

DRAFT MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of THORALBY with NEWBIGGIN and BISHOPDALE MONDAY  
9 MARCH 2020 at 7.00 p.m. in THORALBY VILLAGE HALL

**Present** In the chair, John Dinsdale (Chairman Aysgarth and District P.C), Jane Huntington (Clerk), Parish Councillors Linda Cooper, Alison Sayer, Sandra Wilman.

Clifford Bailey, Ian Brooks, David Cooper, Mark Cooper, Sandra Foley, Gary Hackett, Geoff Hirst, Stewart Huntington, John Lancaster, Helen Mayfield, Ian Mayfield, Chris Parker, Eve Peacock, Kevin Peacock, Neil Piper, Jean Styles, Phil Styles, Frank Trowell, Jenny Warden, John Wilman.

**Apologies for absence** Pat Hesketh, Julie Lawrence, Simon Lawrence, Brian McGregor, Ray Wilkinson.

**The minutes of the last meeting** held on Tuesday 12 March 2019 were signed - following a correction recorded in the minute book- as a true record.

**Appointment of officers** John Dinsdale, as chairman of Aysgarth and District P.C, to chair the meeting, with Jane Huntington as clerk.

**Matters arising from the minutes**

1 The bridge on Low Green was unlikely to be replaced by Highways. A blocked drain was adding to flooding problems. After discussion on how to remedy this blockage, it was agreed that Mark Cooper should investigate, using a small digger, before any other work was agreed to.

2 Dog fouling continued to be an issue, especially on Eastfields (Spickles) Lane and Goose Lane. It was agreed to ask Aysgarth and District P.C. for ten new signs. Clerk to be told where signs were needed and to have them put up.

3 Undergrounding of the electricity supply, problems with redundant electricity poles and unnecessary clutter on poles had been raised via Aysgarth and District P.C. The chairman reported on a meeting held to discuss these matters: it seemed there were difficulties with undergrounding, but there had been agreement to remove much of the redundant pole clutter and to address the leaning pole on the Village Hall. The Parish Council continued to ask for action following the meeting without success, as yet.

4 The ditch on the lane to Littleburn had been cleared by Linda Cooper. No action from Highways. The lane was in a bad state. Refer to Highways for repairs, via Aysgarth and District P.C.

**Grass Cutting**

The same contractor would cut the previously agreed areas.

**Letting of the lanes**

Haw Lane let to John Lancaster for £70

Skellicks let to Mark Cooper for £25

**Parish matters**

**Thoralby 1 Village Hall car park** Frank Trowell had drawn up plans for the proposed work to improve the car park. Following contact with four firms, he had to date one quote and a second one promised. He thought the cost would be in the region of £15,000+VAT. The proposed work would involve digging off, clearing and levelling the present compacted surface, installing drainage, laying a grid and gravel. The Village Hall Committee would be seeking funding from Thoralby Moss a/c towards the cost. It was mentioned that since this account had been dependent on EU funding, its future income was uncertain. Any project applying for funding should be aware of this; any request for a specific sum of money should be brought to a Parish Meeting. Damage to the gutter on the West side of the Hall was discussed and

there were complaints about a vehicle using the car park regularly without paying for the facility. One request for its removal when parking was needed for a big event at the Hall had been refused. To be referred to the Hall Committee's next meeting.

**2 State of the lanes (i) Goose Lane** Motor bikes were churning up the grass and horses were adding to the problem. Both were legally allowed to use the lane; using the pedestrian bridge by bikes was illegal, as they should use the ford. Formerly, the lane had a hard surface, but this had shrunk to a very narrow hard track through grass. Refer to Highways via Aysgarth and District P.C. for action.

**(ii) Side Lane /Garris)** Concerns were expressed about the amount of stone washed down the track towards the village and into the drains by Storm Ciara. There was support for installing a pipe from the outflow opposite the gate into the Cow Pasture; the pipe would run through the Cow Pasture, taking the water into Swinacote Beck below the cow bridge. People were of the opinion that such a pipe would halve the volume of flood water going down the lane and would be benefit to the village. The project would depend on the landowner, Brian McGregor, giving permission for this. If he agreed, it was suggested that the cost of installing the pipe should be met by money from Thoraby Moss a/c. The chairman offered to ask Pete Iveson, who had done work in Thornton Rust Parish, for a quote.

**(iii)** Work was needed on Haw Lane to reinstate a wall supporting the lane on the lower south side. Damage had resulted from heavy traffic in summer going too near the edge; the problem had been exacerbated by heavy rain and flood water in winter. The meeting was assured that the damage would be made good when annual walling work was done in spring 2020.

**3 Parking by the pinfold** There was agreement that large vans parking off the road were damaging the area. Despite the damage, people preferred vehicles to park off the road. Of more concern was the congestion further up the road towards the chapel junction. The meeting would have liked residents there to use the parking areas provided behind their properties. It was not felt that letters requesting this would be helpful.

**Newbiggin** No councillor was present and no matters were raised.

**Bishopdale** Damage to the metal bridge continued, without response from Highways. The flooding problems in Bishopdale had improved. Work at the top of Kidstones was progressing and was moving further down the hill.

### **Any other Business**

1 There was flooding on Eastfields (Spickles) Lane just beyond Heaning Beck. A drain was blocked.

2 Highways should be asked to remove old/redundant signs, sandbags and other debris left behind from earlier works.

3 There was a request for the removal of The George Inn's sign on the Village Green to be removed, especially when the pub was shut. The clerk was to send a letter asking for the sign's removal each night.

4 The cattle grids on Skelicks and above Cote Bottom needed cleaning out.

5 There was an enquiry as to why so much slurry had been spread during the recent wet weather, following the installation of the big slurry store above Heaning, intended to stop the need for winter spreading. A wet October had prevented the tank being emptied before winter and the huge volume of rain since had caused further problems. In future, the tank would be emptied earlier in the autumn.

6 Following a query as to whether permission had been sought for felling a holly tree and bushes on Haw Lane on Parish Land in June, the action was defended as being maintenance work because of growth encroaching onto the lane. It was pointed out that a tree near the gate leading onto Side Lane (Garris) had been felled without permission some 30-40 years ago.

**There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.**