

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR GLANTON

The Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for Glanton was held at The Memorial Hall, Glanton on Monday 13 May 2013 at 7.00pm.

Present:

- Parish Councillors Mrs Susan Collingwood-Cameron, Joe Easton, Ms Nicola Frater, John Guiry, Iain Hedley, Chris Livsey, Jon Radgick (Chairman) and Mrs Susan Rogers.
- Nine members of the public.
- SE Rickitt – Clerk.

1: The Chairman welcomed the members of the public and proposed the adoption of the minutes of the previous annual meeting held on 28 May 2012. The meeting agreed.

2: There being no matters arising from the minutes, the Chairman gave the annual report [a copy of which is attached to the signed minutes and set out below]. The Chairman made particular mention of the contribution made to the parish and the council by George Dodds, who had stood down during the spring.

3: The meeting was then opened to questions and comments from the members of the public:

3.1: The Village Clean-up – usually at the end of May – and the need for co-ordination with the County Council's sweeper so that cars could be moved (NB: The Parish Council which followed decided to hold this in the week commencing 5 August, prior to the Show.)

3.2: The Parish Plan – It was argued this should be a standing item on every Parish Council agenda. The Chairman noted the request but did not want to bind whoever would be the next Chairman to a particular course of action.

3.3: Highway Matters – a number of concerns were raised including the number of potholes, the dangerous junction with the A697 and failed street lighting. The Chairman informed the meeting that all were items where the Parish Council was pressing the County Council for action.

3.4: Green Lanes – concern was expressed about the change of Unclassified County Roads to Byways, the Parish Council will monitor the need and any consequences.

Subject to ratification

3.5: The Parish Council was asked to confirm its previous policy of underwriting any loss incurred by the Memorial Hall for theatrical touring company productions. (NB: This was confirmed at the following Parish Council meeting.)

The meeting closed at 7.25pm with the Chairman thanking the public for their attendance.

Confirmed as a true record
and signed by the Chairman
Date

Annual Report of the Parish Council to the Village Meeting May 2013

The composition of the PC has changed slightly in the past year, George Dodds had to resign owing to pressure of work, and Iain Hedley has just come onto the council. I would like to thank George for his contributions over many years, and to welcome Iain and thank him for volunteering.

Glanton can be proud that for a relatively small parish we are one of the few PCs in north Northumberland to have our full complement of ten councillors.

The year just passed has been the first year we have worked with our Clerk Stephen Rickitts and I would like to record my thanks to him as well for an excellent job done in keeping us, and especially me as Chairman, on the straight and narrow; he has made my job a lot easier.

During the year we have carried out the following activities:

We mended the stone bench in Playwell Road and we continued to cut the grass around all four benches on the approach roads, and along the footpath to Whittingham.

We worked with the County to improve the access along the footpath in the tennis court field, and at our request they raised the path across the muddy spring by the bottom gate, which has made the walking much easier.

We arranged for the trees to be lopped around the flagpole as they were ripping the flags, and this work was done for us free of charge by the company doing work for the phone lines.

The village organised a party for the Diamond Jubilee with support from the PC and a brass plaque was placed on the pole on Glanton Hill commemorating the Jubilee. A new stone planter was built near the Juries also commemorating the event, which Ronnie Anderson built for us without charge.

The snow squad was formed again, although fortunately the weather was not severe enough to give us much to do, however the commitment is there for support to people who may need help in the event of prolonged snow.

We held a second training evening for first aid and in particular the use of the defibrillator machine which was well attended.

We have obtained listed building permission to put up a hand rail on the steps into the village shop, a wrought iron rail has been commissioned, and should be installed very soon.

We bought new lights for the village Christmas tree.

We harried the County when they disclaimed responsibility for the overflowing drain near the Old School, and eventually they did repair it.

Subject to ratification

We have continued to express concern about speeding, and as a result Steven Bridgett has agreed to fund a variable speed indicator device which will be shared around several parishes in his ward, but will spend time in Glanton.

The Glanton online website continues although our search for a new editor and our efforts to include other villages came to nothing, but we are now resolved that there will be a new editor to be appointed quite soon.

We continue to publish the bi-monthly Parish Newsletter, and I must thank Nicola Frater for her good efforts in editing that, and the regular band of helpers who deliver it.

We responded to the County Council's Core Strategy Consultation, which involved answering more than 100 detailed questions on a near 200 page document covering all aspects of planning policy. Our response was widely circulated among other PCs and as a result the second draft was significantly improved. This is tedious work but it really does have an effect on the way decisions will be made in the future. We also continue to be involved in the Coquetvale Cluster of PCs in the Rothbury ward, which involves quarterly meetings with fellow PC members.

The project to bring high speed broadband to the second phase of the Rothbury bid is continuing, and I am pleased to say that of all the villages in the affected area Glanton has registered the highest level of interest. This is a vital effort and if we are successful will be a serious benefit to Glanton in the future.

We are consulted by County on planning issues and contributed opinions on the redevelopment of the old Red Lion Barn, and also on a proposed wind turbine at Follions which although not in this parish would be visible from many parts of the village.

We have considered whether Glanton should enter Northumbria in Bloom again, and we are currently looking for a co-ordinator to agree planting schemes with the various volunteers if there is an appetite to do this.

We have commenced a review of the Parish Plan which was published about five years ago.

We have joined with Hedgeley, Whittingham, and Edlingham to review road safety on the A697 with a view to making recommendations to County.

Finally I would just like to add a personal note as I intend to step down as Chairman after this meeting, I would like to thank all those who have supported me in that role over the last three years, I have very much enjoyed the task, and I think that Glanton is well served by one of the more active PCs in the area, but as ever if there are more things you think we should be doing then we definitely want to hear from you, and now is your opportunity to speak up.

Jon Radgick

Chairman

13th May 2013