

SKEYTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held at Skeyton Village Hall on Thursday 16th May 2019. 7.30.p.m.

Present: Chairman: Cllr.M. Hicks, Vice-Chairman: Cllr: J. Hughes, Cllr: S. Bunting, Cllr: H. Randell, Cllr: A. Morton, Cllr: D. Scott, Mrs. D. Fields Parish Clerk, plus one parishioner

- 1, Apologies.
Apologies were received from Cllr: I. Stevenson, District Councillor Saul Penfold and County Councillor John Timewell.
2. Minutes from the meeting on Tuesday 5th February 2019, were signed and accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.
3. Chairman's Report.
Twelve months have passed since I gave my last Chairman's report, again the Parish Council have dealt with a number of issues.
Planning. Plans for development of the land known as The Bungalow opposite High View were received. The bungalow is in a poor state and basically uninhabitable. The plan was to knock the existing bungalow down and build an executive style two storey dwelling and also increase the garden area by taking in some of the surrounding agricultural field. The Parish Council decided the proposed dwelling was far too big and would have an impact on the residents in the houses opposite. A larger bungalow would have been more favourable. The Parish Council opposed the plans. The plans were withdrawn soon after.
Plans for the change of use from agricultural to residential at Garden Barn were received. This had quite a bit of history from the start. The Parish Council could only make a decision on the plans and facts that were in front of them, so we reluctantly supported the plans. N.N.D.C. later refused permission on the grounds that there was no proof of the building being used for agricultural activities. Plans for an extension to the village hall were received and the Parish Council supported the project.
Highways. Again, a fair share of Potholes, these are filled fairly promptly. Due to the very hot summer that we had in 2018 the Causeway road from Beech Farm down to the Black Horse crossroads, the surface of the road melted and have since become very smooth and uneven, this is a concern in icy conditions and we felt this would be dangerous to road uses, also a lot of the reflective markers are missing, this was brought to the attention of County Councillor John Timewell, as of yet no maintenance has been done to this stretch of road.
Harsh bump in the road at Cats Corner was reported and has since been rectified.
Finance. Once again, the Parish Council have kept the Precept to the same level as last year.
The bottle bank is still generating a steady income.
A donation was made to Skeyton Church to help with the cost of having the grass cut in the churchyard.
The Parish Council paid for Skeyton's Poppy wreath for the Remembrance Day Service.

The Skeyton village sign. This is ongoing. We have exhausted many avenues. Cost, appearing to be the biggest problem. I have since found a person who may come to our rescue. As the old sign is in such a sad state of repair, we have decided to have a new sign made with a design incorporating the elements of the old sign and also an element depicting the Skeyton Michaelmas Trosh. I have since found a person who is willing to design the new sign and write the computer programme so that the sign can be laser cut from sheet steel. Hopefully in the near future we will have a new sign.

Website. The Parish Council and Village Hall share the cost of the website with Skeyton Church piggy backing at no cost to them. It was decided that the cost of the hosting of the website was not value for money. Vice-Chairman Cllr: J.Hughes son Patrick have since designed a new website for the Parish Council, Village Hall and also, the Church with hosting costs split three ways, this is more cost effective. Elections. The Parish Councillor's had nomination papers to fill in. I did say at the last meeting "Do not forget to complete your nomination papers", in fact 5 Councillor's including myself failed to get our nomination papers back to N.N.D.C. before the deadline, we have since filled in another set of papers and it appears that due to a non-contested election we are still Councillor's.

I would like to "Thank-you" all for your support over the past 12 months and especially to Diane for all her hard work. Well done all.

Michael Hicks, Chairman.

4. Neech Loan Trust Report.

The Neech Loan Fund, which was created by a Dr.Neech in 1947 to provide loans for men or women wishing to start an agricultural or horticultural business, within a ten mile radius of North Walsham. The loan was set to be a maximum of £5000 with an interest rate of 1% to be repaid over 10 years. Over time (with the permission of the Charity Commission), the Trustees have varied and extended the terms and conditions of the loan to include all types of businesses in a wider radius.

The Trustees are comprised of one person elected by the Parish Councils of Skeyton, Banningham, Burgh with Tuttington and two persons elected by the Town Council of North Walsham, with the Town Clerk acting as Secretary. Over the past few years the capital of the fund has grown from a relatively modest sum, until today it stands at around £185,000. Despite funding a number of successful enterprises, including the creation of a multi-million pound business, recently the Trust has had the great difficulty in attracting suitable businesses and people to loan money to.

With the number of applicants steadily drying up, the Trustees have looked at ways of diversifying the type of applicants being received. These have included changes to the Loan model, to make it more relevant for today's society and learning from the experiences of other organisations.

The Trust has therefore:

- Looked to engage school leavers who are considering starting their own businesses and provide them with advice and a low-cost start up loan.
- Sought to engage mothers with younger children looking to return to work and providing support and funding to enable them to set up their own business and “work from home”.
- Developed an online presence in the form of a website and email and online application form.

The website explains more about the Trust, the conditions of loan and examples of successful loans. There is also a link to an online application form and contact information.

If you know of anyone with an idea for a small business that is looking for assistance with funding their start up. Then the Neech Loan Trustees would be happy to received an application or to meet them to discuss their ideas.

Jason Hughes
Neech Loan Trustees.

5. Any other business.
There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 7.45.p.m.