

Terrington Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 29 April 2024 at
7.00 pm in Terrington Village Hall**

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Cllr Winning (Chairman), Cllr Challoner Walker, Cllr Kendrick, Cllr Lewis, Kerr Wilson (Clerk), Keith Adkins (RFO) and 5 members of the public.

Apologies: none

2. Report by the Chairman of Terrington Parish Council

The Chairman presented an overview of the Parish covering a wide range of issues (see appendix 1).

4. Report by the Clerk to the Council

The Clerk highlighted some of the key activities the Council has been involved in between May 2023 and April 2024 (see appendix 2)

5. Report by the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

The report from the RFO covered the Council's financial position and is reported in full in appendix 3.

6. Report by the Burial Authority Officer

Cllr Winning, as Burial Authority Officer, reported on the service that the Cemetery provides (appendix 4).

7. Public discussion

The meeting was opened for public discussion. No specific issues were raised.

Cllr Winning informed the meeting that recently the Council received a talk on the Dark Skies project from Richard Darn, who outlined the benefits of reducing light pollution that can be achieved e.g. by using lights only when needed, by angling lights downwards and by using the correct colour, all of which helps preserve our dark skies.

From the general discussion, it was clear that the Parish is, and wishes to remain, a Dark Skies parish. However, to preserve our dark skies it is important that there is community support for such a project. It was suggested that this should begin with providing information about the project e.g. via Facebook, and at the next coffee morning and by leaflets. If there was community support, a useful starting point would be to undertake a lighting audit on the types of lights used.

Cllr Winning said that 'Dark Skies' would be considered by the Parish Council meeting that follows this Annual Parish Meeting.

Appendix 1

Terrington Annual Parish Meeting 29 April 2024 – Chairman's Report 2023/24

May 23, we stated on a low note. Ground level in fact. We bought a number of "No Driving On The Grass" signs! Put in place mainly in verges on North & South Back Lanes, they have been needed and, in some cases, heeded. But not everywhere to which the tyre tracks and ruts bear witness. We can but try.

We paid a contribution to the restoration of a subsided War Memorial in the Church yard. Rightly.

Two of us attended a Local Councils Association meeting at Ryedale House where planner Rachael Balmer gave an insight into the state of planning policy. We keep Ryedale's until superseded by the new NYC Local Plan, due in 5 years, now 4. Unlikely but it might make it. Then there is the question of whether Ryedale has sufficient allocated development land to cover 4/5 years. Maybe not. Oh, one interesting 'factoid' was mentioned. How many Parishes in North Yorkshire? 731 we were told.

Back home, in order to try and offer our community some protection and give you all a say in future development here, the Neighbourhood Planning Group is making excellent progress, with the finishing touches being applied to its Design Code. The plan itself is also nearing the point when we all get to see and comment on it. So well done Jane the team.

It's back to last July when we discussed footpaths and boundary walls. This led to the repairs of a collapsing wall on Main Street, whilst it's out-back cousin next to a public footpath is still having a lean time of it. This is heading rapidly to becoming a priority. Highways agree footpaths need work and promised to redo a stretch near the start of Mowthorpe Lane, 'next year'. That's now....well!

September and speeding is again discussed. So we took the lead from another community asking for 20mph where the roads pass next to the two schools. Rather like happened in Welburn they rejected that on Main Street. No to Church Lane which was crazy, yet we got the lower limit on the whole of North Back Lane. The huge rondels have been replaced with more manageable ones now.

We asked about the fate of the phone box to be told it stays as does the phone. BT recently replaced the phone cable to it and say it is due for a repaint this year. Oh, yes, we got new defib pads.

Attention was drawn to Castle Howard about the speed of tractors through the village, damage to the verges and water continuing to flow out across the road at Cross Hill. Their estate surveyor is due to get in touch, or at least he was last September.

And then they started to appear. At first small white notices. But then it came, the March of the Poles. brown wooden ones, where old poles were removed some years ago inside and outside the AONB. This did not find favour. We called a public meeting and attended others. Letters were written to NYC, Planning & Highways, to our County Councillor, MP Kevin, the installer Voneus and the AONB now Howardian Hills National Landscape. All to no avail as it is Government sanctioned 'Permitted Development'. Now Voneus are knocking on doors asking us all to sign-up for their monopoly on Fibre to the property. Progress.

Other things happened along, like cold weather and topping up grit bins. Attended the online launch of NYC Local Plan. A couple of weeks ago they issued their 'Call for Sites', having binned the 300+ submitted to Ryedale. Interestingly, there is no cut-off date, seemingly remaining open until the Local Plan is nearing completion. So there is no hurry to submit and we shall have to wait to see what the Castle sends for allocation. Might be the same but probably it will be at very least 'fine tuned'.

In house the Parish Council looked at tons of initiatives emanating from our new big Council. Tons of consultations and surveys on issues from a Slow Ways walking initiative to possible restrictions on the ability to use civic amenity waste sites. A potential catalyst to increased fly tipping.

As required by Government, we were ahead of the game in approving our Biodiversity Policy. We also took under our wing, so to speak, Swifts and Friends, a group that has most certainly 'taken flight' with the take up of Swift boxes. Some are in place now and others soon will be.

Have I mentioned Dog Bins? No? OK, well some of you have reported rightly, that one such bin is broken, by the village notice board. Never fear, we have a new one. Just need to fit it.

From dogs to badgers. It took a long time to organise but down at the cemetery we had to do something to try and control our main nemesis. January saw the completion of a new Badger fence along the back boundary and it is looking effective.

This last year has seen a really good core team, with whom it has been a pleasure to work. I know we lost Amadeus last summer due to his work and a few weeks ago Keith resigned as a Councillor yet very kindly offered to remain in post as our RFO, for which we are all really grateful. So to Andrew, Amadeus, Clara, Jane and Keith I extend my thanks for being part of a great team. A team that would not be complete without our unsung hero, without whom the walls would come tumbling down; our very own Parish Clerk, Dr Kerr Wilson. Very many thanks for all you have done and continue to do.

Finally, thanks come from all of us on your Parish Council, to you. This is your Council and we thank all of those who attend meetings, litter pick, report issues, help to fix them, Mark who fixes them, and often doesn't even report them and to those of you who just show an interest in this fantastic community.

Cheers,

Bill

W.McA.Winning

Chairman 2023/4

Terrington PC.

Terrington Annual Parish Meeting 29 April 2024

Parish Clerk's Report - May 2023 – April 2024

1. Parish Council meetings

Between May 2023 and April 2024, the Parish Council met 6 times for its regular bimonthly meetings. In addition, the Chairman called an Extraordinary meeting in December 2023 to deal with a number of issues that needed urgent attention. These included agreeing expenditure on the Neighbourhood Plan, noting recent consultations on the North Yorkshire Local Plan, recycling centres, walking routes, the species survival fund and agreeing the Biodiversity Policy.

2. Planning Applications

When a planning application is submitted, (for buildings, campsites or trees), the Parish Council is notified by the Planning Authority and given the opportunity, usually 4 weeks, to make any observations on the application. The Planning Authority do take notice of the Council's submissions, although they do not have to accept any recommendations made by the Council. Planning decisions are taken by the NYC Planning Committee, on the recommendation of the Planning Officer.

Between May 2023 – April 2024 the Council considered 19 Planning Applications. The majority of applications raised no concerns although in two cases the Council drew attention to two concerns.

Number	Parish Council response
17	No objection
1	No objection (suggested need for traffic management)
1	No objection (concern expressed about the potential loss of habitat)

3. Terrington Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The Terrington Neighbourhood Area was formally designated by North Yorkshire Council on 18 May 2023 enabling the Parish Council to commence work on the development of a neighbourhood plan and set up the Terrington Neighbourhood Planning Group (TNPG) and approve its Terms of Reference. The TNPG were successful in securing a £6229 Government grant to support the development of the Neighbourhood plan.

4. Speed limits and parking.

North Back Lane is now subject to a 20 mph speed limit and Rumble strips have been installed in Mowthorpe Lane to deter speeding as traffic enters the village. Signs have been placed on some verges to dissuade driving or parking on the verges. NYC Highways have confirmed that parking on the Church Lane footway that causes an obstruction could be reported to the Police, however local policing priorities mean that an officer is unlikely to attend.

5. Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO)

In March 2022, following the discovery that there was no right of way in respect of the unadopted section of South Back Lane East where it joins the footpath from Main Street to Ganthorpe, the Parish Council submitted evidence to North Yorkshire Council who concluded that the evidence showed that a right of way subsists. The final public consultation for the South Back Lane DMMO ended on 7 June 2023. As no objections were received, the legal process is now complete and the route has been added to the Definitive Map.

6. Biodiversity Duty (Environment Act 2021)

In November 2023 Cllrs Adkins and Challoner Walker presented a paper on what steps the Council might take in complying with its biodiversity duty. A draft Biodiversity Policy was developed and formally approved by the Council on 12 December 2023. The Biodiversity Policy can be found on the Terrington Parish Council's website.

7. Swifts and Friends Project.

The Council agreed to support the community project 'Swifts and Friends' by forming a 'Working Group' and applying for funds on behalf of the Group to support their activities. The Group was successful in securing grant funding from the North Yorkshire Councillor Locality Budget and from the Howardian Hills NL/ANOB.

8. Dark skies village.

The Council received a presentation from Richard Darn (Dark Skies) about the benefits of reducing light pollution. Residents have been asked to let the Council have their views of becoming a Dark Skies Village.

9. Telecom poles and mast

Following numerous complaints from residents about the sudden appearance of Telecom poles installed by Voneus without any consultation, representatives from the company attended the Council meeting in November 2023. They explained the works were being driven by the economic and commercial viability of the project. The Council expressed its high level of dissatisfaction with the build design and asked that the poles be removed and the installation be taken underground wherever possible. As some poles were sited at known black spots, it was suggested that if underground cabling was not feasible, then these poles should be re-sited to a more appropriate location. The Council expressed its concern over the way in which Permitted Development is being used to expand the broadband network without full consultation and due consideration being given to the impact it has within an AONB.

Kerr Wilson (Parish Clerk)

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Responsible Finance Officer's report

Finance Report 2023-24

In the financial year to 31 March 2024, in addition to the usual Council receipts and payments, we had the Neighbourhood Plan group and Swifts & Friends project taking place and I will deal with each of these separately.

For the general accounts, the main receipts were the Parish Precept of £3863 and burial fees of £3195, and total receipts were £8442.

The main payments were grass cutting in the Cemetery, the Plump and other small areas at £1850 ex VAT (ie almost half of the precept), salary of £1153, and the one-off payment of £2565 for the badger fence in the cemetery (partly financed by a grant of £1536 in the previous financial year). Total payments were £8083.

The result was a surplus of £359, a small margin of just over 4% of expenditure.

The Neighbourhood Plan group received a grant of £6229 of which £5834 has been spent leaving £395 to be repaid to the grant body.

The Swifts and Friends project received a grant of £500 from Councillor Steve Mason's locality budget and an offer (still to be paid) of £530 from the Howardian Hills AONB/NL. This money has been spent but, as the Howardian Hills grant is only paid in arrears on receipt of paid invoices, the Council required that the project was underwritten by the Project Manager, Jane Hanstock, who has to date underwritten the project to the tune of £1196. As such projects are helping the Council to fulfil its duty to enhance biodiversity in the parish it might consider underwriting such projects itself in future.

This all leaves general reserves of £10132 and earmarked reserves of £2458. The finances are thus in a healthy state although the requirement for future significant expenditure on the Cemetery, tree work and the defibrillator is likely and there is a need to maintain sufficient reserves to meet this.

Keith Adkins, RFO

Burial Authority Officer's report 2023-24

This last year we have welcomed a number of new permanent guests.

There has been a single burial and 5 ashes interments.

Add to that one ashes plot purchase pending interment and a memorial stone for an older burial, the income for the year is **£4,182.50**.

On the maintenance side, the rear boundary has a new badger fence, erected in January.

Last summer with the Big Help Out and the Sequel later on, we benefitted greatly from people's time and expertise. This included repairs to the Sextons Hut door and window with associated repainting. The gates and bench seat were also painted, as was the water hydrant opposite.

A good prune was given to trees mainly along the rear and overhanging the footpath.

Can I thank all those who came along to undertake these jobs. Unseen by many but now at least recognised.

Ongoing maintenance of the grass has been as good as usual so many thanks to Mark Wigham for that.

Other issues remain 'on-the-list':

Trees, including pruning and wiring the yews.

Boundary stone walls need a good deal of repointing.

Sextons Hut. Well that needs a clear-out and some attention to roof tiles.

On the positive side, whilst our fee structure was well behind the market, if I can phrase it that way, we did start a process of catch-up by reviewing the fee structure incrementally. We are now about on-track, which should help pay for the repairs.

I'd also like to thank Cllr Clara Challoner-Walker for joining me in running the cemetery. Whilst we shall be seeking to employ an officer to undertake these duties, it has been and remains a privilege to serve our friends in the community in this way.

Cllr Bill Winning
Burial Authority Officer
29 April 2024

The meeting closed at 19.50 hrs

Signed Cllr Bill Winning
(Chairman Terrington Parish Council)

Date