

BYLAND WITH WASS AND OLDSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL PLANNED FOR THE 4TH MAY 2020.

THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD A VIRTUAL MEETING USING AN EXCHANGE OF EMAILS OVER TWO DAYS. THIS RECORD IS A DISTILLATION OF THE EXCHANGES AND CONSTITUTES 'THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING'.

1. The Covid-19 pandemic.

The pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus has resulted in a lockdown so that public meetings can no longer be held. The Annual Wass and Oldstead village meetings held in May have been cancelled but may be held later in the year if conditions improve and if residents indicate that these meetings should take place.

With regard to future Parish Council meetings, a remote meeting using 'skype' or 'zoom' could be considered if the lockdown extends beyond the summer. Alternatively, if the lockdown eases, a meeting in the last week of August could be considered. Social distancing in the parish hall at Wass could be achieved as the main room is large enough. At this time, the Annual Return could be approved and any other matters which arise in the meantime.

2. Vote of thanks.

The councillors gave a vote of thanks to all who work in the National Health Service, to the those in the emergency services and to all carers, especially those who live in Byland, Wass and Oldstead.

3. Vote of thanks.

A vote of thanks was given to residents who have set up a community email in Wass and Byland and to those who have ensured that more vulnerable residents are cared for. Similarly, a vote of thanks for residents of Oldstead who have made sure that no-one in their community has been without care.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2020.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 20th January were held to be a true record of the meeting. They will be signed by the chair, Cllr. Roger Statham when the lockdown is over.

5. Matters arising.

5.1. Oldstead. The repairs to the roundels at Oldstead have been delayed because of the Covid-19 virus.

5.1. Oldstead. Cllr. Gibson (Vice chair) and Cllr. Metcalfe are due to leave Oldstead in the near future. Cllr. Gibson informed the councillors that two residents have so far expressed an interest in representing Oldstead on the Parish Council.

5.2. Confirmation of Cllr. Roger Statham as chairman. By majority vote, the councillors indicated that they were happy for Cllr. Statham to continue to hold the position of chair of the Parish Council for another year.

6. Finance.

6.1. Balance. The balance on the account stands at £5,218.14

6.2. Annual Return. New regulations are in place because of the Covid-19 virus. The date for sending in the Annual Return is now the 1st September, although the financial year is still from 1st April 2019 – 31st March 2020. The extended date was set because the Annual Return requires the signatures of the chairman, the clerk and the internal auditor. These are ‘wet’ signatures which means that the forms need to be passed between the clerk, the chairman and the internal auditor, therefore requiring some degree of interaction which is not permitted under the lockdown.

7. Planning Applications.

Wass. Planning application for Cherry Garth, Wass. A 2-storey side extension. No objections.

Oldstead. Eden Cottage. No objections.

Oldstead. Proposed road for forestry purposes at Cockerdale, Oldstead Woods. No objections.

8. Any other business.

8.1. Signs at Byland Abbey. Cllr. Statham organized the purchase of new signs for the roundels at Byland Abbey to replace the signs which had been stolen. ‘Fox’s Signs’ in Thirsk made these signs – the total cost was £181.70

8.2. Bench at Byland Abbey. This has been repaired by Flawith Wheelers at no cost to the Parish Council.

Jenny Clarke

Parish clerk