

Minutes of Scruton's Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 13th April 2023

At 7.30pm

APM23/01 Introduction and welcome by the Chairman

Some 4 residents attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from John Mainwaring Taylor.

The Chairman, Cllr. Syd Nye, welcomed all present and explained that the meeting is of the electorate, not a parish council meeting, and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Any copies of reports or of accounts given to the clerk are held in the parish council records and are available from the clerk.

APM23/02 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk presented the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting They were proposed by Mr Emison, seconded by Mr Wood and signed by the chairman.

APM23/03 Scruton Charities Report

Mr Tony Wood reported on Scruton Charities, its purpose in making gifts at Christmas and to those in the village who are unwell. He also presented a copy of the accounts and stated that approximately 9 Christmas gifts were distributed to deserving recipients.

It was explained that the original Scruton Charities was to distribute fuel supplies during the winter season, but this had now been superseded and gifts of flowers were given to villagers who were unwell.

A thank you was given to Mr John Sadler for completing the accounts for the charity.

A copy of the charities accounts was deposited with the clerk.

APM23/04 Scruton Playing Fields Committee Report

Mr Phil Emison reported from the Playing Fields committee and a copy of the latest accounts submitted. He stated the increased use of the playing fields with some of the equipment having been refurbished. The account now has a surplus which will be used to upgrade equipment.

The trustees continue to fulfil the requirements of the constitution for the benefit of the local community by maintaining and improving the playing field area through routine inspection and maintenance.

Any and all opportunities are taken to improve the equipment and playing area. We ensure a wide range of recreational activities by providing a variety of equipment and space, including an all-weather multi use games area, football pitch and numerous items of play equipment. We also accommodate other village events such as community picnics.

The chairman and trustees would like to express their thanks to committee members and others who contribute their time and skills for the benefit of the local community.

APM23/05 Coore Memorial Hall Committee Report

First I must apologise for not having a copy of the accounts to present this year which is entirely my fault as I had not told the new treasurer of the until it was too late. We will of course lodge a copy with the clerk when they are ready. Any questions can be sent to me or raised at our annual general meeting on 15th May.

Second my apologies for not presenting this report in person, but Stephen Elmer has kindly do do so in my absence.

Since last years AGM, the committee is much stronger having gained 5 new members which has gone some way to improving the age balance. In particular, as already indicated, we now have a new treasurer and with the new members it has been possible to reassign some responsibilities enabling Stephen Elmer to take on the position of secretary on a permanent basis.

With the departure of the tenants of School House in February we took the opportunity to carry out essential maintenance and improvement. In the summer the new tenant moved in and now the rent is once again providing a steady income.

Unfortunately, we were not able to go ahead with the roof works which are still a work in progress as I write. Hopefully there should be more to report by this time next year.

As always, I am grateful for the support of all the committee and particularly those who give their time to fulfil the offices and use their skills for maintenance and to ensure that our safety is kept up to date.

APM23/06 Scruton Allotments Group

The Allotment Association has now had its first full Financial Year since the untimely death of Chris Snell. It was decided early on that that the Association should revert back to its original constitution and be run by a committee. This has happened. The committee also wanted to continue Chris's work in raising the profile of the Association within the village. We have 30 plots and all are taken. Most members only have only one plot but a few have either two or three plots to their name. Of the members we have a total of 21, 14 from Scruton and 7 from just outside the village boundaries. It can be viewed therefor as a true village activity supported by 14 households within the village boundary. We are therefore putting a lot of effort into letting all in the village know we are a very active organisation and part of the village fabric.

As regards finance , we continue along the path Chris Snell set many years ago in that we receive as income from plot rentals some £1200.00 per annum out of which the field rental and liability insurance accounts for around £800.00 which leaves not a lot of leeway to cover machinery and plot infrastructure maintenance and very little, if any, to put aside for equipment renewal. With a lot of the equipment now some 16 years old it explains why Chris wanted to raise the profile to enable external finance earned from horticulture talks, plant stalls etc. To help in this renewal programme. The current committee have recognised this and are now striving to encourage this external help to our finance. We are pleased to have welcomed Joe Lofthouse to the committee and to his current position of joint chairmanship. Joe was one of the first speakers Chris found for the popular talks given by the Association and who received personal help and encouragement from Chris to embark on a masters degree in Horticulture. Joe is currently employed as head of vegetable and fruit production at RHS Harlow Carr.

The Association will be pleased to take part in the Village Fest at the end of June with members organising and running the Barbeque throughout the day.

APM23/07 Scruton Cricket Club

With the outstanding summer weather and the return of Saturday cricket the season has been a very good one for Scruton and the sport in general. No matches were lost to weather and the ground was a great setting for those coming to watch.

In addition, there were three large barbecues which were enjoyed by everyone. A Scruton one is planned for August.

The Wensdale League now includes over twenty clubs and an outstanding Finals Day was held in Bedale in September.

Our ground is now well matured and the past floods have produced a mass of wild flowers in the corners which is a great contribution to the local environment.

In spite of the local issues Yorkshire will hold a prestigious Ashes Test this year.

The club is grateful for all the local help it keeps receiving, very many thanks and best wishes.

Trevor Howe

APM23/08 Scruton Parish Council

Councillor Syd Nye, Chair of the Parish Council gave a full resume of the work of the Council over the past year and presented his annual report.

Of particular note was the exceptional state of the village as a whole with particular emphasis on the generally clean state that the village is kept. The chairman also spoke regarding the work of the parish council on providing new grit bin, and the removal of unsafe trees. Grass cutting will remain with the Walker Co.

The parish council makes regular inspections of all areas of the village in an effort to make sure the village is clean and tidy and free from any defects.

The chairmans annual report will be published on the Scruton Network, with a copy inserted within the monthly newsletter.

APM23/09 Open Forum

Topics ranged from the flooding at Silver Street corner, which seems to be working well to the parking problems at Pittfields Corner.

The parish council is exploring all options in an effort to solve this issue.

Also the difficulty of finding suitable locations for tree planting within the village

The meeting closed at 8.14 pm.