

# Minutes of Scruton's Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

At 7.30pm

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## **APM43/01 Introduction and welcome by the Chairman**

Some 4 residents attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from John Mainwaring Taylor and Anthony Wood.

The Chairman, Cllr. Syd Nye, welcomed all present and explained that the meeting is of the electorate, not a parish council meeting, and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Any copies of reports or of accounts given to the clerk are held in the parish council records and are available from the clerk.

## **APM24/02 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting**

The Clerk presented the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting. They were proposed by Mr Emison, seconded by Mr Howe and signed by the chairman.

## **APM24/03 Scruton Charities Report**

Mr Tony Wood's report on Scruton Charities. The Charity was formed from a number of old bequests whose original intent was to provide coal for the poor of Scruton. Over the years this has altered to providing a small Christmas gift (usually a box of biscuits) to older residents and those suffering health issues, as well as small gifts on behalf of the community (usually a pot plant or flowers) for those having life changing events, bereavement and rather more positively, births. These tokens of neighbourly concern are much appreciated by the recipients.

The Charity has just under £4,000 invested, which provides around £140 a year. At the last AGM in November we agreed to switch banks as our current provider, Halifax, charges a monthly fee which amounts to around 30% of our annual income. This process is ongoing.

#### **APM24/04 Scruton Playing Fields Committee Report**

Mr Phil Emison reported from the Playing Fields committee and a copy of the latest accounts submitted. He stated the increased use of the playing fields with some of the equipment having been refurbished. The account now has a surplus which will be used to upgrade equipment.

The trustees continue to fulfil the requirements of the constitution for the benefit of the local community by maintaining and improving the playing field area through routine inspection and maintenance.

Any and all opportunities are taken to improve the equipment and playing area. We ensure a wide range of recreational activities by providing a variety of equipment and space, including an all-weather multi use games area, football pitch and numerous items of play equipment. We also accommodate other village events such as community picnics.

The chairman and trustees would like to express their thanks to committee members and others who contribute their time and skills for the benefit of the local community.

#### **APM24/05 Coore Memorial Hall Committee Report**

During the year the village hall has been used for various community events, private functions and on a regular basis by a small number of groups including the Saturday Art Group, Hambleton Charity Coffee mornings, War Games and Film Club. The hall is actively managed by the committee which now comprises 8 elected trustees, plus 5 appointed trustees representing the Parish Council, St. Radegund's Church and Scruton Station. Regular checks are carried out and recorded for maintenance, health and safety purposes. The schoolhouse is occupied and is providing a welcome income.

The committee took a decision to defer work to the main roof but have accepted an estimate to renew the roof above the small hall and front porch. A bat assessment carried out in December indicated the presence of a maternity colony of bats so roof work must be postponed pending a full survey (May to September) and licensing from Natural England. An asbestos survey was carried out; the risk was assessed to be very low and will be managed in situ. The village hall has agreed to provide an electrical supply to the container now located on the playing field by SPFA.

Towards the end of the year, the village hall diary was transferred to google calander and a dedicated email; ([villagehall@scruton.net](mailto:villagehall@scruton.net)) was created for all enquiries and which is monitored by the Secretary. As always the chairman is most grateful for the support of all the committee members and anyone also who gives their time and skills for the benefit of the village hall.

#### **APM24/06 Scruton Allotments Group**

It has been a busy year for the allotments association in which we have extended our cooperation with other village groups in organising and assisting in a number of events. Our barbecue skills have been tested at both the Scruton Fest in June and the Thankful Village Fireworks display in November, and we hosted our own mini food festival in October. We hope to be making a similar contribution to village life in the coming year and our own events start next week with a repeat of our successful Gardeners Question Time.

While the association remains self-funded, these events are an important source of additional revenue which we are using to repair, maintain and improve the allotment plots. Work has begun on replacing old fencing and improving the entrance to the plots which will incorporate a memorial to Chris Snell.

Our current challenge is the longstanding period of abnormally wet weather, in combination with drainage issues which have affected other village groups, this has made access to the plots difficult for some time, and the saturated ground is holding up what would normally be a busy period for plot holders. We hope to see some improvement in this over the coming weeks.

This time of year is typically when we see turnover of plots and following the retirement of some plot holders this year we currently have two vacant plots, which are open to residents of Scruton and nearby towns and villages.

### **Issues APM24/07      Scruton Cricket Club**

After many years of very hard work the club has a very well position in the area.

In addition to the Wensleydale League the ground hosts the Northallerton Thirds Cricket Club on Saturdays with a couple of junior games during the week.

Allerton Athletic also use the ground for their training on Saturday mornings. In general the ground environment and the high quality pavilion are highly enjoyed by everyone.

The Christmas Raffle was a success and is a vital source of winter income with many thanks to everyone who helped.

The Club works in close partnership with the Playing Fields Association who share the grass cutting costs and the club has agreed to allow parents of young children to use the car park in the interests of safety when using the playing field. In general it is regarded as an outstanding piece of landscaping. There is now a new notice board at the entrance to the playing field.

### **APM24/08      Scruton Parish Council**

Councillor Syd Nye, Chair of the Parish Council gave a full resume of the work of the Council over the past year and presented his annual report.

Of particular note was the exceptional state of the village as a whole with particular emphasis on the generally clean state that the village is kept. The chairman also spoke regarding the work of the parish council on providing new grit bin, and the removal of unsafe trees. Grass cutting will remain with the Walker Co.

The parish council makes regular inspections of all areas of the village in an effort to make sure the village is clean and tidy and free from any defects.

The chairmans annual report will be published on the Scruton Network, with a copy inserted within the monthly newsletter.

**APM24/09      Open Forum**

Topics ranged from a public address system for the playing field and cricket club to financial questions regarding VAT on the firework funding.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm.