

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting, 16th September 2024 at St Mary's Church Huggate

In attendance

Clive Owen (Chair), Claire Myers, Stewart Middleton, Vicky Knocker, Sophia Hobson, Penny Hudson (clerk) plus 13 Parishioners. Apologies from Jane Thorpe and Kevin Ashurst.

1. Last year's minutes from 23rd May 2023 were approved and seconded and signed by Clive
2. Ruth Braithwaite from St Mary's Church provided a progress report about the church. The amazing transformation of the church, into a community space, is nearing completion. The new floor, removal of pews and replacement seating is complete. The installation of heating, accessible toilet and kitchen is due to be completed soon. There are four projects in progress including a book about the history of the village and church, digital mapping of the churchyard and a children's activity identifying stone masons marks. Ideas for using the space are most welcome.

3. Clive reported the following

Who are we? Since our last meeting in May 2023, Pete Cowan has resigned from his role as Councillor, we thank him for his service to the Parish Council. I have been Chair since January 2021 and was nominated again so will continue in this role. The councillors are myself, Claire Myers, Stewart Middleton, Jane Thorpe, Kevin Ashurst, Vicky Knocker and Sophia Hobson. Abby Popely, who was our clerk for almost 5 years resigned and we thank her for all her hard work. She has now been replaced by Penny Hudson. We meet on the third Monday of the month in the Juli Arnos room on Mill Lane and have 10 meetings each year.

What's been done since our last meeting in May 2023? The car park is well used and has a accessible picnic bench and path installed in the 'wild area'. The other seating has been treated. We are working with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to protect and manage this area which has lots of wildflowers including orchids. This includes cutting back the brambles and dealing with the Japanese knotweed over the next year. The car parking area has been weeded – our thanks to Adrian, and vegetation cutback. The notice board has a UV filter and new map. All signs are now in place and new signs asking for voluntary donations have been installed.

Further attempts have been made to reduce speeding in the village:

- The Speedwatch volunteers continue to record the speeds of cars outside the pub to deter high speeds through the village – our thanks go to those who have kindly given up their time to do this for over 4 years,
- We are investigating the purchase of a speed monitoring system which is an automatic, solar powered, speed watch device.

We continue to work with East Riding Council regarding maintenance requests and issues (mainly potholes which we've had varying levels of success with!). A village walkabout took place over the summer where someone from the Council visits the village with us and we highlight areas that need attention – if anyone has any input please do let us know.

A new defibrillator has been purchased to replace old one which had served for over 10 years. Fortunately the old one stopped working during our defibrillator training session in January! We were able to replace it immediately and received a donation to cover the cost of the new battery. Thank you to Vicky for allowing us to use the pub for the training and for regularly checking the defib is working. The area under the basket swing now has rubber matting installed. We replaced some solar lights that were used on the Green at Christmas others previously installed are still

working well, thank you to the villager who charged the lights for us and to the Councillors who put the lights up on the trees – hopefully you’ll agree that these looked lovely over the festive period.

The 2 marquees are available for villagers to borrow and there are several bookings. Table and chairs are also available– if anyone would like to use these please do get in touch.

Thank you to Helen Bowman for the hire of her meeting room. The minutes from all our meetings are always published on the noticeboard in the bus shelter and are also on the village website where you can see what has been discussed and agreed at the monthly Parish Council Meetings.

Communication - The 2 village WhatsApp groups are continuing to prove useful and popular with about 100 people on each group, if anyone still isn’t on the groups who wants to be please get in touch with Penny who will add you. We’ve started including a link to planning applications onto the WhatsApp information group just to make you aware of any applications that are received.

Thank you to Jenny Zarek and Teresa Purdy who produce the monthly Huggate News which we input to each month. This is delivered or emailed to every household and is also published on the village website.

Hopefully communication within the village is still working well but if anyone has any other ideas please do let us know.

4. Finance Financial Year ending March 2024

Opening Balance	£5776
Receipts in year	£6521 which included
	- precept of £4800
	- donations
	- VAT that we claimed back
Payments in year	£11394
Closing balance	£903

Costs incurred include a new defibrillator, ROPSA annual inspection ,filling salt bins and mowing the grass for which we pay East Riding Council, the clerk’s salary and tax, insurance, auditors fees, the village website domain, contribution towards the printing of the Huggate news. It also included a business rate charge, which was not valid and the monies have been refunded in the current financial year. The accounts have been audited and published on the website and were displayed on the notice board during July.

5. There is still one vacancy for a Councillor so if you would like to be part of the Parish Council please have a chat with one of us.

6. There was an open discussion regarding the Auto Speedwatch scheme, broken gate and the second pond. All comments will be considered by the councillors. Thanks were given to Clive and Ruth and to the refreshment providers.

To be agreed and signed at the 2025 Village Meeting

_____ Chairperson

_____ Date