

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18 March 2024 held at West Cowick Institute at 6pm

Present

Cllr. Joanne Whiteley, Cllr. Steve Jones, Cllr. Bernie McKiernan, Cllr. Gary Williams, Cllr. Julie Leach

Apologies

Cllr. James Hollas, Cllr. Matt Duffy and Cllr. Caroline Fox

Town Mayor's Report 2023/24

APRIL

In conjunction with officers from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council, the Town Council were pleased to facilitate a Grant Funding Event at East Cowick Village Hall, where local community groups and charities could attend to receive support and guidance in both searching and applying for grant funds to support their organisations.

Cross Hills Jubilee Gardens

Snaith & Cowick Together completed the refurbishment of Cross Hills, with the addition of 2 new commemorative planters and a new seat to mark Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee. A free water fountain has also been installed. The project was funded by a grant from the Two Rivers Community Foundation totalling £12,000 but will be maintained going forward by the Town Council.

St. George's Day

Cllr. Steve Jones, still in his role as Town Mayor, hosted a fantastic night of music from the Beverley Male Voice Choir at The Priory Church to celebrate St. George's Day, with The Poets of Esnoid also performing.

MAY

Annual General Meeting

I was honoured to be elected Town Mayor for the following year.

JUNE

800th Anniversary of Snaith's Market Charter

A project led by Cllr. Steve Jones to erect promotional banners around the Town Centre to celebrate the town's 800th Anniversary of being granted Market Charter status was completed. The project was funded by a £4000 grant from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Do It for East Yorkshire scheme.

Scribe Accounting System

After a substantial growth in Town Council activities in recent years, we have also seen an increase in financial transactions therefore a full council decision was made to invest in a bespoke finance package.

JULY

New Councillors

The Town Council welcomed Matt Duffy back to the Council for a second time, as well as Julie Leach, following a Co-option process due to the lack of community interest in the Local Elections in May. The Town Council is now back at full strength of 9 appointed councillors.

CCTV Monitoring Contract

The contract for CCTV Monitoring was re-tendered to ensure best value for the community was still being achieved.

Traffic Management Training

The Assistant Clerk attended a Traffic Management for Community Events training course, which will prove very beneficial for council events moving forward. Without a qualified individual, the Town Council would have to pay a substantial fee for a Traffic Management company at any future events.

IT Support

Due to on-going technical issues, it was agreed to transfer the council's E-mail system over to JSP Media who can provide better support when needed.

Electric Charging Points

The Town Council began liaising with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council over the installation of 2 new Electric Vehicle Charging Points in the town centre. Hopefully these will be installed by the summer of 2024 and will be a valuable asset to the community.

Co-op Community Funding

In July, I also met with the Community Liaison representative from the Co-op Food Stores and we were pleased to distribute a number of Co-op gift cards to various groups within the community.

Goals Post Donation

Councillors agreed to donate the football goal posts that now lie within the new extension footprint at Snaith Primary School, rather than removing them and using them elsewhere.

AUGUST

Priory Church

The Town Council were pleased to be able to support The Priory Church with the purchase of new energy efficient lights which illuminate the outside of the building.

Sponsorship

The Town Council were able to secure sponsorship of £2,000 for the Christmas Market from Lovell Homes, which would ease the financial burden the event brings.

SEPTEMBER

Civic Service

I was privileged to host the Mayor's Civic Service at The Priory Church, which was well attended by many dignitaries from across the East Riding. It was wonderful to showcase what we have in Snaith, and we all enjoyed a delicious Afternoon Tea from Bon Appetit.

Snaith & Cowick Heritage Day

Another successful Classic Bike Event was held on Market Place, organised by Snaith & Cowick Together and funded with a grant from the Town Council. A number of local businesses opened to provide refreshments.

Cemetery Training

Office staff benefited from a 2-day Cemetery Management Training course, which was very useful.

Humber Forest Tree Planting Initiative

Cllr. Gary Williams has been working with Humber Forest regarding the planting of trees – at no cost to the council – at areas throughout the parish. So far, trees have been planted near East Cowick Church and on Spa Well Lane. Hopefully this will continue moving forward as new areas are identified.

OCTOBER

Joint Use Play Area

Unfortunately, play equipment inside the Joint Use Play Area was damaged beyond repair due to arson. Works have now been undertaken to remove the equipment and a replacement will be sought once funds have been received from the insurance company, which will be in excess of £10,000.

New Bin for Spa Well Lane

Councillors agreed to purchase a new litter bin to be installed at the entrance to the PROW on Spa Well Lane at a cost of approximately £500.

Pedestrian Crossing on Cowick Road

The Town Council has been supporting a request from residents to have a zebra crossing installed on Cowick Road. The ERYC agreed to carry out an investigation to monitor the traffic and pedestrian footfall. This would be a great achievement if we were to succeed with this request.

NOVEMBER

Grant Funding

The Town Council were pleased to be able to support 8 local community groups with grant funding totalling just under £6,000.

Remembrance Day Parade

The Remembrance Day Parade and Service took place on Sunday 12th November, which was well supported by the local community. I was also honoured to lay wreaths on behalf of the whole community at The Priory Church, the War Memorial on Beast Fair, East Cowick Church and the RAF Memorial Gardens in Pollington.

Highways issues

The Town Council continue to push for repairs/resurfacing works to both Selby Road and High Street West Cowick, which are both in a bad state of repair.

DECEMBER

Christmas Market

The annual Christmas Market for 2023 was held on Saturday 2nd December and was a phenomenal success once again, despite the desperately cold weather! Over £3000 was raised for local charities at the event, which was also proudly sponsored this year by Lovell Homes.

JANUARY

Precept

At the Full Town Council meeting on 16th January, all councillors voted to increase the Precept by 1.5%. This is one of the lowest increases across the East Riding this year but needed to be made in order to cover additional costs the council is now facing.

Community Events Management

The Town Council received information with regards to Event Management and new procedures required to hold events. The Town Council have recently met with the EYRC Events Safety Advisory Group to discuss the way forward.

FEBRUARY

Councillor Resignation

It was with regret that the council received the resignation of Cllr. Shirley Wordsworth.

Zebra Crossing on Cowick Road

The Town Council received notification that the application had passed the first stage assessment and a speed/camera survey would now be conducted.

MARCH

Litter Picking Scheme

The Town Council have relaunched their monthly litter picking scheme, which is being supported by the Co-Op, who are providing refreshments for afterwards.

Defibrillators

A donation was received from the now defunct Snaith Community Responders team, which will help towards the maintenance and replenishment of the Defibrillators and pads moving forward.

Mayor's Charity Event

Cllr Joanne Whiteley announced that she would be hosting a charity night at The Brewers Arms on Saturday 6th April, raising funds for Mind, Dementia UK and Snaith & Cowick Together. This will be advertised on the council's social media sites.

Throughout the year, the council have continued to liaise with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on a regular basis to raise residents' concerns, challenge decisions and request various actions on many issues such as potholes, speeding, drainage and parking, as well as maintaining contact with the Planning Enforcement and Conservation teams. Over the last 12 months, we have seen a number of enforcement issues which have raised a substantial number of residents' concerns and which the Town Council have supported.

Councillors and council staff have also attended a number of multi-disciplinary meetings, such as with the Internal Drainage Board and the Environment Agency, to keep on pushing for information and actions since the dreadful flooding in 2020.

The Town Council have also maintained good communications with Humberside Police and have supported the holding of monthly Police Surgeries in the council office.

This time next year, the Town Council hope that it will be holding the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting at the council offices. As the council has secured on-going funding from the ATM, it has also agreed with the provider to reduce the size of the ATM room which will allow more public space for the Town Council.

Report from East Riding Councillors

No East Riding Councillors was present

Report from Humberside Police

2 Police Officers in attendance. Information was provided about Operation Shield which helps to tackle rural burglaries in the area. Work has taken place on local drug dealing and the police force are trying to work proactively not reactive. Crime reduction advice was given at the meeting. Local Community presentations have taken place and will in the near future on crime reduction.

Report from Snaith and Cowick Together

Mr Stuart and Mrs Tracy King gave an update on the work for of the Heritage Day Group and the success of the last event. Mrs Tracy King advised they were now seeking advice on the new legislations for events and will report at a later date on future plans of the group.

Report from Snaith Community Playing Field

Mr Steve McKiernan thanked the Town Council for their continued support and stated the Community playing field continued to support the needs of the community however they were desperate for new members to support the group of volunteers. Mr Steve McKiernan advised if the Community Playing Field was not successful the running of the area would be handed over to the town council in line with the lease agreement.

Public Participation session.

No questions from the public

..... Signature

..... Date