

PARISH OF LANGWATHBY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2008

The Parish Meeting was held in the Village Hall, Langwathby, and was chaired by Mrs C.Merrie, Chairman of the Parish Council.

There were 28 residents present and apologies were received from Mr I.S.Harrington.

Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2007 were read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave a report on the work of Langwathby Parish Council during 2007/8.

Community Policeman

PC Richard Harrison introduced himself as the new community policeman for the Parish but pointed out that he covered a large rural area and it was not clear yet whether an additional officer would be appointed. He said he had conducted a small contact survey amongst a number of people he had spoken to in the Parish and speeding seemed to be the issue of greatest concern. He also described the multi-agency approach to fighting crime, although crime was generally low in Langwathby.

Village Hall Committee

Mrs F.Flower, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, explained the great difficulty which the Committee had experienced in obtaining grants towards refurbishing the Village Hall. It was not possible to consider any building extensions at the present time and the scheme had been pared down to essential work. Although a smaller scheme than hoped, Mrs Flower said it would constitute a significant improvement on the present facilities. She said there was an urgent need for more people willing to serve on the Committee and for help with the Scarecrow Festival in July.

Community Travel Plan

Mr Keith Masser, the Area Engineer, explained the community travel plan process. He said that it was not to do with public transport or highway maintenance but invited suggestions for small-scale improvements to roads, footpaths, signs etc that would be of practical benefit to the community.

Several ideas were put forward, including:

- Additional dropped kerbs for disabled people and prams

- Improved access for large lorries negotiating Langwathby Bridge

- Footpath from Bridge to Edenhall Sports ground

- Improvements to Culgaith Road crossroads

- Creation of proper layby near Skirwith Road junction on A686

- Replacement of narrow cycle lanes on Eden straits by a single wider one on the uphill side

- Sweeping of cycle lanes

- Measures to discourage parking of large vehicles on roads

- Measures to discourage blocking of pavements by parked vehicles

Mr Masser undertook to have the various suggestions considered to see what might be practical solutions. There would then be a further meeting for a report back and to

agree a list of priorities. It was hoped that one or two schemes could be funded by the Area Committee. He also asked the Parish Council to draw up a list of sites where they would like to see dropped kerbs installed for wheelchair users.

Other Issues Raised by Residents

Concern was expressed about litter dropped by car users at locations like the cemetery layby and the growth of vegetation in gutters; Mr Masser said this was the sort of problem the new highway stewards being appointed by the County Council could deal with.

The Chairman thanked all those who had attended and taken part in the meeting.