

ARKENDALE, CONEYTHORPE & CLARETON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY HELD IN ARKENDALE PARISH CHURCH
WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2007 @ 8.25 p.m.

Present: 12 parishioners and John Watson, our local county councillor.

Tim Braithwaite agreed to act as chairman and Peter Thorndyke agreed to act as clerk to the assembly.

1. OPENING REMARKS

TB began with a few opening remarks, apologising for the delayed start. He emphasised that, although an agenda had been issued, the meeting was open to anybody to 'have his or her say'.

2. OVERGROWN HEDGEROWS

H. Houseman raised concerns about the hedgerows on the road to Staveley, past the Bluebell Inn, that had become overgrown, forcing traffic into the centre of the road, and therefore potentially dangerous. It was noted that NYCC had been cutting the hedgerows recently on other roads around the village, and PTh agreed to contact NYCC again to try to resolve the matter.

3. CONSTITUTION OF PARISH COUNCIL

A question was raised about the constitution of the parish council. It was explained that, although theoretically elections were scheduled every 3 years, in reality elections were never held because there were always fewer candidates than positions available. Casual vacancies occurred when councillors resigned mid term. These were advertised on the notice board, and if someone could obtain the signature of 10 parishioners, they became a candidate. If there were more candidates than positions available then an election would have to be held. This just does not happen. Normally, nobody responds to the advert and therefore the parish council must co-opt someone. In those circumstances the intention has been to accommodate a balanced council covering different genders and different age groups - but this is not always possible.

The attendees thanked the members of the parish council for the work that they do.

4. TRAFFIC MATTERS

Speeding through the villages was raised again, the road leading down from the Bluebell towards the Mar being of particular concern. It was confirmed that a recent traffic survey had noted the excessive speeds and the information had been passed to the police. It was hoped that they would take action but in the mean time, there was no reason why villagers should not jot down the registration number of speeding motorists, and pass them to the police.

5. DEVELOPMENT WORK

Discussion took place regarding the apparent lack of control that HBC or NYCC exercised over developers, during the development itself. It was explained that Skips placed in the road had to be licensed and a fee paid, but it was inevitable that there would be temporary disruption during deliveries of goods, or disposal of waste and that there was little that could be done, unless there was a clear case of the developer operating dangerously. It was noted that the two unfinished buildings were still work in progress in Arkendale. HBC had advised there was nothing that could be done unless, again, a safety regulation was breached. Planning approvals normally stipulated a start date, but not a completion date.

6. THE MAR

The presence of the greater crested newts had inhibited any clean up work being undertaken, but it was still intended to tidy up the site later this year under the guidance of a Ranger, who would be licensed to work on a site inhabited by these newts.

7. ARKENDALE VILLAGE SIGN

The parish council were keen to erect an Arkendale road sign on the road approaching the village from the A168, because it was thought that some motorists did realise that they were approaching the village until they passed the church. It had been learnt that the sign could be paid for via grant if it

incorporated a road safety message. The grant had been applied for and the outcome is awaited, but the messages being given are all favourable.

8. NEW VILLAGE HALL

The chairman of the Arkendale Memorial Hall committee was present and he gave a short talk on the progress being made towards replacing hall. He said that we have a final quote for the new building of just over £180,000, plus about £4,000 to demolish and make safe the old hall. Grants are being applied for and various fund raising activities being organised.

There being no further business TB declared the meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

Signed (Chairman of the meeting)