

Thornton Le Dale Parish Meeting

Held on Tuesday May 7th 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Hill Memorial Institute
Nine parishioners and the press officer attended.

In the absence of the Chairman Councillor J Garbutt gave an overview of the work carried out for the good of the Parish in 2012/13 and answered queries put forward by the public.

He mentioned that the Parish was working closer with Parks and the Environment Agency to improve the flow of water through the becks, upkeep of the walls and railings throughout the village. The Parks, after numerous requests from the Council will, later in the year, install lighting in the car park to alleviate concerns from users of this facility and try to keep it ice free in the winter.

The Parish Plan is proceeding at a great rate of knots and input from parishioners is far better than expected; in fact the majority of the villagers have approached this with a great deal of enthusiasm.

The flooding at the cemetery and allotments has been a cause of concern for residents. A survey of the area was carried out to locate any drains, utility pipes or cables; none could be found. As the area was found to be clear a company was employed to dig a new ditch, lay drains and create a soak away for the cemetery and part of the allotments. If this work proves to be effective in reducing the flooding it will be extended further alongside the road, hopefully, to alleviate excess water in all of the allotments.

VAS signs have been ordered and will be installed in 2013/14. These will be shared with other villages and Thornton Le Dale will have them for a period of six weeks at a time.

The Council purchased a grit spreader and ordered two new grit/salt bins so that the paths may be safer during the winter months especially near the Doctors' surgery.

We have made arrangements with the contractor, who cuts the grass, to keep his level of charges to the same as last year and for the following three years. We have also come to this arrangement with our insurance company and managed to reduce the cost by approximately £500 per year. We continue to employ a contractor to keep vermin clear of the cemetery; this is also at a reduced fixed price for three years. All these contracts will be reviewed in April 2016.

We have made arrangements with the Dog Warden to make more frequent visits to the village but it is always pure luck if he finds an offender.

We are responsible for the Hill Memorial Institute and a substantial bill is expected in the near future regarding repairs to the roof. Another expenditure that we will be responsible for is the churchyard: now it is closed it has become the responsibility of the Council to keep it in a reasonable state of upkeep. We are looking at attempting to carry out this work ourselves as the cost of using RDC is prohibitive.