

Minutes of Westhall's Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 17th May 2021 7.30 Westhall Village Hall (prior to AGM)

Attendees: Parish Councillors - Mr P Langford (Chairman), Mr J Lickman, Mr C Baker, Mrs L McTaggart, Mrs L Brown, Mr C Punt

1. Parish Council Chairman's report on the year:

This year has been dominated by the global pandemic which has caused bereavement to many and disruption for all. Thankfully, lockdown restrictions are being eased and the Government's roadmap has allowed physical council meetings to resume from today and from next month, hopefully all restrictions on social contact will be removed.

Despite the constraints, the Council has:

Purchased and installed a bench and specimen tree on the Pleasure Grounds to commemorate the life of Vincent Antony Whatling. The inscription on the commemorative plaque reads:

In the grateful Memory of Vincent 'Tony' Whatling 1925 – 2019. A pillar of the community and true gentleman.

Continued to support the Westhall Community Pub Society in their quest to purchase the Racehorse by securing a £15,000 grant from the Bernard Matthews' Villages Community Fund and providing access to the Pleasure Grounds to host events, subject to certain conditions.

Secured approval and funding for two Quiet Lanes routes through Westhall in tranche 2 of the project.

The routes are designated to improve access to the countryside and encourage active forms of travel.

The first route follows National Cycle Route 1 along Butts Road from the parish of Holton, via Tyneholme, to the junction with Hogg Lane. The second route links National Cycle Route 1 with Route 15 at Uggeshall, following Wangford Road through the village and then The Causeway and Strawberry Lane passed the old Rectory and Westhall Hall to the A145 London Road.

The Parish Council was involved in various planning applications to change or develop dwellings within the village, including: Tyneholme, Mill House, Silver Birches, Manor House, Old School Farm and Sunnyside Farm campsite.

Received approval from the Sicon Foundation to plant donated, native woodland trees on the Pleasure Ground, to replace the two poplar trees felled earlier this year, and a selection of fruit trees for the Wangford Road allotments.

The Parish Council has, once again, decided to request an increase in the precept to help cover the anticipated expenditure plans for Financial Year 21-22 (approximately £4,000). To assist with financial management, we have authorised several Councillors to approve BACS transfers, removing the requirement for multiple signatures on cheques. The council has also reviewed its governance documentation which will be presented to the Auditor following the next Parish Meeting which will take place on 14th June 2021 (as agreed in the week following this meeting).

I believe that the Parish Council has, once again, been working hard for the benefit of the community and I would like to thank all the Councillors and Clerk for your support throughout the year. It is appreciated by me and without the time and effort that you expend the Parish Council would not operate as effectively as it does.

Finally, thanks to Bob McTaggart and Sean Darch for their work keeping the village tidy.

2. Comments from members of the public: None

3. Any other business: None