

## **CLAPHAM cum NEWBY**

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

### **Minutes**

#### **Present**

Clapham cum Newby Parish council: Cllrs Colin Price (Chairman), Diane Elphinstone, Gerald Kay, Ann Sheridan, Paul Bratt

Nigel Harrison (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

NYCC and CDC: Cllr David Ireton.

CDC and YDNPA: Cllr Carl Lis

Simon Peach, George Greenbank, Don Gamble, Chris Hart, George Sheridan, Brian Rycroft, Brenda Pearce, Rae Lonsdale., Philip Farrer, Marie Farrer, Annie Farrer, Isobel Palmer, John Sinclair, Ken Pearce and a parishioner from Newby

**1. Apologies:** Cllr John Dawson, Sue Mann, the Rev. John Davies, Rob Ashford (YDNPA) and Rae Lonsdale who arrived part way through the meeting owing to attending an incident with CRO

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 27th March 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by Cllr Colin Price, Chairman of Clapham cum Newby Parish Council. There were no matters arising.

**3. Report from chairman of the Parish Council-** see notes

#### **4. Reports from District and county Councillors, YDNPA representatives and Ppolice**

There was no police representative present.

Cllr Carl Lis spoke both as a representative of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and of Craven District Council. He indicated that the YDNPA had agreed a policy of attracting young families to the area. Measures to accommodate young people who do not wish to leave the Dales are also being considered. It is apparent that many leave when going to university and it is hoped that efforts to provide an alternative to university such as the initiative at Queen Elizabeth School to provide a studio school will prove successful. Planning issues continue to occupy the YDNPA. There has been a new policy in relation to barns and the Authority has granted permission for a hundred road-side barns to be converted. So far only eight have been built. As the YDNPA Management Plan has as one of its aims attracting visitors, barn conversions are permitted for holiday lets as well as for full time occupation. Again there is a substantial discrepancy between permissions granted and projects completed.

With regard to CDC, Councillor Lis said that the charge introduced for the collection of brown bins had not apparently resulted in an increase of fly-tipping of garden waste. There has been an increased uptake of brown bins. With regard to commercial waste CDC is making a charge by weight. Re-cycling is proceeding well with the Council being about 2% behind its target at the moment. A particular area of concern for CDC is dog-fouling.

Cllr David Ireton spoke on behalf of NYCC. He said that the Council is in its ninth year of austerity

and financial pressure is again likely in 2019/20. Demand from vulnerable groups has increased and the Council has to do more with less. The coming financial year will be the fourth in which the government will allow an additional social care precept. Cllr Ireton indicated his support for keeping Clapham C of E Primary School open and said it was essential to get children on to the school roll to that end.

## **5. Reports from community organisations etc.**

### **Community Action Group (re Clapham School)**

Simon Peach informed the meeting that, after a public meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, 2019, a steering group had been set up and submissions will be made to the consultation process on the basis that the school is a good and viable proposition, that its decline has been due to specific factors which are now being addressed and that it could eventually join a federation as a viable school. The Action Group will petition the Diocese and the County Council giving the following reasons for the school to remain open: 1. There has been an under-estimation of the number of children likely to be on the school roll; 2. There is considerable local support, including pledges of financial support and further income streams are hoped to become available from pre-school and after school clubs; 3. A recovering school will be an attractive prospect for federation with other schools; 4. There will be a substantial adverse impact on the local community which in other respects is undergoing rejuvenation; 5. Moving Clapham children to other schools will adversely impact on local transport. The Parish Council expressed its willingness to donate to a charitable fund to contribute towards expenses incurred by those working to keep the school open. Marie Farrer, a school governor, welcomed the work of the Action Group and said that the school governors were now confident that they could put together a budget that would find favour with NYCC.

### **The Friends of Clapham Station**

George Greenbank informed the meeting that the organisation's aims are to make the station more attractive and less sterile. Four half-barrels of flowers have been planted in the last year. The Clapham Development Association leaflet has been made available at the station and it is hoped that some art work and/or publicity will also be placed on the premises. Concerns have been raised about the lack of provision for disabled people to get across to the Lancaster platform. As to the rail service: Northern Rail is no longer strike affected, there are seven trains in each direction per day and the out of date pacer trains are set to go by the end of the year. Some concerns were raised by parishioners about the state of the footbridge at the station.

### **Clapham Sustainability Group**

Don Gamble reported that the bulk buying scheme for fuel oil is successful with a hundred subscribers. There will be a "give and take" event later this year.

All bees survived the winter. There are eight allotment holders and all the plots are looked after fairly well. There is some talk of responsibility for the allotments being shifted to the Village Hall for insurance reasons. Wild flower plots have been planted near the National Park Car Park.

### **Clapham Park Association**

Don Gamble informed the meeting that eight hundred pounds has been spent on play-grade wood chip. Fund raising has gone well and donations have been received from various bodies. Some new mowers have been recruited.

## **Clapham and District Newsletter**

Chris Hart told the meeting that the Newsletter is a community initiative funded by advertising and volunteer fund raising. It is run for and by the community and relies for its content on submissions from people and institutions in the locality. He gave an outline of the constitution of the Newsletter and drew attention to the reliance on advertising for its continued existence, expressing the hope that, in return, the community might provide patronage to those advertising.

## **The Hyper-fast Broadband Project**

Simon Peach reported that it is four years since the project started with four hundred and eighty seven properties in its scope. There are now just three or four properties to be reached, these being in the vicinity of the shop. It is anticipated that these properties will be reached in May at which point the project will be declared complete.

Sixty per cent of the properties in scope are connected and no property is further than a short dig away from connection. Thanks to the Ingleborough Estate, the YDNPA and the Play Park were expressed.

## **Clapham Community Shop**

George Sheridan reported as follows:

Today marks the fourth anniversary of the formal opening of the shop so it is timely to deliver a report on its progress.

- Overall, it has been an encouraging year for our community shop despite the challenging climate which retail is currently facing and strong competition from the major supermarkets.
- We have maintained our staffing levels both in terms of paid staff and volunteers. We have 5 paid employees which we regard as an achievement as it does put money back into the local economy. We still have over 40 volunteers, fulfilling a variety of roles. Although we have lost one or two people (for good reasons) the numbers have been sustained by new people coming in.
- We have been able to undertake a major refurbishment project in the front of the shop, upgrading the plaster work, radically improving the lighting and re-decoration. We saw this as a major achievement as we were able to cover the costs of the work from our own reserves rather than having to apply for grants or ask for interest free loans. We feel that the shop really does look smart but still retains its individual character. After the closure in January we made a conscious decision to attract sales through offers and discounts. We now have a meal deal offer for £3.50 which is proving popular and, for a short period, offered our customers a cash back voucher for a certain level of spend as a sort of reward for returning to us.
- We continue to support other community groups as best we can. At present this is usually by providing raffle prizes for their fundraising events. However, we still have the goal of developing a Community Fund once we have any excess income so that community groups are able to apply to this for small grants. Clearly the work we have done on the fabric of the shop and the need to replace some vital equipment has meant that this has

had to be deferred for the time being.

- We received a particular boost when we were nominated for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service and were visited by 2 of North Yorkshire's Deputy Lord Lieutenants. As this happened during the period when the shop was closed for refurbishment we felt we might be disadvantaged. However, it did coincide with a training session for volunteers so they met far more people than they would have done otherwise. They said that they felt quite humbled by all the efforts and hard work everyone puts in to make the shop a success and such an important part of the life of our village and that, if they were making the award, we would get it. However, we all know that it is a very highly contested award so we may not be successful. Nevertheless, we feel that we have done so well to get to this stage. As a result of this we also received a visit from representatives of the Rank Foundation and invitation to join their RankNet initiative.
- We have also applied to take part in the Community Business Trade Up Programme. If we are successful we will be able to take part in a learning programme, get peer support and, potentially, take advantage of a Match Trading Grant of up to £10,000. This should help us to move the business on and there are a number of ideas on the table for the future including:
  - Expanding our hot food takeaway menu aiming at the tradesmen and tourists. This will mean changes to the kitchen and more of a structured staffing rota. We can grow our GP% through increased food sales. We have also recently catered for 30 persons for an event held by the Yorkshire Dales National Park. With an excellent kitchen facility this is something we can repeat.
  - We are also looking at tapping into the growing cycle mania by encouraging more cyclists to stop and buy refreshments. This can be achieved from better advertising, marketing and providing a seating area and storage area for their bikes whilst shopping. The back garden might provide an opportunity for us to do this.
  - We plan to introduce an eco friendly refilling station. We will supply household and toiletry products by measure. You supply your own recycled receptacle and save money by buying the quantity by millilitre. Hopefully this will be both a crowd pleaser and increase footfall.

Obviously there will be uncertain times given the current climate. However, we will work hard to attract a wider customer base while, at the same time, reacting to the needs of our local community. Their support is the key to the shop's success.

## **The Ingleborough Estate**

Brian Rycroft reported on behalf of the Ingleborough Estate as follows:

The Estate continues to carry out works in the parish. River banks have been cleared of non-native plants. The Green has had some stone laid on the track. The estate carries out a two yearly risk assessment of trees. Ash die-back has arrived in the district and is likely to have a substantial effect in the area. An application has been submitted to replace Bowsber Plantation with an energy crop. Red squirrels are back in the neighbourhood.

Hall Garth is set to return to being a family home and the estate office is to return there also. The refurbishment of three houses in Clapham has been completed and the Estate will let to families where it can.

In relation to planning matters there is progress with regard to development at Newby Cote where

barns are to be converted for local occupancy or holiday lets. An old nissen hut at Home Farm is to be replaced with a new building for the Cave Rescue Organisation.

The Farrer Family trust continues to donate any income it receives from filming activity to charity.

### **Age UK**

Brenda Pearce informed the meeting that an Age UK group is run in the parish as part of the national Age UK. Its immediate governance is from Settle. Until last year some money to run the group was provided. This was however discontinued but may resume in the near future. The group meets on the first Wednesday of each month and among other things, decides where to go the following week on a trip for which the Age UK bus is made available. The group has frequent speakers and enjoys lunches at Clapham School.

### **The Clapham Development Association**

Cllr Elphinstone informed the meeting that the group continues to work in between the Ingleborough Estate and the Parish Council. The association is currently trying to provide maps to be placed around the village.

### **St James' Church Clapham and St Matthew's Church, Keasden**

Rev. John Davies was unable to attend but gave a written report as follows which was read to the meeting by Cllr Price:

The Churches of Clapham and Keasden have been busy with our usual round of worship and social and fund raising activities through the year, from the major undertaking of the Clapham Street Fair to smaller - but nevertheless important - events like a series of community coffee mornings through the winter months. Sunday services are attended by small numbers but boosted on the big festive occasions, where we come into our own. We're always grateful for the many members of the community who help keep the churches ticking over, doing cleaning, groundwork, and ringing the bells, and so on.

We've worked closely with the school on collective worship and special church services, and our school Christingle service was notable for our being joined by a group of Leeds teenagers on an activity week who'd just popped in to have a look at the church and ended up staying and joining in! Keasden's Lambing Service and Parish Walks all were popular events, as was a community Songs of Praise last autumn.

Recent weeks have seen church members engaged with the rest of the community in activities around the school consultation; and the PCC, school governors and Community Action Group have been working closely together to put together a representation as strong as possible to the Local Authority in support of continuing schooling in Clapham. We have been advised that the more representations which are received, the more the Local Authority will take notice - so please do write to add your voice.

### **Cave Rescue Organisation**

Rae Lonsdale reported that 2018 had been quieter for the CRO than the preceding two years. There were 70 incidents requiring its attention. In the main calls centred on three areas:; Ingleton Waterfalls, the Three Peaks and Malham.

There are sixty operational members located from Keighley to Kendal but most are in the Craven area. Forty members have the Mountain Rescue Casualty Core Qualification. There are health professionals among the membership. Ten members are qualified to deal with swift water incidents. B4RN together with a digital communications system has revolutionised communications for the CRO. Some equipment was bought with LIBOR funding.

A new exhibition trailer has been acquired and the organisation has a portable display.

The incident report will be out around Easter, largely paid for by local businesses.

The annual Ingleborough Challenge is scheduled for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2019.

## **6. Parishioner Concerns**

None

AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CDC	Craven District Council
NYCC	North Yorkshire County Council
SLCC	Society of Local Council Clerks
YDNPA	Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority