read a report from the Committee Chair.



The Committee has held numerous events over the year including:

- The Scarecrow Festival
- Cononley Art Show
- Children's cookery class and Orienteering activities over the summer
- Beer festival
- Perfect 4th Saxophone concert
- Christmas Fair
- Pantomime
- Music Mayhem
- Puppet show
- London Mountain Film Festival

The Village Institute has been used by a number of regular groups including:

- Stepping Stones nursery
- Cononley Art Group
- Pilates
- Yoga
- Cinema Club
- Brownies and Rainbows
- W.I
- Parish Council

The Village Institute has also been used by a number of private hirers.

The Committee have been looking at improving the quality and performance of the building. This included the installation of a new audio system and new smart controls for the heating.

The Committee is looking at making the building more energy efficient. A decarbonisation survey was carried out on the building and the committee has been assessing what works are feasible.

The Committee purchased two thermal imaging cameras to assess the energy efficiency of the building. These cameras are now available to Cononley residents free of charge to assess their own homes as part of the Stay Warm and Save Money scheme.

The Committee applied to the North Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund for de-carbonisation. This will part fund Phase 1 of the works including window replacement, thermal blinds, solar PV installation, new LED lighting, insulation of the front door, clock tower, underfloor in all areas, lowering the ceiling in the meeting room and re-carpeting. These works should commence in April.

These works should be completed by the end of summer. The Committee will then look at phase 2 which will require more structural changes including the ceiling of the main hall.

Finally, thanks were given to all members of the Committee, the Treasurer and the Caretaker and booking agent.



The Rep was asked about the grant amount. The Grant was for roughly £30,000 plus the addition of £10,000 from the Committees reserves.

7. PLAYING FIELD TRUST

A representative from Friends of Cononley Playing Field gave a report on the Playing Field.

The Rep explained that the Playing Field Trust is not as well-resourced as the Village Institute Trust.

Playing Field improvements were completed in May 2023 and are enjoyed by many.

The Friends of Cononley Playing Field group formed in March 2023. They conducted a survey on what residents would like to see in the Playing Field. As a result, the group is exploring the idea of a wildflower area and a new noticeboard.

The Rep informed the meeting that the Gala in 2023 was very successful and raised £6000. She also gave thanks to the Beer Festival team for donating proceeds to the Playing Fields.

Finally, the Rep reported that there will be no gala in 2024 due to a lack of volunteers.

8. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

a) Cononley Wildlife Group

A representative from Cononley Wildlife Group addressed the meeting.

They explained that the group was formed in July 2020 on a Facebook sharing wildlife photos during lockdown. This group soon had over 500 members.

The group exists to monitor and protect local wildlife. They gather statistics of local wildlife and erect warning signs to protect nesting birds.

In April 2021, the group was asked by the Parish Council to restore and develop the Pinfold. These works included:

- Planting trees
- Maintaining paths
- Creating a log pile for insects
- Adding an additional seat
- Adding bird feeders

The next project will be to remove the Himalayan Balsam by the beck. This will be a gradual process and will have to be repeated over a number of years to reduce the amount.



The steering committee currently has four members. The funds are healthy however they are always looking at ways to raise more funds.

b) Friends of Deadeye

A representative from the Friends of Deadeye group addressed the meeting.

They explained how Deadeye Pond was donated to North Yorkshire Council 25 years ago. It is now a Parish Council asset.

Plans were drawn up to improve Deadeye, these plans have now been carried out and works completed including a new viewing platform and gate. These works were funded through a £10,000 donation from National Lottery and Section 106 funds.

Deadeye is still very much a blank canvas. The group is meeting at Deadeye on 24 March 2024 and invites anyone to come along and help.

c) Friends of Cononley Station

A representative from the Friends of Cononley Station group addressed the meeting.

They explained that the group currently has four members. They aim to make the Station look good and smart.

They are hoping to replant the tubs. The group sends the village newsletter to Northern Rail to inform them of events that may impact the station including the need for a second defibrillator and the Canal Towpath Access works.

Councillor Brown informed the meeting that the Hellifield to Manchester service will be running two trains per day. The bus service from Skipton to Grassington will be re-instated to its previous levels.

d) Community Speed Watch

The PC Clerk read a report from Cononley Speed Watch group.

The Speed Watch Group is now in its seventh year. It continues to monitor traffic through Cononley on a regular basis. These deployments play an important role in reminding drivers that the majority of Cononley is a 20mph zone.

The traffic calming measures on Cononley Lane continue to be effective. The extension of the 20mph zone to include the entrance to the Playing Field is welcomed as are the repeater signs throughout the village.

In 2023, the group carried out 89 deployments monitoring just short of 8,000 vehicles. 4.8% of these were travelling in excess of 24mph. the fastest speed recorded in the 20 zone was 38mph on Main Street.



Thanks were given to the small number of villagers who regularly turn out to carry out these deployments.

Details were given to the meeting for anyone interested in getting involved.

e) Cononley Bowling Club

The Chairman of the Bowling Club addressed the meeting.

The Bowling Club has 50 members and is hoping to welcome more. Bowling is an excellent way to exercise and meet new friends. The new season will start after Easter.

Over winter, the Club has had to do a lot of work restoring the green due to nearby trees losing branches.

f) Cononley Women's Institute

A representative from Cononley Women's Institute addressed the meeting.

The group currently has 31 members with more joining. They meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month at the Village Institute.

The first hour of the meeting normally has a theme, for example:

- Beekeeping
- Guide dog training puppies
- A nurse talking about rheumatology
- Plants & flowers
- History of Bettys
- Craft workshops

The second hour is a business meeting.

The group regularly holds parties and events.

The group raises funds through a variety of means for example:

- Auction night
- Easter hat competition
- Craft stalls (at Confest)

The group also donates to a variety of local causes.

g) Any other groups

Confest:



The organisers of Confest addressed the meeting.

They explained that Confest is completely not for profit, is run by volunteers and exists to give back to Cononley. All proceeds go to charity.

The event will take place on 24 July 2024 and has a whole new line up.

Public Governor at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust

The Public Governor for South Craven addressed the meeting on the ongoing issue of the new Airedale Hospital.

He explained that the current building is made from RAAC. The hospital is 1 of 8 hospitals in the country to be completely rebuilt. £1 billion of non-ringfenced money will go towards the building of the new hospital although no plans are set.

The design plan is expected to be finished in Summer 2025. This will include a helicopter pad as the hospital covers a wide area. It is hoped that construction will start at the end of 2026 and the new hospital will open in 2031.

9. OPEN DISCUSSIONS, QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

An elector asked if the contact details for the local community groups could be included in a newsletter format. The elector was informed that the list of groups is on the noticeboard in the Village Institute. The newsletter compiler contacts all community groups for contributions to the newsletter and provides details of the groups that provide contributions.

An elector asked if some Section 106 money could be used to improve the footpath to Deadeye. This item has been added to the Parish Council meeting agenda for April.

Finally, an elector asked about gritting throughout the village. North Yorkshire Council only does the main road and school runs for the first three days of wintry weather. The Parish Council will review the gritting routes followed by the Lengthsman. Councillor Brown will look in-to the possible installation of more grit bins in the village.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

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(Chair)

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(Date)