

BYLAND WITH WASS AND OLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

10th March 2025 7.00 pm

1.0 Attendees

Councillor Christine Bradley
Councillor John Williams
Councillor Peter Williams
Councillor Charles Skeffington
Councillor Stephen Cain
Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk

2.0 Apologies

None

3.0 Byland with Wass Councillors

Councillor Bradley welcomed Councillor Skeffington back to the Parish Council following an appeal.

4.0 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 18th December 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

5.0 Matters Arising

5.1 Parish Website “Hits”

The Parish website received a total of 363 “hits” from Jan-Mar 2025. Hits originate from around the world which suggest that people are using the website to investigate activities in the area.

5.2 Hedges and Verges – Discussions with farmers

Councillor Skeffington reported that he had spoken to a number of local farmers about timing of cutting of Verges and Hedges to promote biodiversity. Response was mixed but generally positive. Highways only cut a limited number of hedges based on road safety/visibility considerations.

Grants are available for farmers to help towards dry stone walling restoration and hedgerow creation/regeneration. Need to advise local farmers. **Action: Councillor Skeffington**

5.3 Emergency WhatsApp

Approximately 28 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**

Second Emergency test of the system to be organised. **Action: Councillor Bradley**

Defibrillator training session to be organised if required. **Action: Councillor Bradley**

Councillor Peter Williams suggested that a WhatsApp group for the Parish Council should be formed. **Action: Councillor Bradley**

5.4 National Park Planning Training

Councillor John Williams reported on the Training Day held by NYNP. Key points raised as follows:

- National Development Management Policies are being developed to replace Local Plans. Implementation date to be advised.
- Levelling up and Regeneration Act (LURA) clause 245 effective Dec 2023 gives greater weight to “National Park Purposes” suggesting they will prevail in appeals.
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for new homes does not apply to National Parks.
- Parish Councils can make enquiries of the Planning Dept if developments are occurring and we haven’t been informed.

6.0 Finance

6.1 Balance of Accounts end February 2025

Current Balance £6977.08

Forecast surplus Income - Expenditure £423.58

7.0 Western Area Parish Forum

Next meeting Tuesday 15th April 2025 NYMNP Helmsley.

8.0 Parish Liaison Meeting

We are unable to attend this meeting. The subject is “Parish Resilience in case of Emergency” and a request has been made for speaker for Wass Annual Village Meeting 19th May 2025. **Action:**

Councillor Bradley

9.0 Charity “Cold Calling”

Great Ormand Street Children’s hospital “Cold Called on Wass on Friday evening 28th February when majority of villagers were attending the pantomime. Councillor Bradley has confirmed with the charity that they were genuine. Since the village has a number of elderly residents “Cold Calling” at 7pm in the evening when it is dark isn’t a good idea so investigations are being made to see if a Cold Call Controlled Zone (CCCZ) or an alternative can be established. Councillor John Williams volunteered to investigate. **Action: Councillor John Williams**

10.0 Planning

No applications

11.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 19th May 2025 at 7pm followed by Byland with Wass Village meeting at 7.30pm.

Mike Bradley – Parish Clerk