

Skelton Parish Council

Parish Clerk: c/o, 7 School Lane, Fulford, York YO10 4LU

☎: 07842 889 146

clerk@skelton-york.gov.uk

www.skelton-york.gov.uk

Minutes of the virtual Annual Parish Assembly for Skelton held on Thursday 6th May 2021

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Watt (Chairman), Cllrs C. Linfoot (vice-chair), Gossow, J Linfoot, Mansell and Cllr Watson.

Ward Councillor:

Parishioners: 2

Clerk: K de Vries

2101 To receive apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

2102 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th April 2019 as a true and correct record

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th April 2019 as a true and correct record.

2103 Annual report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman, Cllr Joseph Watt reported as follows:

‘First, I wish to thank those joining the meeting tonight and I thank the parish councillors for the support and commitment they have given to our community. From my records, I note this is my 5th report to a Skelton Annual Parish Assembly and I first chaired an Assembly in 2013, as the Deputy Chairman of the Parish Council. It is also just over 2 years since the last Annual Parish Assembly, last year’s assembly having been cancelled because of the Covid crisis. Also, the delay this year from the usual April date is a consequence of the national mourning for HRH Prince Philip. Sadly, last year our former long-serving chairman and parish councillor Bill Lumley passed away. It was the passing of an era. Bill was instrumental in bringing about many of the projects that improved our community: The Playpark, The New Cemetery and the creation of village greens – to highlight some. Clearly, 2 years ago, nobody could have foreseen the pandemic crisis we were all to face, nor its consequences. With hindsight, we can see that our community came through the emergency relatively unscathed. We were fortunate for many reasons, but one stood out for me. During the first lockdown I met the Vicar – at a social distance – on the Pasture. He reminded me that we were particularly fortunate to have such a pleasant public space, where people could get out into the fresh air and get a little exercise – particularly the elderly and less mobile. Maintaining the Pasture is just one of the many routine vital functions the Parish Council performs – often without its being noticed. Skelton cannot isolate itself from the City of York, the United Kingdom or the wider world. Therefore, what were we to do in response to the Government’s emergency action, during a period of national emergency, when a Humanitarian problem from far away descended into our parish? I am heartened that the Parish Council resolved to pursue a non-confrontational policy of liaison and communication to seek reassurance that we could pass on to residents. This policy continues to work well. This past year has also seen many families move to Skelton to live in the new Fairfield Croft development. I believe they are integrating well into our community and have certainly benefitted the School. Once we open up more, I look forward to their growing support of village life. Despite Covid, the Parish Council has adapted and continued to fulfil its role. Notable action we have taken since the last assembly has been to:

- Repair and upgrade the Old Cemetery’s drainage.

- Install concrete edging and replace the gravel on the old cemetery path.
- Rework the entrance to the new cemetery.
- Modify the playing field gate to prevent the field's being damaged by vehicle access.
- Removed the mound in the playpark, which had become hazardous.
- Had much needed repair and maintenance completed on playground equipment.
- Introduced a new up-to-date Parish Council Website.
- Arrange vegetation removal to assist the re-activation of the Football Pitch.

Those were some of tasks we have undertaken on behalf of the Community. For this next year, we look forward to a return to normality and meetings in person, we will pursue grants to replace equipment in the playground and do much more – as always - to maintain our village. Whilst few attend our meetings, I'm made aware that many in our community follow what we are doing. For their confidence in us to 'get on with it', I am grateful. Finally, I thank our councillors, who work voluntarily on behalf of the Community, and I thank the Clerk and the Litter Picker; they all do much good work for you away from the public's view'.

2104 To receive the annual Report and Accounts from the Village Hall Management Committee

The treasurer, Mr Philip Butler, reported that the accounts for the Village Hall were in a good shape with a surplus of £8954 despite being closed for a year and a balance of £30,339.

2105 To receive the annual Report and Accounts from the Friends of Skelton Pond

Cllr Chris Linfoot reported that due to Covid19 works at the pond had been limited although Cllr Stead was thanked for the works he carried out at the ponds, including clearing the reeds. The Friends had £350.80 in the bank and its members wished to use it towards a bench at the pond. The Friends of Skelton Pond would be discontinued as soon as Covid permits the Friends to meet and to disband. The group would reconstitute as a pond working group of Skelton Parish Council.

2106 Resolutions from Parishioners

No registered electors of Skelton Parish raised any matter relevant to the business of the Parish.

2107 To confirm the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly

The next Annual Parish Assembly would be held on 28 April 2022 at 19:00 hours.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19:14