

LONG PRESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THURSDAY 6TH APRIL 2017

MINUTES

Present: Long Preston Parish Council: Councillors Nick Tyrer (Chairman), Andy Kay (Vice-Chairman), John Goodall and David Inglis; Parish Clerk Marijke Hill, Craven District Council Councillor Chris Moorby, Craven District Council Chief Executive Paul Shevlin, North Yorkshire County Council Councillor Richard Welch, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Area Manager (Southern Dales) Kate Hilditch and representatives from May Day Committee, Over 70s, Women's Institute, Heritage Group, Village Hall, Playing Field Association and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Parish Cllrs Paul Morley and John Sturgess and North Yorkshire Police PC Barbara Parsons

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21th April 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Nick Tyrer, as a true and accurate record.

3. **Parish Council report**

The Chairman, Cllr Tyrer reported on the stabilised situation in the parish and the projects that have been achieved this year. The upgrade of the parish' streetlights has its phase 1 completed and phase 2 to commence soon. Free wi-fi has been installed in the Village Hall and the Council is liaising with Age Concern to set up computer classes. The Council is organising a paper collection scheme at the lay by of the Maypole Inn, the revenue of which will help fund Settle Pool. The telephone kiosk next to the Maypole Green has been adopted and the Council is looking into ways to renovate it. A local artist has shown interest to organise an exhibition in it. The precept has fallen to £23,000 in 2016-17 and further to £22,000 in 2017-18. Financial reserves are adequate.

4. **Reports from County, District Councillors, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Police**

NYCC Cllr Welch explained the impact of the reduction of government funds by £200 million in 2020 on services delivered by the County Council. The council tax has increased by 1.99% and a further 2% tax has been imposed for care for the elderly. Settle Community Library has 60 volunteers. The disc parking scheme in the Market Place in Settle is a success. Cllr Welch will put the safety of accessing the A682 from Knowles Cottages on the agenda of the Craven Area Committee Meeting. Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Rathmell Primary Schools are set to close due to lack of numbers. Two high street banks in Settle will close later in the year.

Cllr Tyrer raised the matter of a charity, set up by parents for pupil care after school hours attending Middle School, which has a large sum of money. Cllr Welch will investigate what is to become of these funds and whether these can be transferred to Settle Pool.

CDC Cllr Moorby has allocated the Community Grants Fund of a total of £1000 to Hellifield Village Hall, the Guides and new lights in Long Preston Village Hall. CDC

has introduced the co-mingled waste refuse, whereby all recycling material would be collected fortnightly in the blue bin. Fewer wagons are needed and staff would work four days per week. The planning application to develop land on the Hellifield Flashes has caused deep controversy in the two parishes involved and if it were to be approved, would double the population of Hellifield.

CDC Chief Executive Paul Shevlin explained that CDC experiences great pressure to balance the budget, which means working more efficiently, implementing more austerity and charging higher tax. CDC has to be self-sufficient from central Government by 2020 when all funding finishes. CDC staff has been reduced by 30% and the leisure centre is working much more efficiently. CDC will be embarking on a 'Joint Venture' scheme with a developer to mutually make some money utilising the Council's property, land and assets.

Cllr Goodall stated that more clarification is needed to describe the plastics for recycling. A further question was raised by a parishioner if small wheelie bins could be re-introduced. Cllr Moorby will report back to the Parish Council.

YDNPA Area Manager Southern Dales Kate Hilditch reported that the Park Authority is involved in a reorganisation and a new Area Ranger will be appointed at the end of April 2017. PROW maintenance and improvement has a high priority and the Park Authority would welcome the parish council's help to strimm some of the Park's PROWs, details of which need to be discussed with the new Area Ranger. The Three Peaks Project has raised a substantial amount to maintain and repair the footpaths on the Three Peaks Route. The Sustainable Development Fund aims to support small-scale projects that result in positive benefits for the YDNPA. The Parish Council has been successful in obtaining a grant through this fund for its street lighting upgrade project.

No report was received from the Police.

5. Community organisation's reports

a. May Day Committee

Michelle Scholes took the position of Chairperson last summer. May Day last year was a great success. This year's May Queen has been chosen. Various fundraising events are being held. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust application for a grant has been successful and a bigger marquee was purchased for this year's event which will be held on 6th May. A clean up event on the Green is organised for the 29th and 30th April 2017.

b. Over 70s

There are currently 100 members in the village for which the group host a summer and Christmas lunch. A monthly lunch with Age UK North Craven is organised in the Village Hall. The group is always keen to recruit new members.

c. Women's Institute

Members of Long Preston W.I. took part in various events. This W.I. was formed in 1932, therefore, the group will be celebrating its 85th anniversary. Long Preston W.I. meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm in the village hall. The group is looking for new members.

d. Heritage Group

The Big Dig full, technical report was published in October 2016 where all finds were analysed and categorised. An exhibition with over 3000 finds was held in February 2017 in the village hall and the next exhibition will be held in July 2017.

e. Village Hall

The finances are in good order. The hall is used well by local organisations. Both building and caretaker's house were repainted. The single storey building is now a snooker room for members. A fire alarm system has been installed and a grant has been given by CDC Cllr Moorby for new lighting. The Parish Council has installed free wi-fi and computer classes will be set up in liaison with Age Concern.

f. Playing Field Association

The PFA has changed its status to Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The new lease has been negotiated. The PFA assets will be added to the Parish Council's assets register and a quotation for their insurance, for the PFA Committee to consider, will be obtained. A new lease will make it possible for the PFA to apply for funding for new play equipment and improvements on the sporting grounds.

g. Christmas Lights Committee

Cllr Goodall reported that a new committee has not been formed at this time. The future of the Christmas Lights celebrations is uncertain. The Christmas lights are stored at the Post office.

6. Parishioners' concerns and comments

No concerns and comments were raised.

Cllr Tyrer closed the meeting by thanking all for their positive input and congratulating the representatives of District and County Councils, Park Authority and local organisations. The meeting closed at 8.50pm.