

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, Great Ayton Parish Council
Held in the Discovery Centre on Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7.00 pm**

Present

Cllr Blackmore, Cllr F Greenwell (Chair), Cllr A Hall, Cllr C Hall, Cllr R, Cllr R Short. Angela Livingstone (Clerk), 1 parishioner.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Baylin and Cllr Moorhouse

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 23rd May 2022 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's report

The Chair read through her report highlighting work completed over the year, giving particular mention to the change in Councillors and Clerk across the year. She informed of the work completed by the Council and the lead Councillors involved.

5. Public Questions

It was questioned if the toilets could be left open later during the summer months as this was currently being closed at 3.30pm. Resolved: The Clerk was asked to request that the toilets were open until a later time.

The Meeting was closed at 7.45 pm

Attached Chair's report

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2023.

Welcome to this meeting, which is an opportunity to record Parish Council business since the last public meeting on 23rd May 2022. Our thanks go to the outgoing Councillors for their service to the village.

Since the last Annual meeting, there have been changes to the membership of the Parish Council. Angela Taylor, Ron Kirk, Andrew Snowdon and Nigel Baylin were unopposed at the election and were appointed to the Parish Council, with Angela Taylor as Chair. There was a requirement for additional Councillors to be co-opted and Richard Short, Jo Blackmore and Frances Greenwell were co-opted in July, Christopher Hall in December and Allison Hall in March.

Andrew Snowdon retired in August. Following the resignation in December of Angela Taylor as Council Chair and Nola Atkinson as Clerk to the Council, Frances Greenwell was appointed as Chairman and Andrew Snowdon was appointed as interim Clerk until the appointment of Angela Livingstone in March. Andrew Snowdon deserves the Council's thanks for his service as a Councillor and for stepping into the breach when the Council was without a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

The Parish Council exists to take care of the village and its residents. Day to day services include upkeep of the cemetery, village greens, play area and other open spaces and running the allotments. Working groups have been established to consider issues in specific areas of the Council's work and take proposals to the full Council if required. The lead Councillors for initial contact are :

Playpark – Councillor Blackmore

Allotments – Councillor Baylin

Cemetery – Councillor Greenwell

Buildings – Councillor Short

Open Spaces – Councillor C Hall.

The Council also has responsibility for the public toilets on Park Rise, which recently underwent a complete refurbishment, which has provided a modern facility for residents and visitors.

Yatton House community garden has been established on an unused allotment with funding and support from the Moorson Trust, Rotary Clubs and the Brighten up Great Ayton group, who also tend planting spaces in the village. The Riverside – or Bottom Field as it was known- is being developed into a wildflower meadow along with an area of the cemetery.

As far as planning is concerned, having an overview of applications within the Parish boundary is vital to retaining the status of Great Ayton as a service village, helping to ensure that the local view regarding inappropriate development is considered by the Planning Authority.

As well as its usual work, the Parish Council supports special events. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon and the bi-annual village Fete were held in June and the Tour of Britain cycle race came through the village in September. The Christmas tree provided the background for Carols on the Green.

These events and many other activities around the village would not take place without dedicated volunteers who do not receive the recognition that they deserve. They put themselves forward to serve the community and they have our gratitude. Special mention must be made of Lee and Paul. They help with Council events, look after the toilets and take great care of the cemetery. They also do a lot of work behind the scenes to keep the village looking good. The Council is grateful for the work they do.

Finally, on 1st April, District Councils were abolished and North Yorkshire became a unitary authority, becoming a single council for the whole of Yorkshire. Only time will tell if the system is as efficient as that which it replaced.

Frances Greenwell BEM

Chairman.