

MARSKE AND NEW FOREST PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council – MRS Charlotte Smith
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DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 22rd May 2024 at 7p.m in St Edmunds Church, Marske

Present: Cllr Meredith Cllr Ridley Cllr Villiers Cllr L Wallis
Cllr M Wallis 1 Member of public Clerk: MRS C Smith

- 1. The Annual Meeting commenced with the Notice convening the meeting.**
- 2. Apologies for absence-** None.
- 3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 4th May 2023-**
Approved and signed as a correct record.
- 4. Chairman’s Report-** Full report in the Appendix.
- 5. Topics for discussion raised by Parishioners, on matters the Parish Council is responsible for.**
 - a. Residents raised concerns over pollution in the swale and would like to know a time frame for a solution.

Action: Write a letter of concern to Yorkshire Water.

- 6. To consider any written resolution received by the Clerk.**

Concerns over the regular power outages- Concerns were raised over the loss of power and how this leaves people isolated.

This is also linked to concerns about connectivity, the analogue landlines are going and all phones will then run off the mast. When there is a power outage the mobile phone mast also goes off after an hour.

Actions: ask BT what is the plan of action regarding connectivity. Speak to Reeth PC as they are lobbying about the BT Landlines. Is there anything we can do to prevent it? Investigate do the power companies have a duty of care to vulnerable residents who are isolated?

It was noted that we must ensure the telephone box in the village is not removed.

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Appendix

Chairman's Report for Annual Meeting of the Parish on 22 May 2024.

The purpose of this meeting is firstly to let everyone in the parish know what the parish council has achieved over the past year, and secondly, to give Electors the opportunity to raise any issues they feel are important for the wellbeing of the community.

I am pleased to report that the council has made progress on a number of things since last summer:

Communication: we have set up a Whatsapp Community which is an umbrella group for the whole parish, under which we have a number of groups, such as Parish Council Updates, Residents' General Discussion, Defibrillator, Marske Wildlife group, Best Kept Village 2024. It seems to be working well so far. If you have any comments or suggestions, please let any of the Councillors or the Clerk know. We also created and sent out a newsletter and hope to do the same again, as and when there is news to communicate.

We are trying to get the old Waymarker signpost restored. We have offers of funding from Cllr Peacock and the Milestone Society to cover the cost of restoration, and we have quotes for the work. If anyone can track down the missing arm please let us know!

We recently had a site visit with Highways to look at road safety. They have recommended installing signs warning of "no Footway" and "pedestrians in the road" on the bendy section leaving the village for Clapgate Bank. Toad warning signs will also be installed 50m either side of the ponds – these signs will only be visible during the toad migration period in March and April.

The council has been asking the planning authority to review the Marske Conservation Area for the past couple of years, and they have agreed this should be done. Currently they say they are struggling to find the funds to carry out the appraisal.

Best Kept Village: we have entered the 2024 competition, which will be judged in July. We still have a few weeks – it would be great if we could have a bit of a push! We could have a working party day, another litter-pick, bird-box-installing, bug-hotel-making, plant swapping... If you feel you can contribute in any way, put a message on the Best Kept Village whatsapp group.

Looking forward, the councillors are attending a training day in July. There's also a Defibrillator Training session in July, which is open to all - if you are interested, just let Charlotte know.

I would like to finish by thanking the councillors for their work over the past twelve months. We welcomed two new councillors over the past year, Lynne and Stephanie. We also had a change of clerk last summer, and I would like to thank our new clerk, Charlotte, for the excellent job she is doing. I am sure the other councillors will join me in thanking her for her hard work, expertise and professionalism. I'd also like to thank Councillor Yvonne Peacock for supporting us and representing the needs of our parish at county level; And thanks to Pam Braithwaite for auditing the council's finances again this year.