

ARKENDALE, CONEYTHORPE & CLARETON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY HELD IN ARKENDALE PARISH CHURCH, ON WEDNESDAY. 14th MAY 2008 @ 8.00 p.m.

Present: 14 parishioners, Neil Waite the local Community police constable and John Watson, our local county councillor.

Tim Braithwaite agreed to act as chairman and Peter Thorndyke agreed to take minute, there being no volunteers wishing to undertake the task.

1. OPENING REMARKS

TB began with a few opening remarks. He commented on the speeding issue in Arkendale, saying that the equipment should be used during peak times i.e. 7.30 to 9.00 am and 3.30 to 6.00 pm each working day. He understood that it had not come into use until after 9.00 am, on the day in question, and had been taken away in mid afternoon. NW said that the average speeds recorded had been 38mph downhill and 31 mph uphill and the number of vehicles recorded was over 800. This last figure was seen as suspect by the meeting. Further monitoring was needed and NW said that he would bring equipment to the village and stand by it in uniform whilst recording speeds. It was believed this would have a deterrent effect.

2. VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

No comment.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

C. Strong spoke about the scheme in Arkendale. She and Jane Hartley were the two coordinators. CS said that there were 39 members of the scheme who passed on information by telephone if the police reported any suspicious activity. There was, however, a problem in that the two ladies were not at home every day therefore messages were delayed sometimes. In Coneythorpe, Mike and Jane Collier pass messages around by e – mail. NW reported that there had been changes within the police service in that the previous officer responsible had resigned recently and a new officer had been appointed. Generally the police were enthusiastic about the scheme. It is active but needs more follow up, so that residents know whether e.g. any arrests were made as a result of their actions.

4. POLICING IN THE PARISHES

NW took the opportunity to distribute cards and leaflets about the re organisation of the police in the area i.e. 'The Safer Neighbourhood Scheme'. He said that his role was one of problem solving – such as the problem of speeding in Arkendale. He also told the meeting about CAP group meetings which were held regularly and enabled the police representatives to meet parish councillors etc. The next one was due at the Town Council offices in Boroughbridge on June 2nd at 7.00 pm.

5. ARKENDALE MAR

TB reported that another clean up would be undertaken by the army cadets later this summer.

6. REPLACEMENT OF ARKENDALE VILLAGE HALL

A. Stokes, the Chairman of the Trustees of the village hall, said that they had recently been awarded a £50,000 grant by WREN, though this netted down to £44500 because of the need for a third party contribution of 11%. We were also at the final stage of the application of a grant of circa £150,000 from the Big Lottery Fund. If this were successful then, using some of the Trustees own funds, we would be in a position to go ahead and build. In the meantime it was important to continue fundraising and AS reminded those present about the Summer Serenade scheduled for the 28th June. He hoped everyone would attend.

7. ARKENDALE WEB SITE

It was noted that the site had not been updated for some time. There was a volunteer in the village who was prepared to take it on, and it had been the intention to discuss it at this meeting, however he had been unable to attend because of a fire at his home the previous evening. The meeting wished him well and P Thorndyke said he would talk to him at a later date, once he had sorted his problems out.

8. POTENTIAL WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT

JW reported that, for historical reasons, NYCC owned a lot of farmland just east of the A1, around Booughbridge. They had been approached by the Carbon Trust and asked if they would allow 20 to 30 wind turbines to be built on their land. Although not actually sited in our parish they would be clearly visible as they would be about 450 foot high (compared with Blackpool Tower 300 foot high), and will be noisy when operating. The Carbon Trust offered NYCC £30,000 per annum for each turbine erected, which is attractive to NYCC as it will help to keep down the community charge in the area. JW thought the proposal would be rejected on the grounds of loss of visual amenity, noise, and the proximity of Linton aerodrome. He felt the MOD was bound to object. Furthermore he did not believe that this method of power generation, although 'green', was particularly efficient. The cost of the electricity generated was likely to be high, especially since this was not a windy area.

9. WASTE RECYCLING FACILITIES

JW talked about the proposal for a waste transfer facility at Flaxby and for an incinerator and / or a waste transfer facility at Allerton Park. The Parish council had already objected to both these proposals on the grounds of increased traffic flow on the A59 and the increased difficulty of joining that road from the Flaxby road. JW pointed out that, if an incinerator were built there would also be a tall, unattractive chimney at Allerton Park.

10. A. O. B.

AS asked if PTh would write to the owner of the reading room in Arkendale and ask what his intentions were regarding the building, since it had stood as a part modified building for over 5 years, and was an eyesore.

M Howe said that it was the intention of HBC to introduce wheelie bins for garden refuse in this area from the middle of July. They would be writing to residents in June to explain the procedures.

PTh was asked to write to the Highways Authority to ask for the grass on Holgate Bank to be cut since it was becoming a danger to traffic turning into that road.

Concerns were expressed about the development of a hotel at Flaxby, particularly with regard to the 4 helipads proposed that would generate noise, and the revised plans which, it was believed, were more extensive than the plans already approved. PTh was asked to look into the matter.

There being no further business TB declared the meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed (Chairman of the meeting)