

BYLAND WITH WASS AND OLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

18th December 2024 7.00 pm

1.0 Attendees

Councillor Christine Bradley
Councillor John Williams
Councillor Peter Williams
Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk

Charles Skeffington
Gill Williams

2.0 Apologies

Councillor Stephen Cain

3.0 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 16th Sept 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4.0 Matters Arising

4.1 Parish Website

Contact details of the Web Designer were circulated to Councillors.

4.2 Parish Website “Hits”

The Clerk contacted the web designer to ascertain the number of “hits” to the website. Early data indicated that on 22nd September 10 visitors used the site although over the previous week a max of 25 visitors used it. Clerk will get update for the next meeting in March 2025. **Action: Parish Clerk**

4.3 Verges

Councillor Bradley restated that we need to talk to farmers to try and get environmentally sensitive verges cut August/September. **Action: Councillor Bradley (continues)**

4.4 Timing of Verge Cutting Byland to Oldstead

Councillor John Williams stated that the issue along the Byland to Oldstead road was less to do with grass verges and more to do with large ferns obscuring driver’s vision along the road. Leaving the cutting until August might cause more of a safety issue.

4.5 Emergency WhatsApp

Approximately 25 residents of Byland and Wass are on the Emergency WhatsApp system. The new owners of the Staplyton Arms are to be encouraged to join the system. **Action: Councillor Bradley**

5.0 Byland with Wass Councillor

Charles Skeffington has been stood down as a councillor due to non-completion of Declaration of Interests and non-attendance. Charles asked to be reinstated.

6.0 Finance

6.1 Balance of Accounts end November 2024

Current Balance	£7264.15
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Expenditure to date £1549.40

Uncommitted funds remaining £720.60

Most of the annual expenditure for the current financial year has been spent.

6.2 Parish Precept 2025

The Precept Proposal outlined in Appendix 1 was reviewed at the meeting.

The forecast surplus for 2024/25 is around £490 on the basis that no additional items of expenditure are required. Allowing for 3% increase for inflation and adjusting for non-repeatable website development costs indicates that forecast surplus for 2025/26 would be around £390. Whilst the list of items of expenditure will be different the assumption was that the overall base cost would be the same.

On the basis that potential NYC additional charges remain unknown at present the recommendation was that the Precept for Byland with Wass and Oldstead Parish remains at £2000 for 2025/26. This was unanimously agreed at the meeting.

7.0 New Parish Portal

North Yorkshire Council have given notice that the old Parish Portal, which we use to upload Highways faults in the Parish, can no longer be maintained. Consequently a new North Yorkshire Council Portal has been produced incorporating a highways section to enable residents to upload issues. The Parish Clerk has already registered on the new portal but anyone can register as well. North Yorkshire Council Portal can be found at: myaccount.northyorks.gov.uk

8.0 National Park planning training

A report of the training day will be provided at the next meeting. **Action: Councillor John Williams**

9.0 Western Area Parish Forum

Interesting talk on Community archaeology funded by National Grid for landscape enhancement. Talk reviewed history at Sutton bank from Bronze Age to WW2.

The forum also reviewed Biodiversity net gain and nature recovery. Various schemes and Government Planning rules plus Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. The Parish Council were asked to make a plan and deliver it under the following categories:

Outcome 1 – a resilient landscape addressing climate change and nature recovery.

Outcome 2 – a more robust and diverse environment

10.0 Thefts of Agricultural Equipment

Councillor Skeffington reported that on his farm there had been numerous examples of trespass and of sheep fencing being cut. Cameras have been installed and the request was made for residents to be more vigilant.

11.0 Planning

11.1 NYM/2024/0759 – Abbey House, Byland Abbey

Change of use from domestic outbuildings to dual use Annex/Short term let. No comment.

11.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The following dates for Parish Council meetings were agreed for 2025:

Monday 10th March 2025

Monday 19th May 2025

Monday 15th September 2025

Monday 15th December 2025

In addition 2 Village Meetings for Byland with Wass and Oldstead will be arranged, dates to be agreed.

Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk