

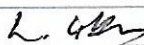
**Minutes of the Cononley Annual Parish Meeting held in Cononley Village Institute
on Tuesday 8th March 2015 at 8.00pm.**

Present: Cllrs L. Brown (Chairman), H. Rudden, N. Swain and A. Wade.

In attendance: Ms. B.M.W. Roos (Clerk & RFO), DC P. Fairbank, CC P. Mulligan and 19 members of the public.

- 16.01 The Chair opened the meeting welcoming those present. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A. Parker.
- 16.02 The minutes of last year's APM were approved during the regular Council meeting held on 14th April 2015.
- 16.03 The Chair of the Council gave her report which is attached to these minutes.
- 16.04 DC P. Fairbank reported that the CDC Select Committee has had a very busy year. Last summer there have been various meetings with the police in regards to trying to keep the cell blocks in Skipton open. As however on average only two people per week were held in the cells, the outcome was that the staff costs would be better spend on other things so it was resolved to close the cell block. Prisoners are now being taken to Harrogate. The committee also dealt with parking issues. HGV's are now going to be charged £ 5 for staying on public car parks, as will motorbikes. Users of the swimming pool will now be charged too, but will be able to get a refund at the end of their visit to the pool. Shoplifting is currently making up the highest amount of the crime figures. Theft of garden ornaments and the breaking into of sheds are also on the rise. Sex abuse and rape figures have gone up too and according to the police this is because victims feel more able to report such crimes. The contract for maintaining the toilets at the bus station will run out soon. Maintenance costs £ 21,000 per year so it has been decided that three new toilets will be put in and that the contract will not be extended. It is expected that 20,000 Syrian refugees will come to the UK of which 100 will be rehomed in North Yorkshire and of this figure 25 in Craven. The refugees will receive humanitarian protection visas. Skipton, Glusburn, Cross Hills and Sutton-in-Craven are deemed to be the best places to rehome the refugees due to their facilities and access to Bradford where there is already an existing Syrian community. The bottom has gone out from under the paper recycling market which has resulted in the collection of waste paper costing the Council now quite a lot of money rather than providing a significant income component for the Council. CDC is therefore looking into better ways of disposing of the waste paper.
- Cllr Mulligan added to this reporting that rather than making the Council £ 250,000, the collection and disposal of waste paper is now costing the Council £ 400,000. Cllr Mulligan further reported that the Government continues making cuts to the Council's budget which would be easier to deal with if they could be phased-out. After protests and lobbying, it has now been resolved that these cuts will be implemented over a more phased-out timescale. This however does not mean that there are no challenges ahead. Devolution/The Northern Powerhouse is also still a much debated issue. There is still a big divide on who to merge together with. Connectivity is in relation to this an important factor. Proposals around this are expected later in March 2016. Harrogate and Craven would like to partner up with Leeds which at the moment is being vetoed by North Yorkshire who doesn't want the county to be broken up in any way. From April 2016 a bus route will be established from Skipton to Manchester. Councillor Mulligan congratulated the village on their successful campaign against the Madge Bank planning application which was a great result and showed once again the importance of attending public meetings. There is likely some funding available for a shelter on the local bowling green. A member of the public enquired if the recently put in place tow bridge could be extended to Cononley. Cllr Mulligan replied that this is likely to happen in the next phase of the development. A member of the public reported that the amount of litter in the road verges is drastically increasing. Cllr Mulligan responded that this indeed partially may be due to the recent cuts, but that people should really campaign to urge people simply not to litter and that it should be good if for instance car park attendants take up litter enforcement too. A member of the public enquired if a similar pedestrian area as has been put into place at Cononley Lane could be created at Carlton/A59. Cllr Mulligan agreed to raise the issue. Councillor Mulligan further mentioned again that there is help in the form of funding available for victims of the recent flooding and sign-posted people to the website.
- 16.05 The Chair had given a status update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan in her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
- 16.06 The Chair had given a status update regarding the Village Institute Trust in her report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Mr Woolf reported that it has been a good year for the Institute with a successful program of events. For some events the Institute has partnered up with other village organisations which has been successful on will be done more often going forward. More people are hiring the Institute. The Institutes finances are healthy and included adequate reserves for maintenance projects. Quotes are currently being gathered for new chairs and a good sound system has recently been purchased. Mr Woolf thanked all the supporters of the Institute for their help. He will look

Chairman's signature


14th April 2015

into the possibility of getting the Institute connected to the internet. A member of the public enquired whether automatic hand dryers could be placed in the Institute's toilets. Mr Woolf mentioned that these were not installed due to the lack of space in the toilets, but that he could look into the issue again.

16.07 The Reverent gave an update on the refurbishment of the church which will cost around £ 160,000 of which £ 100,000 has been already raised, mainly via the Methodist Circuit. After the tendering process has been completed, grants will be pursued.

On behalf of the bowling club it was reported that the club had won various titles over the last year. A grant has been received from the Skipton Building Society for teaching children bowls after school. A choir fundraising event in Skipton is coming up. The club is currently looking into placing shelters around the green. Anyone who would like to learn bowls can come along on the Wednesday afternoon for free lessons. A tournament will be held in the village.

16.08 Open discussion, questions and answers: A member of the public enquired if there is a timescale for the purchase of the so called 'Clever SID' system. The Chair answered that the Council is still pursuing this, but that the wait is still on NYCC which needs to answer certain questions around legalities.

A member of the public enquired if the planning application for The Mill development has been submitted yet. The Chair answered that the developers will present their plans for consultation within the village in April.

A member of the public enquired if it is known where the speed gun is. Cllr Mulligan reported that the gun is currently stored at the Cross Hills police station as they have not gotten round yet to training up villagers to use the gun. The Clerk was asked to check the current status.

Regarding the potholes on Morfoot Lane, a member of the public suggested that it could be included in the planning gain for The Mill. The Council noted this suggestion.

A member of the public enquired if some of the 60 mph zones could be turned into 40 mph zones for safety reasons. Cllr Mulligan responded that it is always possible to build a business case and give it a try, but that a very strong case would be needed in order for the changes to be approved.

A member of the public mentioned that something should be done about the HGV's coming into the village. The Chair responded that she has written to Highways to try and get 'unsuitable for HGV'-signs placed at the village borders to help keep them out. She suggested that people should write down and pass on the names of organisations of whom HGV's come through the village so that the Council can write to these organisations.

A member of the public commented on the grass strip on Crosshills Road that has now virtually gone as people keep parking on it. The Chair promised to pursue the issue again.


A member of the public enquired if there was any further news regarding the church development to which a negative answer had to be given.

A member of the public commented on the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan states that parking restrictions will be set up and wondered how this would take place. It was explained that this will be further looked into and that a good balance needs to be created in order for issues not to be moved to a different area.

A member of the public enquired if The Mill development will create extra parking in the village. The Chair responded that there are proposals to extend the railway parking area.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 21.40.

Chairman's signature



14th April 2015