

Whessoe Parish Council

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting of Whessoe Parish held at Whessoe Parish Hall on Friday, 25th May, at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor S Dawson (Chair) Councillor S Goldfinch (Vice Chair)
Councillor W Goldfinch Councillor F Minay
Parish Clerk - Ms J Bell 2 Members of the Public

Welcome

Councillor S Dawson welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Annual Report – Whessoe Parish Council

Councillor S Dawson, Chair of Whessoe Parish Council, presented details of the work of Whessoe Parish Council over the past 12 months.

Councillor Dawson advised that there had not been a full complement of Councillors during this period. Two Parish Councillor roles remain vacant – one for the Whessoe Ward and one for the Harrogate Hill Ward. Councillor Dawson had also only relatively recently taken the role of Chair following the resignation of the previous Chair.

Although the Parish Council has attended meetings to raise objections, there have been two major planning applications (Berrymead Farm and Burtree Lane) approved by Darlington Borough Council’s Planning Committee, subject to S106 agreements.

The Parish Council has been working through the requirements of new data protection laws. Changes to the General Data Protection Act came into force on 25th May.

The Parish Council are reviewing required improvements to the Parish Hall to help promote its use.

The financial position of the Parish Council is stable and both internal and external audit approved the 16-17 Accounts.

Open Forum

Discussion took place regarding the visibility of the Parish Hall – due to its location it was felt that not many people of the Parish realised it was there. Greater promotion of the hall, such as advertising of current users and opportunities for hire should be improved. There is currently a no alcohol policy at the hall and it was felt that this may deter potential users.

A change to the name was suggested to acknowledge that the Parish covered Harrogate Hill as well as Whessoe.

Community engagement was discussed. The Parish Council does have a website and Facebook page but recognised that Newsletters were also required to reach the residents of the Parish. A suggestion for “tea with the Councillors” was made to encourage residents to get to know the Parish Council better.

It was noted that the Whessoe Parish Council noticeboard on the green at Harrogate Farm has had to be removed due to vandalism. It was felt that closer liaison with the Police might help prevent such issues.

Signed..... **Date**.....
Chair of the Parish Council

Although objections had been raised regarding the new developments, now that planning applications had been approved, the new developments may provide an opportunity for the Parish Hall to be more inclusive and the Parish Council should look for opportunities for make use of any available S106 monies.

The Parish Council agreed to consider the comments made at a future meeting of Whessoe Parish Council.

Close of Meeting

Councillor S Dawson thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.

Signed..... Date.....
Chair of the Parish Council