

TOLLERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 3 May 2005 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: Mr R Williams (Chairman), Mrs S Jackson, Mr F Wade, Mr R Spark, Mrs E Rogers (Clerk) Mr Bill Wood (Neighbourhood Watch), and 20+ members of the public.

1. Apologies – Mr A Haugh and Mrs A Thompson
2. Minutes – The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 6 April 2004 were agreed and then signed by Mr Williams.
3. Matters Arising - none.
4. Chairman's Report – Mr Williams made a short speech regarding the busy year that 2004-2005 was for Tollerton Parish Council. The Council has dealt with issues on behalf of villagers including the change in flight paths for the aeroplanes at Linton on Ouse and the ongoing issue of the affordable housing proposal. He stated that the Council had received a large cash injection from the developers of lngs View during the year some of which has already helped projects within the village. The large remainder of the money is to be used for the benefit of the village and will be used to increase the funding and grants available.
5. Guest Speaker – Bill Wood. Mr Wood promoted the idea that a Neighbourhood Watch scheme reduces crime, as well as the fear of crime, and helps to improve the sense of community. It is a statistical fact that crime is much lower where there is an active Neighbourhood Watch e.g. Easingwold. Signs displayed within the village send a message to criminals that people are vigilant and will report unusual activity. He reminded the council and villagers that Tollerton used to have a Watch, which ceased to exist, and that rusty signs tell criminals that people no longer care.
Mr Wood also reminded the council of their obligations under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 but that there had been little progress in the two years since he had last visited the village. Only one member of the public, out of a village with over 1000 residents, had come forward to offer to run the scheme. Many local villages have schemes including Brandsby, Farlington and Linton with one in course for Youlton, Aldwark and Flawith.
Mr Wood emphasised how easy it is to set up and run a scheme and only two to four volunteers were needed. There is a very experienced committee in Easingwold who help smaller villages to set up and they offer ongoing advice and assistance.
Mr Wood expressed his surprise that there was such a low turnout at the meeting for the size of Village that Tollerton is. He emphasise that a separate meeting should be held and that the support of the shop owner and publican should be sought.
Questions were taken from members of the public one of whom said that there had been a Farm Watch but they had never had any feedback, from the police, and became disillusioned. Mr Wood advised that there is now a "ringmaster" system in place where the Neighbourhood Watch representatives will be informed of any activities in the area immediately. He appreciated that the police response is not as it should be but that they are addressing this. He did, however, stress that all information received from the public is logged onto the police system.
The public questioned the Councillors as to what action had been taken to communicate awareness of and the progress in forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Mrs Jackson replied that there had been a question on the subject in the Parish Plan questionnaire sent to every household at the end of 2003. Only three people had responded positively to starting a scheme and only one of those, Gordon McKee, had agreed to be active in the formation. Also, that the information is on the Village web site.
Members of the public appeared to respond positively to the formation of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme within the Village.
6. Financial Statement – The Clerk gave a financial report, a copy of which is attached, and invited members of the public to inspect the Accounts, which were available for scrutiny at the meeting.
7. Tollerton Sports & Recreational Club – Annual Report – Mr Russon said that it had been a disappointing year in some ways for the playing field as their first application for funding had been turned down and that the Saturday morning children's football club had folded for various reasons. Also, that the cricket team would not be able to compete in the league this year. On a more positive note Mr Russon emphasised the there was a dedicated management committee and that there are good relationships with the Parish Council and the Village Hall committee. He advised that a joint fundraising Auction of Promises is planned for October.

Approved:
Chairman

Mr Russon emphasised that the playing field costs money simply to keep e.g. insurance and mowing and that more volunteers are needed, particularly those with qualifications to work with children. Maintenance is an ongoing issue and the fencing is due to be replaced and hopefully a tree planting scheme to make the field more attractive will form part of the wider plan proposed eighteen months ago. The plan includes a skateboard park; better-disabled access and an improved children's play area. The proposals will cost a lot of money and the committee will be seeking funds, to match those that the Parish Council have, for the necessary improvements. Some of the proposals require planning permission and this has delayed the applications for funding.

Questions were taken from the public and Mr Russon was asked the approximate timescale for the skateboard area. He advised that generally funding applications take at least six months but that they are not necessarily successful. Mr Russon was also asked the approximate cost of the plans the reply being that the whole development would be approximately £100,000 with the £20,000 for the skateboard area and around £25,000 for the proper refurbishment of the children's play area.

Mr Russon was asked if the cricket practise nets could be put up and he advised that he would ask the cricket club.

7. Tollerton War Memorial Institute – Annual Report - Mr Jackson read a report, a copy of which is attached. One member of the public enquired about the drainage at the rear of the Village Hall and Mr Jackson said he would investigate.
8. Any Other Business – although the proposed affordable housing was on the agenda for the annual Parish meeting, following the AGM, the issue was raised by the members of the public and discussed at this point. This forms a separate document which will be attached to these minutes and those of the annual meeting which followed so they would be available to the public.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

Approved:
Chairman