

MUSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs B Williamson, High Hall, West Ayton, YO13 9JP.

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 8th April 2025 @ 7.00pm in Muston Village Hall.

Apologies: NY Cllr. Donohue - Moncrief.

Present: Cllr. G Owen, Cllr. F Warters, Cllr. McClusky, Cllr. Brigham, Cllr. D Frodin, Cllr. Barnett. Mrs B Williamson, (Clerk).

Notice of meeting:

Mrs Williamson declared public notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with Public Notice 1972 schedule 12 para 1-(2) of the Local Government Act. The initial part of the meeting was chaired by the Clerk until a Chair was elected to the Council.

Election of Officers:

a) Chairman: Nominations requested.

Cllr Owen stated she was not willing to continue as chair for the forthcoming year. Eligibility criteria requires a councillor to have been serving for one year. The three councillors meeting this requirement did not wish to be considered for this position meaning no nominations.

Extensive discussion resulting in Cllr. Owen agreeing to continue to be chair for a maximum of 6 months when other councillors would be eligible to be nominated for the position. Cllr. Barnett proposed Cllr. Owen as Chair, seconded Cllr. Frodin. Vote taken all in agreement. Cllr. Owen accepted the position for six months only.

b) Vice Chairman: Cllr. Owen proposed Cllr. McClusky continues as Vice Chair of the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr. Brigham. Cllr. McClusky accepted the position.

c) Finance Committee members x 3: Cllr. Warters, Cllr. Owen & Cllr. Barnett will be the appointed signatories. All in agreement. Bank mandates completed.

d) YLCA representatives x 2: Cllr. Barnett & Clerk will continue in these roles.

e) Police & CaP representative: Cllr. Warters will continue to represent the Parish Council

Councillor Responsibilities & Representatives:

Grass cutting & Trees – Cllrs. Warters & Brigham

Maintenance identification – All councillors. Maintenance tour to be arranged on a regular basis.

Muston in Bloom – Cllr. Barnett.

Village Hall – Cllrs. Brigham & Barnett.

Millennium – Cllr. Owen.

VAS – Cllr. McClusky & Cllr. Frodin.

Defibrillator – Cllr. McClusky (registered guardian).

Streetlights - Cllr. Barnett & Cllr. McClusky.

Meeting closed @ 7.35.

It was agreed that the residents need to be aware of the urgent need to be active participants in the community. A poster will be displayed & flyer circulated to all households to raise awareness of the need for involvement.

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Council in Crisis: The Need for Local Involvement

The Potential Dissolution of Muston Parish Council and Its Consequences.

Muston Parish Council currently faces a crisis due to the lack of resident interest and involvement. Currently there is one existing councillor vacancy and the likelihood of further vacancies in the coming months ahead. There is an urgent need for increased local community participation. The consequences of no new councillor appointments could result in the council being dissolved.

The Crisis at Hand

Lack of Local Interest

One of the primary issues effecting the parish council is the significant lack of interest from residents. This has led to a shortage of volunteers willing to serve as councillors, which is essential for the proper functioning and representation of the community's needs and aspirations.

Need for Resident Involvement

To avert a potential crisis and ensure the council's sustainability, it is imperative that more residents come forward to participate in local governance. Active involvement can include attending council meetings, volunteering for council activities, or considering standing as a councillor. This engagement is crucial for maintaining a council that truly reflects and serves the interests of the local community.

Potential Consequences of Dissolving the Parish Council

Transfer to Remote Management

If the parish council is dissolved due to insufficient local participation, the management and governance of the community will be transferred to North Yorkshire Council in Northallerton. It is likely there would be a lack of the intimate knowledge and vested interest in the local area, potentially leading to decisions that do not align with the local community's best interests.

Loss of Local Representation

The dissolution of the parish council would mean a significant loss of local representation. The unique needs, concerns, and aspirations of the residents may be overlooked or misunderstood by a distant governing body, which could have detrimental effects on the community's development and welfare.

Conclusion

The current crisis facing the parish council underscores the urgent need for greater resident involvement. Without this engagement, the risk of dissolving the council looms large, with far-reaching consequences for local governance and representation. It is imperative that residents recognise the importance of their participation to preserve the autonomy and integrity of their community's governance. If you are interested in the current councillor vacancy, please express your interest to the Clerk by email or letter. There would not be an election for this position.

We urgently need your support to ensure local needs and desires are served and ensure Muston still has local representation in the vast North Yorkshire Council scheme of governance.

We look forward to hearing from you.