PARISH ANNUAL MEETING - 14th May 2024

Present at the meeting were: Cllr Carlisle, Cllr Tipping, Cllr Hughes, Cllr White, Mr C Redfern and Clerk Mrs Overfield.

1 Minutes of the meeting on 16th May 2023 were approved by Cllr Hughes, seconded by Cllr Redfern.

Bowes Parish Council Chair's report 2023-24

General

Council membership remains the save with five Councillors and one vacancy. Helen Overfield our valued Parish Clerk is leaving us in September and we are currently advertising for a replacement who, we hope, will be as good as she is.

As usual I would like to thank Helen and all our Councillors for the time and effort which they have given to Bowes Parish Council during the last year.

Sale of Land, West End Bowes

This was completed last summer in favour of Highways England leaving the Council in a strong financial position.

Footbridge

The bridge Southeast of East Lowfield has still not been replaced by Durham County Council and it appears that the footpath closure notices have been removed.

Playpark

A contractor has recently erected the seat kindly funded by Bowes Coffee Morning Group. This replaces a rotten one which was removed some time ago.

Allotments

One plot remains unlet and will be tidied up this summer ready for next season.

Cemetery

Two Councillors attacked the sprouting elderberry buses in February and pruned back some Yew and Holly trees.

Flower bed south of playpark

This was replanted some time ago but has now got out of hand despite a cursory tidying in March. Our efforts to recruit someone from the village to tend it have to date been unsuccessful and the contractor we employed a couple of years ago did very little.

Drain in the cut to Gilmonby bridge

At least one blockage in the drain on the West side causes water to emerge from a gully near the top of the cut and run down the road causing a hazard in frosty weather. This has been reported several times to Durham County Council Highways who carried out emergency repairs to a drain on the Gilmonby side of the bridge in February, I think, but totally ignored the Bowes side despite having it pointed out to the contractor and the Durham County Council staff. Ongoing issue!

JD Carlisle, Gilmonby, 13/05/2024

Chairs report approved by Cllr White, seconded by Cllr Tipping.

No parishioners attended meeting which then closed at 7.05pm.