

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cononley Annual Parish Meeting held in Cononley Village Institute
on Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 20.00**

Present: L. Brown (Chair), Cllrs J. Cockrill; N. Swain; M. Allum and M. Lougee.

In attendance: Mrs H. Gibbs (Clerk & RFO); Cllrs P. Fairbank and P. Mulligan; PCSO Simon Thornton and 8 members of the public

17.01 The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs A. Parker and H. Rudden.

17.02 The minutes from the previous year's Annual Parish Meeting were read aloud and approved.

17.03 The Chair introduced PCSO Simon Thornton to the meeting. PCSO Thornton is new in this position and he gave a brief personal introduction as to why he has chosen to become a PCSO. He is very much looking forward to working with residents of Cononley and surrounding villages. He is based at Crosshills Police Station.

PCSO Thornton was aware of the current local group who are very concerned about speeding vehicles in the village (Safer Streets for Cononley Action Group (SSCAG)). He gave a succinct outline of the Community Speedwatch Programme, including the process which any community group must follow if it wishes for members of the public to be trained in operating a speed gun. PCSO Thornton commented that this is a relatively new system and that the Police are experiencing a few teething problems with it.

A member of the public questioned why there are no repeater speed limit signs in the village. PCSO Thornton clarified that the village has a 20mph zone and repeater signs are not placed within zones, just at the entrances to the zone.

PCSO Thornton will liaise with SSCAG via the Cononley Parish Council over the Community Speedwatch Programme.

A member of the public raised the issue of bad, dangerous and inconsiderate parking around the school. Examples were given by members of the parking of vehicles actually mounting the pavement and driving along as children were walking along it to school, and of a mother and child having been knocked over recently. PCSO Thornton outlined parking wardens and traffic officers deal with these types of incidents. The Police will only deal with obstructions. Councillor Lougee commented that the vehicles regularly parked on the double yellow lines by the railway station were causing obstructions, especially during peak times. Unfortunately, a traffic warden would need to be present and then decide if the cars parked on double yellow lines were indeed causing an obstruction.

Councillor Cockrill commented on the recent incidents of youths indulging in dangerous driving in cars without registration plates, creating a lot of anti-social noise, on the land currently derelict behind the old Mill. PCSO Thornton advised to report all instances of such behaviour to him in the first instance, however, if this happens on the highway, to report it to the Police on 999.

Cllr Lougee raised the issue of vehicles parking on pavements within the village. The Chair made reference to advice given about 8 years ago from the Police that if the streets are narrow, cars may park on the pavement but must allow enough room for a wheel chair to pass by.

A member of the public raised the issue of HGVs driving through the village. Examples of damage to buildings and vehicles getting stuck were given. It was noted that the HGV signs at the entrances to the village have been changed and that the Parish Council has written to both Highways and the local MP. PCSO Thornton advised that all that can be done now, is to keep on at the relevant bodies!

There being no further questions for PCSO Thornton, the Chair thanked him for attending the meeting and providing some useful insights and he left the meeting at 20.20.

17.04 The Chair of Cononley Parish Council gave her report.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Starters & Leavers: Helen Gibbs has joined the Council as our new clerk, replacing Belinda Roos in January 2017.

Both Patrick Bowland and Allan Wade stepped down from the Council and have been replaced by Mark Allum and Marten Lougee. Marten and Mark have both previously served as Parish Councillors.

The new village website: in the next few months the Parish Council will be launching a new website with all the statutory documents such as minutes, agendas and policies but also with lots of information about the village and its activities and buildings. If you would like any information included on the website or have any photos of Cononley you would be happy to share please contact Helen, our Clerk.

Chairman's signature:

Date:


13/3/18

Planning Applications: again, due to the lack of CDC local plan, it has been a busy year for planning applications with the most prominent being the approval of the development on the Station Works Mills site at the end of last year. Although we don't have any further information at this time, the Parish Council has been approached by CDC to open talks regarding the potential planning gain that could be available from the site.

Neighbourhood Plan: the neighbourhood plan is in its final draft stage and will be going to a six week formal consultation with the village in the next couple of months. There will be more information on how to respond very soon.

Allotments: we enjoyed judging the village allotments again this year for the Make It Bake It Grow Show and currently have 1 mini and 3 full sized vacant allotments. If anyone would like to apply for an allotment please contact the Clerk.

Footpath Survey: we are very grateful to David Banks for carrying out a footpath survey for the Council.

Traffic Calming & HGVs Accessing the Village: The Parish Council has investigated with NYCC the possibility of introducing some additional traffic calming measures. This work is still ongoing with the assistance of the recently established Safer Streets for Cononley Action Group. We are really pleased to Simon Thornton our new PCSO for the area who is also keen to work with the village to improve the speeding traffic issues (community speed watch). The issue of HGVs through the village is a persistent problem despite the Parish Council lobbying NYCC highways to amend the No HGV signs to picture signs. We are continuously raised this issue with Highways and via our Council Representatives.

Dog Fouling: an action group has been recently set-up to pull together a strategy to combat the constant problem of dog fouling. Nick Swain, one of our Parish Councillors, is the representative from the PC on the action group.

In Conclusion: we very much welcome input and support from the community and we are very excited that two new action groups have been formed, Dog Fouling & Safer Streets for Cononley. If you have any information and would like to attend Parish Council meetings please do come along!

17.05 NYCC Cllr Patrick Mulligan gave his report.

Petitions: In view of the recent petition regarding speeding in Cononley, Cllr Mulligan outlined the process needed for a local petition to be placed on the relevant area Committee. To initiate the process, a total of 555 signatures from the Craven area would be required. Once on the agenda for the relevant area committee, the petition is debated and the petition organisers may speak.

Level crossing at Cononley station:

It is unlikely that Crosshills station will re-open. A recent report concluded that it would cost over £20 million to do so. But the vexing question of the barriers at Cononley was considered in the report. It will cost £20 million to re-position all the signals on the railway line and this would have a big impact on Cononley barrier down times. It was decided that Cononley Parish Council would wait until more is known before deciding whether to organise a petition to re-position the signals.

Locality funding: there is currently £5,000 available to spend. Any groups within the village which are engaged in worthwhile projects should contact Cllr Mulligan in the first instance for an application form.

Craven District Local Plan: there have been problems with getting the plan finished. This is mainly because the government's demographic projections have changed which has resulted in a lower housing requirement in Craven. But the change in the plan had to be publicly consulted on again. However, the plan should be finished by end December 2017.

Skipton Town Hall: renovations are almost complete. The new tenant should be in by April. The museum has been improved.

Swimming pool: has also been renovated.

Local enterprise partnership: £4.7 million received to develop area surrounding Skipton Railway station.

Plans for other Joint Ventures are being mooted.

CDC Cllr Pat Fairbank gave her report.

Waste management: the inefficiencies in the Waste Management department have been addressed such that there has been an improvement in staff morale, more balanced work runs and new management.

Chairman's signature:

Date:



13/3/18

The blue bags will finish at the end of March 2017 because the value of recycling paper or cardboard has fallen.

The landfill is closed. A new incinerator has been built.

Car parks in Skipton: Those that needed resurfacing have been done.

All parking ticket machines all now do cash and cards.

Coaches are to pay for parking.

The toilet at the bus station has been renovated.

There will be a new entrance at Engine Shed Lane. Three buildings will be demolished to create this.

Aireview House for the homeless: will be renovated to provide accommodation for the homeless until further accommodation can be found.

Police Report to the Select Committee: increase in burglaries in Skipton, Kildwick and Farnhill; in particular of vehicle thefts. The Police urge the public to take greater responsibility for its property.

Anti-social behaviour and violence without injury offences have increased.

Two new PCSOs have been appointed.

Farewell: Cllr Fairbank will retire on 24th March 2017 due to reasons of poor health. Cllr Fairbank recalled her first Parish Council meeting in 2000 in Cononley. She expressed her sorrow at leaving and felt that it had been a privilege and an honour to be the representative for Airedale and Lothersdale for the past 17 years. She thanked the residents of Cononley for putting their trust in her. She thanked Cononley Parish Council for their warm welcome and always making her feel comfortable.

In reply: Lois Brown, Chairman thanked Cllr Fairbank for all her hard work on behalf of Cononley Parish Council over the years. She recalled that she has known Cllr Fairbank for 12 years and likened her to a dog with a bone!

17.06 Playing Field Trust.

The Clerk reported that repairs to the 3 benches and the basket net have been done in the playground. Owing to the cost of the quotation for a new tractor seat, the lengthman will make a replacement. The bark has been raked up and top-up bark needs to be ordered next month.

The sand in the sand pit needs topping up.

One static sheep ear is missing. The lengthman will see if he can fix.

The climbing net needs a new 'ball' joint.

The bottom rails of the football net are fraying.

Once all these jobs are complete the Clerk will organise a RoSPA inspection.

A member of the public raised the question of who maintains the hedges along Madge Bank. The Clerk will consult the Lengthman.

17.07 Village Institute Trust.

Cllr Cockrill gave her report.

There has been another very busy and successful year for the Village Institute with a packed programme of events for Villagers to enjoy.

The annual Scarecrow Festival, MIBIGI, Beer Festival were sandwiched by plays from the Jaywalkers, the Arts and Craft Fair and more recently a fantastic Music Mayhem showcasing the talent, both young and old, that we have in our midst.

The CVI has just launched a trial of CVI Cinema with a pilot involving Cine North. The first of three films, 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them', being well attended and both an enjoyable evening and financial success. On the night we took a survey to see what villagers wanted. Two more films will follow in short order.

It is pleasing to report that the Institute finances are in good order with a healthy income being generated from regular and ad-hoc hirers which is supplemented by the fundraising events that are organised throughout the year. The surplus that has been created allows the setting aside of funds for future investments, maintain the fabric of the building, cover any unplanned expenditure and importantly sustain any loss of income over the short term.

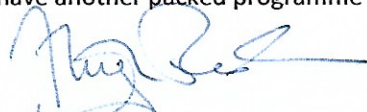
On the building front, it was a relatively quiet year with some general redecorating recently undertaken, which important that we keep the building in good order for all users. The new chairs i think you'll all agree were also a fantastic improvement.

Looking to the Future, the refurbishment of the porch to create a safer emergency exit on to Main Street is due imminently. Also within the next couple of months the institute will have WiFi and if the cinema club proves a success we will look to purchase our own equipment.

From an event and fundraising perspective, the Committee have another packed programme for the

Chairman's signature:

Date:



12/2/18

year ahead and are also planning to organise more events in conjunction with other Village organisations and charities. A good example being the Scarecrow Festival with the theme of comics and cartoons so get your thinking caps on now!

In closing, the Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to all of the volunteers without whose help and support the programme of events would not be able to run and have such a thriving Village Institute. Sincere thanks were also extended to anyone who has baked cakes, made soup, helped out in the kitchen, served on the bar, sold raffle tickets and sat on the Advisory Committee in the last year.

17.08 Reports by Village Organisations

a) Cononley Morris Dancers – report given by the Squire of Cononley Morris Dancers, Richard Gibbs. The side, still relatively new is progressing well. The dancers practice at The New Inn pub the first three Fridays in the month. The dance repertoire is increasing. The side has danced at the Gala and outside the pub at Christmas last year. It has also danced at the Musical Mayhem in February 2017. The side welcomes all new dancers and musicians.

b) Cononley Singers – report given by Kath Clark. Once again, the choir had enjoyed a very successful singing season. The choir competed in the Colne Festival and achieved 1st and 2nd placings. The choir has also sung at the musical mayhem recently.

c) The Sports Club – report given by Kath Clark. The sports club continues to do well.

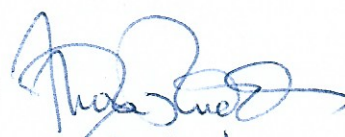
17.09 Open discussion, questions and answers:

A member of the public commented about parking outside the Institute. The Chair responded with a synopsis of the recent meeting held between the Clerk and the concerned residents. The Chair spoke about having 'Keep Clear' signs painted on the road next to the Institute but that, as yet, nothing had been decided and that this was an ongoing issue.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 21:28

Chairman's signature:

Date:



13/3/18