

THE PARISH OF CARHAM

The Annual Parish Assembly

St. Cuthbert's Church, Carham on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 6.30pm

408 The Chair of Carham Parish Council welcomed four members of the public and the local councillors who were in attendance to the Annual Parish Assembly.

409 The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on 10 May 2022 were approved as read and signed.

410 The Chair gave his summary of the previous year:

It has been a busy year for Carham Parish Council and councillors were thanked for each taking some of the load in running the council. The land around Wark telephone box has been cleared with the help of Wark Farm who disposed of the debris. Volunteers will plant and maintain it. Janet Chubb was thanked for her indefatigable efforts in organising the Footpaths Group and liaising with NCC to maintain the PROWs. Cllr. J Court continues in his role as Wark Play Park Inspector and he was thanked for carrying out necessary repairs. The dangerous tree overlooking the play park has been pollarded by NCC. The Parish Council successfully applied for grants from the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund 2022 and the Coronation Community Fund 2023. These have been used to purchase tables, chairs and a marquee which were used for both events and can be used for any future activities by residents of the parish. Cllrs. V Poland and L Allan have commenced a project, supported by Carham Parish Council, to provide defibrillators for the Parish. A number of events to raise awareness and generate public support for the project have been successfully undertaken. The VAS for Carham has been purchased by Carham Parish Council and it is currently awaiting installation by NCC. County Councillor M Mather has paid for the installation cost. He has been very supportive of the Parish Council and he has also liaised with NCC to clear a backlog of work to be carried out within the Parish. The VAS in Wark has been at fault for six months and is awaiting repair by SWARCO. However, they are very slow at answering correspondence. Three grit bins have been purchased by the Parish Council and sited at Shidlaw, Sunilaws and Wark Bank. They have been registered with NCC who will refill them as required. The flooding issue on the Howburn/Pressen road has been addressed by a joint drainage scheme between the landowner and NCC. Cllr. V Poland was thanked for publishing the half-yearly newsletters and updating the Carham Community Website. She has drafted comments for a number of planning applications received during the year and the Parish Council is grateful for her expertise. The Chair also thanked the Clerk for her thorough and sterling work. Cllr. L Allan has resigned from Carham Parish Council and her energy and enthusiasm will be missed. Councillors wish her family well as she moves away from the Parish.

411 Local issues raised by residents were discussed. The VAS in Carham will be installed on 5 June. The large pot hole outside the village will be reported again after a car was damaged recently. Residents thanked Carham Parish Council for small donations given to Carham and Wark towards their Coronation celebrations. The lack of affordable housing, lack of public transport and the need for a good community spirit in difficult times were raised before the meeting ended.