

TOPCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Tuesday 3rd May, in the village hall

Councillors present: G Key (Chair), H Wilson, V Rawlings, R Smith, N Huxtable

Apologies: T Brown, W Barton

Also present: 1 parishoner

418 G Key opened the meeting

STATEMENT OF BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

419 The clerk showed the meeting the council's cashflow and accounts for 2004/2005. The accounts were commended to the village with G Key commenting that the parish is in good financial shape. However, there will be no increase in the precept this year or next, which represents a 1.7% decrease in real terms. In future a modest increase in the precept may be required to keep up with rising insurance costs and an increase in the clerk's salary.

420 A vote of appreciation for Tony Bruce's continued support with the auditing of the accounts was made.

421 A vote of thanks was also made for Claire Cadogan who has resigned as clerk to the council.

REVIEW OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS

422 Toll Booth G Key outlined the development of the Tollbooth, including the use by the village's youth who are already involved, the information exchange, community library, and use as a part time police station. Listed building consent is being applied for to change the windows and decorate inside.

The chairman outlined the income streams which enabled the Tollbooth's development, namely:

- a grant of £1,000 from NYCC Community Education
- £434.67 from the skateboard fund
- £659.21 from the youth club's dormant account
- £500 donation NEDL
- funds still to come from the wayleave from BT for conduit under the manorial waste
- donations of £250 each from the Doctor's Surgery and the Sandhills veterinary practice
- £1,300 grant from the NYCC County Committee for Hambleton

A vote of thanks was taken for the financial contribution and moral encouragement of the Doctor's Surgery and Sandhills veterinary practice.

G Key has undergone CRB training and is now a registered youth worker volunteer, giving access to up to £2,200 to fund youth led activities through the Key Fund.

Thanks to Hambleton District Council were also noted for the donation of IT equipment.

The council is hoping that there will be an official opening of the Tollbooth at the end of May or in early June. G Key is looking for assistance with key control.

423 Benches A bench has been purchased, to be positioned near the junction of East Lea, and Cllr T Brown will put a memorial bench near the bus stop in Church Street. Tenders are out for the siting and mounting of the benches.

424 Shelter in Cemetery Building a shelter in the cemetery has been on the list of aspirations for several years, but the expense has proved prohibitive. However, it was decided that erecting a shelter whereby the rain could run off the roof into a barrel would be sufficient. This work is being carried out by the regiment.

G Key stated his gratitude to Lt Col Nugee of 40 Field Regiment RA for his activities in developing a close relationship between the barracks and the parish.

REVIEW OF FUTURE PROJECTS

425 Toll Booth If use increases, the council will invest to develop public internet access. A football game will be put in once one is sourced.

426 Sheepwash The council is in close liaison with the Thirsk Woodland Trust for a coordinated re-planting scheme. T Brown will be project leader.

427 Tarmac The areas dug up by BT and resurfaced are not to standard and will be done again.

DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF THE PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

428 The issues are that the Playing Field currently pays £450 in insurance and £120 for water rates, and that the committee members no longer have children who use the playing field, and some are no longer residents. It was agreed to form a PC sub-committee, headed by a parish councillor with interested residents and representatives of the bowling club and footballers on the committee. This will mean a saving of the £450 insurance costs, and it is intended that the water rates will be paid by contributions from the bowling club and footballers.

429 It is not intended to bring the grasscutting of the playing field under the responsibility of the parish council as this would effectively double the grasscutting costs to around £4,000. It is thought not unreasonable that interested parties should continue to contribute, with the footballers each cutting the grass once a year.

430 Cllr N Huxtable informed the meeting that Hambleton District Council will look at the field over the next 18 months to see what could be extended and improved. It was agreed that HW would look at what could be done.
HW

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR AND ADDITIONAL ITEMS

431 Grasscutting Concern had been expressed that the Jubilee Gardens grass had not been cut, whereas the rest of the village had. However, G Key informed the meeting that this was because different mowers were required for Jubilee Gardens and the Village Hall.

432 Renewal of paths in Long Street The Long Street path is patched, not veneered. G Key has been in touch with the divisional engineer and is awaiting a reply.

433 Supported events The Fireworks are close to ending because of a lack of financial contributions. It costs around £1,500 to put on, with labour and set up done by volunteers. Only around £300 was donated last year, which was an average of £1 per person with some putting in nothing at all. Unless proper fundraising is done the events will not take place.

434 Toddler Group G Key has discussed the Council's donations with Isobel Peters following concern over Topcliffe PCC subsidising other parishes. About 75% of attendees at the group are from Topcliffe. Therefore it has been agreed that the council will pay the group's insurance of around £130-£140 which would be due even if there were just one child attending and improves the accountability and audit trail.

435 Senior Citizen's Club V Rawlings asked if the council had ever considered making any donations to the Senior Citizens' Club. G Key said this was quite possible and asked VR to put together a proposal. **VR**

DATE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

It was agreed that the meeting planned for Monday May 16th would be cancelled due to the absence of G Key, H Wilson, R Smith and N Huxtable on that date. The next meeting will be on Monday June 20th.

ADDENDUM – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

436 After the meeting the Parish Council met to elect the chairman and vice chairman for 2005/2006. G Key accepted the nomination to be chairman and H Wilson accepted the nomination to be vice chairman.