

Skelton Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly for the Parish of Skelton held on Thursday 27th April 2023

Present:

Councillors: Cllr J. Watson (Chair), C. Linfoot, J Linfoot and L. Mansell
Ward Councillors: Not present
Residents: 5
Clerk: Colin Ellis

23/APA01 Chair's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and explained that this was not a Parish Council meeting but an opportunity for residents to learn what activities the various organisations in the village have carried out during the year and to raise any issues with the Parish Council but only residents who are registered on the Electoral Register can vote on any issues.

23/APA02 To receive apologies for absence

None were received.

23/APA03 To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 28th April 2022 as a true and correct record

Philip Butler proposed an amendment to the minutes which was seconded and adopted unanimously by the Assembly that for Minute 2204 the beginning of his report to be changed to read "The Vice Chairman, Philip Butler, reported that _____."

It was RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 28th April 2022 as a true and correct record subject to the above amendment with the 28th April 2022 minutes being changed in longhand to reflect the amended change which was separately signed and dated by The Chair. The Chair then was instructed by the Assembly to sign and date the minutes accordingly.

23/APA04 Annual report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chair, Cllr Julie Watson, reported as follows:

'Dear residents and councillors - Thank you all for attending this evening.

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow councillors who give their time and commitment freely to enhance this village and to our partners and friends who always help when required.

I would like to thank Colin who has done an excellent job since taking over the role of clerk for the cemetery and parish. He has learnt the role very quickly and is an asset to the Parish Council. Also, my thanks go to Michael who goes out in all weathers to keep our village litter free and for reporting back at council meetings on anything that needs attending to.

Skelton Village Trust have again enhanced the appearance of our village with planting more bulbs. We have all worked together as a team and I thank you all for all your hard work and support.

This year as a Parish Council we have worked extremely hard for Skelton and its residents. A tree was planted on the orchard to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II along with a beacon on the pasture. Also, to mark this occasion we held a highly successful Jubilee Party for all residents.

At the end of November, we organised a Christmas Party for all our older Skeltonians in the Village Hall. All enjoyed this.

More fruit trees have been planted in the orchard and spring bulbs along the central reservations on the A19.

In March we learnt of the death of one of our fellow councillors Adrian Mansell. Adrian did so much for Skelton on and off the council and all our thoughts are with Linda and his family. He will be sorely missed. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our Coronation Celebrations, but the pasture will be available for residents to use for their own village party if they wish.

We have two new notice boards in the village, one outside the Village Hall to replace the old one and the other is on the walkway at Fairfield Croft, which I am sure will help to include them.

We are also in the process of replacing two seats in the village and having a village planter on the grassy area opposite the pub.

The Parish Council always welcomes innovative ideas and suggestions from residents on how to make this a better environment for us all.

We also have availability on the Parish Council and if any resident would like to come and join us you would be very welcome, please see Colin.

Thank you.

23/APA05 To receive the annual Report and Accounts from the Village Hall Management Committee

The Vice Chairman, Philip Butler, in the absence of The Chairman, reported that the year had been more successful than the previous two years with bookings picking up and party bookings increasing. A significant project is planned with repairs to the roof including reslating and releading, one estimate already received is roundly £5000. The annual accounts for the year ending March 2023 revealed a deficit of £4902.14 with income increasing by just over £2000 over 2022 levels. Expenditure over the same period showed an increase of almost £5000 due mainly to repairs/renewals expenditure over 2022 levels. The cash reserves were at a level of £21831.80.

The Chair thanked Philip for his report.

23/APA06 To receive the annual Report from the Skelton Pond Working Group.

Cllr C Linfoot reported that there was not too much to report since last year.

The aim had been to increase the wildlife as much as possible whilst keeping a pleasing appearance.

There were now only a few councillors and on occasion some residents involved in keeping the pond clean and tidy who have recently conducted some tidying up on Saturdays including cutting back the Willows along the pond edges.

The Sycamore tree along the path will require appraisal this Autumn along with an assessment of the large Willow on the NE corner.

The pathway will also need some investment soon.

There remains our resident Mallards and Moorhens and visiting Geese making the area a much-visited recreational space for residents.

The Chair thanked Cllr C Linfoot for his report.

23/APA07 Resolutions from Parishioners

A resident raised an issue, when he was previously on the council, he understood that the grass cutting contractor also cut down the willows around the north and east side of the pond, but this is not happening any longer. The Chair asked the Clerk to look at the contract which would be included on the agenda of a future meeting of the council.

23/APA08 To confirm the date of the next Annual Parish Assembly.

It was confirmed that the next Annual Parish Assembly would be held on Thursday 25th April 2024.

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:15.

Signed _____ Chair of Skelton Parish Council as instructed by the APA.

Dated _____