**Oswaldkirk Parish Meeting**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 23 June 2021 at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** 22

**The Chairman** welcomed all for attending and pointed out that the meeting was again being held in the car park to abide by Covid regulations and not limit numbers.

**Apologies:** David & Gaynor Badham, Jane Dexter-Smith, Andy and Shirley Halliwell, Peter O’Neill, Helen Goodman, Maggie Lis

**Minutes from the Annual General Meeting Held on 26 August 2020:** These were deemed to be a correct record.

**Matters arising from the 2020 AGM Minutes:**

It was confirmed that (as had been reported at the 2019 AGM) £400 from the sale of the village history publication is still available for projects within the parish from Helen Goodman.

**Chairman’s Report** – the following report was given by the Chair of the Parish Meeting, John Wilkinson:

The 10 months since our last meeting and AGM has obviously been dominated by the pandemic, indeed there was a time when I thought we would all talk about nothing else. There are now distinct signs of hope in that we should be having our next meeting in October, in the hall without masks and not feeling uncomfortable should anyone sit within two metres. I reiterate my sincere thanks to all those who have helped or supported, in whatever way, those shielding or less able during this difficult period.

Despite the pandemic we have seen some changes in Oswaldkirk during the past year, the removal of overhead power cables, a new village seat, new steps from the bank to the Millennium Way and the purchase of, and soon to appear, a defibrillator for the village. The Freedom Group staff who worked on under grounding the electric cables were in the village for nearly nine months and completed the work without major incident whilst being friendly and respectful to villagers. The Freedom Group kindly donated £1000 towards our defibrillator at the end of the contract. Grants have also been obtained from the AONB and the National Park to assist with above expenditure.

There have been seven planning applications this year, none of which were controversial and were not opposed by the village. There was an application to develop the barn at St Gregory’s, this was later withdrawn, however the non-compliance with previous planning conditions from 2014 at St Gregory’s continues to be a problem. Compliance would now mean considerable disruption to the tenant at St Gregory’s Annex. It is a reminder that we need to scrutinise carefully applications that could impact the Oswaldkirk street scene or amenity in the future.

Despite the fact that we have not been able to have meetings during the past year we have tried to pass on information via the notice board and the ever-reliable Grapevine, thank you for that Dela. My thanks go to all those who keep Oswaldkirk ticking over by litter picking, snow clearing, fuel buying etc., and particularly to Samantha and Mike for their support and considerable work during the past year.

We all look forward to life returning to something like normality during the coming year with the Village Hall open again and people able to mix freely.

John Wilkinson

Parish Chairman

**Treasurers’ Report** – Michael Aherne presented the accounts for 2020/21 (see separate document) and the proposed budget for 2022/23.

Clarification was provided in relation to the payment made to Alan Raw Contracting shown on the accounts, which relates to the replacement and extension of the rotten steps on the Millennium Trail footpath.

The Parish Meeting had agreed following the last precept increase that there would not be a further increase for the following three years. The budget for 2022-23 shows the precept payment will not cover budgeted expenditure however the Treasurer confirmed sufficient reserve funds are available to cover shortfall.

Approval of the budget and accounts was proposed by Roger Dexter-Smith and seconded by David Lis.  All present were in favour.  The budget was duly approved.

**Election of Officers** – No nominations had been received for the Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary posts, therefore all three officers were re-elected unopposed.

There being no further business the meeting concluded.