

Tatham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM)

Tuesday 21st May 2024

The Old School Lowgill.

7.00 pm

Attendance.

Cllr Osborne, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Ray. Cllr Pritchard (Lancaster City Council) and 1 member of the public.

24/039 Apologies for absence.

None

24/040 Minutes of previous meeting held on 23rd May 2023

The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.

24/041 Annual Chairman's Report, *written and read at the meeting by Cllr Taylor.*

This report summarised the key activities and events over the past financial year.

We have had another busy year, Councillors have attended seven scheduled meetings and one extraordinary meeting. Much business is now conducted electronically meaning less travel time but more keyboard time, just one of the reasons we need a younger council.

Lengthsman

The Lengthsman continued to work from April to November doing essential mowing and general maintenance as requested by Councillors. He provides a very good service and we thank him.

Parish Councillors

Recently Kate Stone left the council due to a promotion by her employers which will leave no time to fully commit to the council. Kate has been instrumental in bringing us up to date with policies, making sure we are within the law with safeguarding and GDPR as well as guiding our clerk into her role. The Chairman and Councillors thanked Kate for her service.

Parish Clerk

Much of the Clerk's workload has been responding to 3 Freedom of Information requests and 1 Subject Access Request, all from one parishioner. The personal insults, harassing and bullying attitude with the threat of legal action has caused stress to the clerk, councillors and their families using up much of our clerk's contracted time with extra time costing a few hundred pounds of public money. Following this we have introduced a vexatious complaints policy to address the issue.

Budget

The overspend is reflected in the grant allocations this year, as with everything it seems at crisis point, we have tried to keep the precept increase to a minimum.

Communications

We continue to maintain communications and engagement with all our parishioners by way of newsletters, noticeboards and the website, [Tatham Parish Council – Serving Our Community](#)

Planning

We have looked at, and commented on if needed, 13 planning applications only one is for a new dwelling albeit an annexe. An appeal regarding a wind turbine has been successful. We have responded to a Sustainable settlement survey as nothing in place fits Tatham Parish. Our aim is generally for converting disused buildings for housing rather than new build. We continue to press for details regarding road verges, tree felling and traffic diversions due to the Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme and understand the appointment of a main contractor will provide further information.

Roads

Roads continue to be the source of most reports and complaints. Potholes rough surfaces, gritting, blocked drains missing signs. A grit bin has been provided on the steep section of OMR which drops to the B6480 at Wennington at the request of one parishioner who voluntarily grits that section.

Public Rights of Way

We are now in the fourth year of being financed for the Local Delivery Plan which involves maintenance work on the Public Rights of Way in the Parish. In Tatham there are 45 miles of PROW. We have done footpath work with Cllr Richard Wilson leading a team, and Cllr Bronwen Osborne with her WI members, all volunteering to enhance the PROW network. The wet conditions have held up some work but among other things, a Coronation bench has been installed. We are indebted to the Volunteers who help with this work and to the County Council who provide extra resources.

Liaison with Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council

We have had valuable support from our County Councillor. Matthew Maxwell-Scott and from City Councillor Joyce Pritchard who have both taken issues of concern forward.

Biodiversity

We received a Biodiversity Grant from the County Council. This will be used by the P.C to support projects in the parish.

24/042 Open Forum.

Mr Peter Osborne spoke about the poor condition of local roads. Members agreed this was an issue as was the repair of individual defects but leaving others nearby untouched. Mr Osborne also expressed his concern that removal of trees and hedges in preparation for HARP project traffic should be limited to the minimum necessary; PC agreed and undertook to try to ensure that contractors and sub-contractors act in support of that aim.

24/043 Date and time of next Meeting

Tuesday May 20th 2025 at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Signed: Chairman	Date: 20/07/2025
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