

Byland with Wass Village Meeting

7:30 pm 15th May 2023 Wass Village Hall

Minutes

Welcome

Cllr. Bradley welcomed everyone to the Annual Village meeting. Another eventful year with a Platinum Jubilee, a State Funeral and a Coronation. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way. Thanks also to those who did the “Big Help Out” and to those who will be doing their volunteering at other village events. Welcome to Mike Hawtin our guest speaker for the evening who would be talking about North Yorkshire Moors Dark Skies Initiative.

In total 17 people attended the meeting.

Apologies

18 apologies were received prior to the meeting.

Speaker

Mike Hawtin spoke about the North Yorkshire Moors Dark Skies initiative. The scheme has been operating for approx. 3 years and is increasing in popularity year on year.

Mike’s presentation covered a number of aspects namely:

Mindfulness – Yoga sessions at night, very relaxing

Education – Star gazing for young and old alike, very popular and well worth attending.

Rural Economy – Increasing every year, £0.5M revenue from festival in 2019. Northumberland are 10 years ahead of NYM and generate £25M/year

Health – Light pollution disrupt Circadian Rhythms so vital it is controlled.

Wildlife – Light has a major impact on wildlife. Bats don’t leave roost if too much light, Birds become exhausted due to high levels of lighting and Hedgehogs whilst normally light averse are attracted by food sources in the light leading to increased danger from predators.

Energy usage – Use of LED lighting has major impact on Energy Costs. NYM recommend bulbs less than 2700K equivalent to “Warm Light” as these lights have less impact on wildlife and humans.

NYM offer advice to Farmers and residents on minimising light pollution from Farms and Housing and recommend lighting solutions compatible with “Dark Skies”.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting 23rd May 2022 previously circulated were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

Slow signs on Wass Bank

Chair and Clerk have spoken to NY Highways about incorrect positioning of Slow sign on the road. The shrub hiding the sign has been cut back and although we are not happy with the position of the sign on the road no further action is anticipated.

The Queen's Green Canopy

A total of 1108 trees have been registered on the Queen's Green Canopy website, more have been planted since. The map on the website is poor so Cllr. Bradley asked if residents wanted a sign. No action.

Jubilee Village Photo

Thanks to Peter Gilruth for organising Photographer and for framing Jubilee Photograph.

20s Plenty

Cllr. Williams gave an update on the initiative in NY. Transport Cabinet Member requested to put £1M into budget for "20s Plenty" rollout but instead they decided to conduct speed checks in Built up areas. Unlikely that any progress will be made as it looks like it's been pushed into the "long grass".

Blocked Drains

Persistent problem following heavy rain and although the drains are cleared the problem persists. Cllr. Bradley will try and get meeting with NY Highways to find potential solutions.

Problems with Roads or Drains in Wass use the NY Parish Portal or contact the Clerk Mike Bradley. Alternatively contact NY Council by phone. See below.

Matters to be discussed

Formation North Yorkshire Council

Unitary Authority formally came into existence 1st April 2023 replacing district councils (Ryedale). Next elections will be May 2027. Subject to consultation a new Unitary Authority comprising North Yorkshire Council and City of York Council will be formed under a "devolution deal" leading to the election of a directly elected mayor. These Mayoral elections are proposed for May 2024.

To contact NY Council telephone 0300 131 2 131.

Lighting between crossroads and car park

To aid staff and visitors to the Stapleton Arms use the Village Hall Car Park "Dark Skies" friendly solar powered lighting has been proposed to light the route from the Church to the Car Park and back. 3 or 4 lights will be required which are activated by movement sensor between the hours 16.30 – 23.30. The lights will go off after approx. 1 minute (details to be discussed with manufacturer. NYM believe they can fund the capital cost of the lights as a demonstration project if the Parish funds the installation.

Honorarium

Hannah Plowman has asked that the Honorarium of £200 be used by the Village for an environmental related project. It was proposed that this might be used for the installation of the Solar Powered lights.

POST MEETING NOTE: HANNAH IS HAPPY TO USE HONORARIUM FOR LIGHT INSTALLATION

Other parish Matters raised by meeting

Verges

Annie French raised the issue of assessing the environmental impact of cutting Verges throughout the village. Several of the verges have protected plants and flowers which must be allowed to “seed” before cutting commences. Cllr. Bradley agreed to set up a meeting with the NY Ecologist to try and map which verges in the village were to be classed as “sensitive” so that a plan to improve the wellbeing of sensitive species could be prepared.

Precept

Peter Gilruth noted that the precept in the Parish had increased by 33% with little explanation as to why the increase was made. It was acknowledged that more explanation in the future was required. For information the increase was made to cover:

Inflation, Potential charges for 5 Grit Bins/Heap for previous 3 years, Potential additional charges from newly formed North Yorkshire Council.

Subsequently to the submission of the Precept Cllr. Bradley and the Clerk had meetings with NY Highways and clarified the Grit Bins the Parish were responsible for. It appears that NY Highways are responsible for the filling Grit Bins in the Parish. The full impact of changes to NY Council are yet to be felt so it is too early to assess whether additional charges might fall on the Parish.