

Brafferton & Helperby Annual Meeting for Parishioners Minutes

Wednesday 17 May 23
Held at 7.30pm in Helperby Village Hall

Present: Cllr Nigel Denison (Chairman), Cllr Peter Mitchell, Cllr Deirdre Brown, Cllr Mark Darwin, Cllr Matt Boyle, Cllr Pam Jackson-Vickers, Roger Clements (Clerk) and 13 parishioners.

Chairman welcomed parishioners to the first face to face meeting for over a year and remarked on the pleasure to be a part of returning normality as covid restrictions were relaxed.

1. Chairman's report of the year to 31 March 2023
 - 1.1. Chairman presented his report for the year. The report may be read by visiting the Council's website at <https://braffertonhelperby-pc.gov.uk/news/>
2. **Public Forum**
 - 2.1. Mrs Robson described the difficulties of negotiating the route from Manor Drive, along Raskelf Road and down Main Street by wheelchair: there are no drop kerbs to facilitate crossing Raskelf Road at the natural crossing places; the footpath at the front of the Chestnuts is gravelly, narrow and slopes into the road; at the Rose & Crown the footpath runs directly onto the Main Street cobbles; on Main Street traffic frequently drives over the footways between highway and cobbles and, at the Fountain chicane, there is no ramp/drop kerb for the wheelchair user. Chairman pointed out that any proposals which would involve North Yorkshire Council (NYC) in expenditure would need to be evidence based. He noted the difficulties identified for wheelchair users and offered to walk the route with Ms Robson with a view to compiling a works list for presentation to NYC.
 - 2.2. Mrs Wignall suggested that the parish council should be the repository for reports of issues, accidents etc affecting all roads and footways through the village; her immediate concern was the frequent near misses and occasional accident at the double bend on the Boroughbridge Road adjacent to Brafferton Manor (known locally as 'accident corner'). The Council to consider how such a reporting system might be set up.
 - 2.3. Mrs Horner described situations at 'accident corner' and in Main Street which many parishioners present identified with; traffic appeared to speed through the village in uncomfortably close proximity with pedestrians using the footways. Chairman referred to evidence obtained from traffic speed data recording in Main Street which showed most traffic travelling at sensible speeds. However, he acknowledged that with no kerbs along Main Street traffic frequently ran along the coloured footways and was very intimidating. Traffic speeds and its affect on pedestrians, especially in Main Street to be an agenda item for the Council.
 - 2.4. Several speakers had noticed increased traffic since the Aldwark Bridge had closed for maintenance work. Some suggested ways of physically slowing traffic through the village but the Chairman advised that the parish council would not be allowed to take any action which impeded road users – any action would have to come from NYC.
 - 2.5. Mr Chambers said the H&B Recreation Trust was moving forward with its project to establish a recreation area adjacent to the Sports Field. He asked if the council had a view on the provision of a footpath on the eastern side of the York Road linking Back Lane with Pasture Lane and providing a safe route into the Sports Ground. Chairman said the council had already identified such a footpath as very desirable and suggested all interested parties should meet to discuss this.
 - 2.6. Cllr Boyle thanked those present for attending as it gave the council a chance to hear the views of parishioners and allowed the council to explain its thoughts and actions taken. He emphasised the importance of passing information to the council via its email or website; such reports built up a picture which would give increased weight to attempts by the council to calm through traffic. Another speaker pointed out that the Police website offered the opportunity to make reports of concerning traffic issues.
 - 2.7. Council was asked whether it had received Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) cash from the Craven Court development. It had and the money had been used to cover part of the cost of tree planting, tree guards and works to cobbles at the War Memorial. It currently held no unspent CIL money.