**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAY 16th MAY 2023**

PRESENT: Cllr. J. Metcalfe (Chairman) Cllr. J. Emsley

 Cllr. J.Owen Cllr. D McGonnigal

 Cllr. J. Walker Cllr. S. Brash

 Cllr. J. Mckenzie Cllr. A. Weller

 Cllr. J. Brown

ATTENDANCE: Carl Lis (Clerk) and five members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr M.Howson

1. **Matters arising from last year’s Annual Parish Meeting – None**
2. **Police Report – In the absence of a police representative there was no report.**
3. **Chairman’s report – Cllr. Metcalfe made the following report:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting. This is my opportunity to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their support, hard work, and dedication to our Parish It is also an opportunity to thank someone who has been an integral part of our Parish Council for more than 40 years and I speak, of course, of our Clerk Carl Lis. Carl has served our Community as a Parish Councillor, District Councillor and in his various roles on the YDNP Authority. His outstanding contribution to our small Community is something which we are all grateful for and is something which he should be very proud of. As our Clerk he continues to provide invaluable advice and assistance to my fellow Councillors, and he continues to make a difference. Thank you for all you do!!

The time last year we were praising our recently appointed Clerk Catherine, who sadly found the task of the Audit a task to far and resigned in Jene. To his credit Carl offered his services as our “acting Clerk and, as Councillors, we are all very grateful for his help and for the new accounting systems he has introduced.

Following our decision to accept Carl’s resignation from the Parish Council to act as our Clerk we collectively sought to appoint a new Councillor and we were all delighted when John Owen put himself forward for election and was duly elected to serve on our Parish Council. I don’t think that any of us realised that the desire by members of our community to hold an open and fair election would result in costs exceeding £5000. This cost has certainly impacted on our ability to fund some projects in the village, and we will certainly have to bear this in mind for the future.

The Parish Council continues to provide services which are the envy of many other Parishes throughout North Yorkshire and beyond. Not only do we provide street lighting and maintain two sets of public toilets (which we now own) but we provide a play area, pump track and with the help of volunteers will shortly be able to provide a “Jump Track”. Over the past year we have been able to provide a complete range of local services and have made safe those areas where Ash Die Back was threatening to force the closure of some public areas and all this against a background of rising costs.

I have already mentioned one group of volunteers but to be truthful our community is blessed with a whole army of volunteers most of whom don’t realise the huge difference they each make to the lives of so many people in the village in the Parish. There are too many to mention but you all know who you are, and this Parish Council is proud of all of you and grateful for everything that you do.

Our successes as a Parish Council have been limited somewhat by the financial pressures that have been prevalent, however despite this each of them has made a difference to our community. From the purchase of the Public Toilets and the Park to the policy decision we have taken to ensure that any new development in the Parish is more environmentally friendly. We continue to campaign for a 30mph speed limit on the A65 through our village, sadly with limited success. Our working relationship with the new North Yorkshire Authority is getting off to a difficult start. We continue to part fund the Community Centre and have seen this beacon in the centre of the village start to shine again after the lockdowns closed this facility in previous years. We are fortunate to have a dedicated staff, excellent manager and yet again a team of willing volunteers who man the library and tourist information centres.

In order to keep pace with ever rising costs we have raised our precept for the current financial year but with the ever-increasing costs of heating and lighting it is inevitable that hire costs at the Community Centre will have to rise.

From my own perspectives it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council for the past eight years and I look forward to continuing to serve our Community as a “back bencher”. Once again my thanks go our Clerk and my fellow Councillors, not just for your help and support but also for your compassion and advice which I value. Thank you.

1. **County Councillor’s Report – The Clerk read out Cllr Ireton’s report below:**

The new North Yorkshire Council, launched on April the 1st, the merger of North Yorkshire County Council and the 7 District and Borough authorities paves the way for the long-awaited devolution deal which is government key policy, meaning that decision making powers are handed to local political leaders.

Millions of pounds in funding will be provided to shape major policies and projects on a regional level.

On August 1st, Yorkshire Day last year, a proposed devolution deal for York and North Yorkshire was unveiled. An investment fund of £540 million is due to lead to benefits, ranging from new and better paid jobs, an improvement in training for skills, to the all-important more affordable housing initiative.

The new authority has brought together the eight councils which provided services to the public. This one single organisation now covers all of England’s largest county.

More than 80% of staff live in North Yorkshire and take pride in delivering the best service for the community which they serve.

All the support, advice and other services are readily and more easily accessible by means of one telephone number,

One website, one customer service team and one set of face-to-face customer access points across the whole county.

There is a main office in each former District supported by 30 additional customer access points in public locations.

One authority gives us all the best possible chance of protecting the services our resident’s value. At this time of exceptional financial pressure on public services we have had to increase the CT to the maximum 2.99% this year and use the Adult Social Care levy of 2% because of the rising demand for service and inflation hitting the council the same as everyone else. We estimate there is bound to be a shortfall of more than £30 million in the new council’s revenue budget for the next financial year. This will have to be covered by a one-off use of reserves, after some additional savings have also been introduced.

North Yorkshire Council has an overall spending power of approximately £1.4 billion, £345 million of which is to be spent on schools,

Because services have been joined up, and spending power has been maximised North Yorkshire Council will save between £30 and £70 million, which will become annual savings. This money will then be used to protect the most important local services at this critical time when each one of us, and every organisation, is feeling the pressure of increased cost.

There will be tough financial decisions ahead, but by making this change now, we are in a much stronger position to manage the rising costs and increased demands for services.

1. **Financial Report for the current year – The Clerk gave the following report**

The clerk reported that the precept for 2022/23 had been set at £98500, an increase of £4500 for the year. The figure of £52000, the same as the previous year, was put into the general fund which covers grass cutting of verges and the park, maintenance of flowerbeds at Laundry Lane and Central Gardens, tree works and grass cutting on the Brow, general maintenance and administration costs including the Clerk’s salary. It also covers the cost of cleaning and maintaining the two sets of public toilets in the village. The figure for the lighting fund remained at £15000 to cover the maintenance of the village lighting and any new lights that it may be necessary to fit and the electricity supply costs. An increase of £4500 was allowed for the Community Fund in anticipation of contributions anticipated to the costs for the Queens Diamond Village celebrations as well as providing an annual contribution to the Community Centre. There were increased costs during the year from the General Fund of £5000 due to the necessity to hold a by election for a Parish Councillor a £4000 increase for Insurance and costs associated with the purchase from Craven District Council of the Village Toilets and the land at the picnic and play area. There were also large increases in utility costs for electricity and gas at the Community Centre. The cumulative overall effect on the Council reserves was a reduction of almost £14000. The Parish Council continues to fund the floodlighting for St Mary’s Church.

Bank balances at the year-end were £45134.57 for the Parish Council and £19467.57 for the Community Centre.

Final accounts for the last two financial years are available from the Clerk. The current year’s accounts have not yet been passed by the internal auditor but are scheduled to be complete by late May, after which the Annual Return will be forwarded to the external auditor together with the copies of the relevant documents. The clerk confirmed that he was satisfied that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the parish council’s financial transactions for the years to which they relate. The notice advertising the exercise of electors’ rights to inspect the accounts will be posted with a copy of the internal auditor’s report on the parish council noticeboard and website assuming completion on the 13th June for the required period ending on 22nd July. The Annual Return will also be posted up for this period. All of these documents will be posted on the Parish Council’s website.

1. **Report and Accounts from the Bull Land Charity Committee – The Chairman gave the following reports**

**The Trustees are currently Rev.N.Trenholme, Cllr J.Metcalfe, Mr.P.Weare and Mr. R.M.Chalmers**

The Trustees approved two applications in 2022/23. These were for the Ingleton in Bloom volunteers to purchase planters and compost and from an Ingleton resident to help meet the cost of an electric piano needed prior to university attendance and to enable furtherance of a career as a musician. A third application for funding to train as a lifeguard was regrettably turned down as it was felt that as there was no guarantee that the applicant would commit to regular service at Ingleton Pool.

The accounts showed that once current payments have been received of £200 from the Parish Council for the Allotment Lease and £360 for the Bull Land Rents there will be a balance of £1669.14 available for the calendar year which is rather more than usual due to the late payment of the land rental for the previous year.

The Clerk confirmed that he would attend and record proceedings for future meetings.

1. **Any Questions/Items for Discussion – None**

Cllr Weller asked if he could be informed regarding the background behind the Bull Land Charity.

The Chairman informed him that the Charity wax an incorporated association made up of the Vicar of St Marys Church Ingleton who normally took up the role as Chairman and three other Trustees appointed by the Parish Council. The Charity administers the rental income of three fields in Ingleton Parish for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish.

The activities are regulated by a Charity Commission Scheme which includes the appointment of trustees who meet twice a year normally in May and November to consider applications from local residents for funds.

The Chairman asked Mr Walter Tooby if he still served on the Bentham Common Land Charity as there appeared to be some speculation regarding its continued existence. Mr Tooby confirmed its existence and was active and that he still represented the Parish Council on the body.

1. **To consider written resolutions received by 9th May**

The Clerk confirmed that he had not received any written resolutions.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.36pm.