

Kirk Deighton Parish Council

Annual Meeting

Wednesday 8 May at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Present

Cllrs D Richardson, D Scolah and P Warneken

N Fairbairn (Clerk)

Cllr A Paraskos (HBC & NYCC Ward Councillor)

1. Election of the Chair for the forthcoming year and Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Cllr Scolah nominated Cllr Richardson for Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Warneken. Cllr Richardson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chair.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllrs J Shoesmith and D Manson were noted to be absence.

3. Matters arising from the Annual Meeting on 9 May 2018

None

4. Chair's Report for the year 2018/19

4.1 The Parish Council's financial position to 31 March 2019

The cost of running the Parish to 31 March 2019 was £4435 which includes the cost of grass cutting. This is covered by a Precept claimed from Harrogate Borough Council paid in April and September each year.

The precept will increase to £5844 in 2019/20 to cover the increased cost of services provided.

The balance in the bank at 31 March 2019 was £7750 although there were some outstanding invoices to settle from that sum which have now been paid. Councillors have agreed to earmark £5000 for traffic management in the village.

4.2 Parish Elections

Parish Elections took place in May and with only four nominees the election was uncontested. The Parish welcomed John Shoesmith as a new councillor. Penny Warneken, previously the parish clerk, was coopted as the fifth councillor. We also welcomed Nancy Fairbairn as our new clerk.

4.3 Planning and Development

Planning has been dominated by the publication of the Harrogate Local Plan and its examination by the inspector in January.

Within the parish an outline application for 210 homes on the western edge of the parish was deferred by Harrogate's planning committee in April 2018. It was again heard in August when the Parish Council, Wetherby Town Council and The Better Wetherby Partnership (BWP), formally The Wetherby and Kirk Deighton Countryside Partnership, actively fought the application. After the Planning Committee voted against the application the Legal Officer pulled in the application under special measures. This prevents rejection of the application until the Planning Committee have received an exempt report which will not be available to the public.

The application was again heard in September and representations made by Cllr Scolah as the chair was away. In a complete about turn the committee passed the application unanimously. With considerable help from the BWP, the MP for Wetherby supported by Nigel Adams, our MP, asked the secretary of state to 'call-in' the application therefore no decision has been made.

If this application is eventually successful it will be extremely detrimental to the parish doubling the number of properties and advancing the coalescence of Wetherby and Kirk Deighton.

Most other applications were dealt with routinely, but some planning enforcement issues have proved contentious.

Our sincere thanks to BWP for all their help with planning matters.

4.5 Safer Neighbourhood and Traffic

The Parish has still not been selected to take part in the speed awareness initiative. The Parish Council has requested NYCC to carry out a chicane suitability study. This will be carried out once North Yorkshire Police have conducted a Traffic Survey.

Traffic issues are the main concerns that parishioners report to the council and progressing traffic issues remains a frustratingly slow process.

Very few incidents of crime and no incidents of travelers camping unlawfully were reported in the year.

4.6 Grass Cutting and Village Appearance

We are grateful to Pullan Landscape and Maintenance for the service they provide fulfilling their contract to cut the verges in the village. We have renewed their contract at a very competitive rate.

The spring bulbs disturbed by the gas main replacement have been replaced thanks to a donation from Northern Gas Networks and Greenyard Flowers UK supplying four large sacks of bulbs and all the volunteers who helped with the planting.

4.7 War Memorial

A plaque was fitted to the plinth of the refurbished Shell Memorial detailing the names of the parishioners lost in both world wars. A short service was held at the memorial on Remembrance Day to dedicate the plaque and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice.

4.8 Village Clean Up

An autumn litter pick was organized in addition to the annual spring cleanup. Cllr John Shoesmith coordinated the digging party to clear the mud from the pavements on Mark Lane.

4.9 Aims and Objectives

To vigorously defend any planning applications for large developments which adversely affect the parish.

To use the results of the consultative questionnaire to address the concerns in the parish.

5 Any other business

None

6 Next meeting

Wednesday 13 May 2020 at 7 pm in the Village Hall

Meeting closed at 7.07 pm

Signed

Dated.....