

TOPCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday May 6th, 2006 in the Tollbooth

Councillors present: G Key (Chair), H Wilson, V Rawlings,

Apologies: T Brown, R Smith, W Barton

Also present: Cllr N Huxtable, Ray Parker, Dave Bowman

1) MINUTES

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true record and be signed by the Chairman.

2) Statement of Budget and Accounts

The precept has been kept as low as possible. Insurance has risen by 10% and the shelter at the cemetery has been a large expense. However, the accounts are healthy and there are sufficient funds to cover any future events.

3) It had been hoped that a member of the police would address the meeting but unfortunately none were available. Sgt Ben Frank has returned from York and is now working in Thirsk. There has been a spate of vandalism but this seems to have died down. Councillor Huxtable reported that this was also in the case in Dalton. The vandalism has, in fact, cost the council money in replacement trees in Jubilee Gardens for example.

4) The Art Project at the Tollbooth has been a success and Danni Mitchell, the artist-in-residence, has promised to help the participants to complete their work during the summer holidays. Unfortunately, she was ill and was forced to abandon the project during the winter months.

5) Some of the village benches have been refurbished, stained and rubbed down so that they will be low-maintenance.

6) Future projects – The Tollbooth is ongoing and the next aim is to provide a pool table.

7) Sheepwash Development – There are two pitches and it has been established that the fishing rights belong to Topcliffe. The solicitors have been instructed to draw up an agreement. There will be free access for all the villagers and day tickets available for non-residents at £5 a day. This could provide £400 a year towards grasscutting.

8) Playing Field - The matting needs upgrading and more volunteers are required for the Playing Field Committee. Dave Bowman said that the rubber matting is very slippy when wet which is worse after the grass has been cut. A power spray or steam cleaner may be useful to keep it clean. There have been some thoughts on providing a shelter on the playing field but the changing rooms have been vandalised and the shelter might encourage similar bad behaviour.

9) The grass verge on Long Street has been badly damaged by parked cars. It will cost approximately £550 to rectify.

10) A review of insurance cover is needed following the rta involving the millstone. The search for a suitable replacement is currently taking place.

11) David Pilgrim, the editor of The Tattler, informed the Council that the revenue from advertising is £200 per annum and it costs £70 to print. The Chairman said that there is a responsibility to the parishioners to support The Tattler and he suggested that on the next agenda, a contribution of £10 per annum will be made.