

**LONG PRESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
THURSDAY 9TH June 2022
MINUTES**

This meeting succeeded the ordinary parish council meeting.

Present: Long Preston Parish Council: Councillors James Bellis (Chairman), Katy Attewell, Steve Harris, Ann Kay, Chris Moorby, also Craven District Council Councillor; Liz Palmer, and Rob Wood; North Yorkshire National Park Authority Area Ranger Rob Ashford; Parish Council Clerk Marijke Hill; representatives from Women's Institute, Churchyard Mowers, Parish Magazine Committee, Heritage Group, Helping Hands Community Group, Village Hall Committee, May Day Committee, and Girl Guides.

1. **Apologies:** North Yorkshire County Councillor Simon Myers, and North Yorkshire Police.
2. **To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2021**
The Chairman reported that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2021 were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed by the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr James Bellis.

3. **Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

It would not be appropriate to begin this report without reflecting upon the unprecedented past 12 months, which began with the 3rd period of Pandemic Lockdown. At this time last year, we were only beginning to come out of a third series of lockdowns and stay at home advice, closures of shops and businesses, furlough schemes and reduced incomes which had been, underpinned by the constant uncertainty of what next.

That society seems to be doing just that is a measure of our national and local resilience and I believe it important to pay tribute here to all those who through their professional conduct, their determination in the face of personal and emotional adversity have come through this unprecedented period in our history. We do not know yet whether it is really behind us, but as the national news recently reported the lowest levels of Covid Infections nationally for 2 years there is ground for optimism.

Long Preston Parish Council has undergone some change of personnel since the last annual meeting:

In April 2021 LPPC was in the form an interim council, the previous council having resigned en-bloc. District Councillors David Staveley (Chairman) Carl Lis & Chris Moorby were sitting to maintain the business of the council. They were as ever very ably assisted by Parish Council Clerk Marijke Hill. It is also important to record in particular, the efforts of Councillor Moorby in the last 12 months, his local knowledge and understanding allied to his determination to "get things done" along with the tireless efforts of the interim council to "keep the show on the road" the council have progressed so many matters so positively, when otherwise an interim council might have been forgiven for merely maintaining the status quo. As you will see this has not happened and I must formerly thank Councillors Staveley, Lis and Moorby and

Parish Council Clerk Hill for their unstinting work on behalf of the Parish of Long Preston.

Attendance: Councillors loyally attended meetings throughout the year, with only 2 instances of apologies for attendance. In May, Councillor Mary Brierley and in June Councillor Gabi Outlaw joined the Council as co-opted members, they stepped down in November.

In addition, 48 people attended meetings as members of the public and we are grateful for their positive participation.

In May, 8 candidates submitted papers for the Parish Council Election and as a result an election had to be held. This was a very healthy situation and for the first time in several years as a result Long Preston has a fully constituted Parish Council.

A new unitary authority

In May 2023 the new North Yorkshire Unitary Authority comes into being as the District and County Councillors elected in May of this year take their places. This will replace the 7 districts comprising North Yorkshire at the moment. For us, this means Craven District will disappear. We shall wait to see whether the professed improvements in service provision and fiscal efficiency have a beneficial effect in Long Preston with greater access to services and faster reaction times for incidents! Certainly, North Yorkshire has a vast area to serve, with the most miles of roads in any UK county, very low population densities, significant social deprivation discrepancies and poor social mobility. If these can be improved by the change will be a positive outcome.

The business of LPPC this year falls under the normal set headings:

Finance, Planning, Fabric & Maintenance, Traffic & Parking, Parish Activities

Finance

The annual budget was set in December, as the basis for "setting the precept". This is the funding, which, as part of the council tax that we all pay is allocated to the Parish so that it can attend to its responsibilities. Not surprisingly in parallel with the well-publicised rises in cost of living there have been a number of costs which have risen. It was therefore agreed at the January meeting that we would have to increase our Precept request from £24,000 to £26,000, an increase of 8.3%.

The annual accounts show that from the total receipts of £27,984 there was a total expenditure of £44,518 (figures without the Parish Magazine budget are: total receipts of £25,723 and total expenditure £42,473). This created a variance of minus £16,750. The Council had decided to spend a total of £18,807 from capital funds for the procurement of major expenditure items. Excluding the expenditure from capital funds the Council noted a surplus of £2,042. The Parish Council holds capital funds of £10,933. In the coming year the projected income will be £29,000.

Major expenditure items included the purchase of new grass cutting equipment to replace that which was £11,289. There was also expenditure on new roofing materials for the playing fields pavilion and removal of the shed surrounding the storage containers for village equipment, which was badly damaged in Storm Arwen in November. In November, the village purchased the long discussed mobile VAS for £2,845. In addition, we have retendered for the Village Grass Cutting after Mr Andrews decided to retire from this responsibility. A new contract was awarded to Mr Steve Prior, who began his work in April.

Planning

At meetings during the past year LPPC saw 13 planning applications of varying scales. Controversial planning matters will occur from time to time and these need to be handled with care and sensitivity toward all interested parties.

Fabric & Maintenance

The village is responsible for the maintenance of the extensive greens (all 12 of them), as well as the Playing Fields, signage to protect them and for the maintenance of the 15 benches that adorn them. We have undertaken an assessment of the greens, the benches, and the signage. An audit of all village greens in terms of rights and easements will be undertaken by the Parish Council during this year in due course.

In May, at last we saw the painting and reglazing of the telephone box so smartly brought up to scratch again, thanks to many volunteers for their hard work on that. We must now make a creative and positive decision as to how to use the Telephone Box as a valued facility for the village.

Thanks to the considerable efforts of Councillor Moorby and a number of other volunteers there has been significant progress made in the renovation of the playing fields pavilion. A new roof has been fitted, a new kitchen donated and fitted, and work is proposed for the decking in front of the pavilion. Further works to complete the decking and insulate the interior will make the pavilion once more a really valuable space for the Long Preston community to use for meetings and events.

Traffic & Parking

Any member of the village will have witnessed inappropriate behaviour by motorists passing through the village daily. The most significant development was the acquisition of the mobile VAS (Vehicle Activated Signage) and its installation to be used at three locations along the A65. Councillor Moorby must be thanked for his hard work on this project as he has overseen its acquisition, installation and ongoing maintenance / operation. The sign has already yielded some revealing data which going forward may evolve to become a most powerful tool in our discussions with the Planning Departments of Craven District Council, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, County Council Highways and North Yorkshire Police. Currently, as a snapshot the data suggests that there is a significant frequency of high speeds significantly in excess of the 30mph limit and that whilst the "average" may suggest differently this data shows the average is an entirely inadequate measure to use when summarising traffic speeds.

Parish Activities

The LPPC has a role in supporting, facilitating and encouraging parish community activity in order to help the village community thrive. It is not directly the role of the council to organise events and be responsible for them. We are fortunate in Long Preston to have a variety of well-formed and experienced village groups whose events form the stem of village life. Representatives of these groups are at the meeting tonight.

During the year the LPPC encouraged and helped to fund, the children's Halloween party, held in the Pavilion and kindly run by former Councillor Outlaw, the Christmas tree lights and switch on event, the recent Platinum Jubilee fund raiser and subsequent Jubilee weekend events, including the Beacon lighting, Exhibition and Village Picnic, plus the numerous other events held over that weekend, with thanks

to the guides, Women's Institute, Primary School, May Day Committee and all parishioners for embracing the spirit of the weekend with all that bunting and creativity.

In conclusion: moving forward

Of course, there is more that the village could do: The Christmas Lights and Playing Fields Committees need to be relaunched to respond to new expectations adjusting to the changing demographic of the village and the other existing groups must continue to be well encouraged & supported. A clear purpose must be sought and acted on for the telephone box and there is the clear and very significant matter of parking to address. Of course too, there is the ongoing task of convincing the various authorities that the current speed control on the A65 through the village is a tragedy waiting to happen.

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

Report from Craven District Councillor Chris Moorby:

It has been quite an eventful year at Craven District Council.

The main issue that will affect all the people of Craven is the new Unitary Authority which will, on the 1st April 2023, take over the whole of North Yorkshire. The elections for this authority took place on 5th May and the Conservative Member, Simon Myers of Hellifield was duly elected for the district of Gargrave, Malhamdale, Hellifield and Long Preston.

I feel sure Simon will work hard for the people of Long Preston.

I am not sure what changes will be made but I hope they do not have a detrimental effect on Craven. Of course I have my fears going forward as we are right on the edge of North Yorkshire.

As you may be aware there was an election called for the Parish Council at Long Preston as there were eight candidates to fill seven seats. This means we have now got a full Council, something that we haven't had for quite a number of years, it also gives my fellow District Councillors a chance to get back to their District Council work. I feel that the people should thank them for the very difficult and stressful work they had to take on.

I wish my fellow Parish Councillors all the best in their roles and trust they will keep this village moving in the right direction.

Things will carry on as now for the next ten months including the waste collection, licensing and planning, as we all will remain as District Councillors until the 1st April 2023.

I have been made Chairman of Licensing and Lead Member for Greener Craven for the months that CDC is still in existence.

I would like to comment on the planning department. As you may be aware planning has been going through a rough patch in the last couple of years and not delivering on what people need.

CDC has had planning looked at by a group of peers and has taken on board what has been advised. A lead member post was created last year to oversee the planning department and things are moving forward, things are not where we would like them to be at present and hopefully everything will be a great deal better when

the new authority takes over. We are the best performing planning authority in North Yorkshire.

We haven't heard a great deal about the Flashes and the planning application for the 99 lodges over the last couple of years but I have been informed that this will be coming before planning committee in the next few months and, as in the past I will work as hard as ever to get the best deal for the people of both Hellifield and Long Preston.

I am amazed that the damage done to the Flashes has had such a detrimental effect on the wildlife, I have seen hardly any lapwings nesting on the moors like they used to.

We will also have to see what will happen with the Station in Hellifield and very importantly, the lack of parking if things move forward with opening the line to Clitheroe for passengers as this will mean that Hellifield becomes a very important junction.

I like to think that since 1974 Craven District Council has played an important role, even though it has had some bumps along the way and mistakes have been made as happens in life.

I would like to think that I have helped steer the District Council on the straight and narrow over the ten years that I have had the privilege of being a member in representing Hellifield and Long Preston.

As I say I will be representing you all up to the 1st April 2023.

Report from North Yorkshire County Councillor Simon Myers:

County Councillor Simon Myers had sent a written NYCC report which was read out.

- Our proposal to move from 8 councils to one single unitary council was accepted by government without modification, and will be more efficient with less duplication, and less expensive. It will be more accountable with only one councillor responsible for all services (in all divisions except one in Selby where there will be two elected members).
- We are committed, along with our District Council partners, to make the transition as smooth as possible, so that on the day of change in April 2023, all services will be safe and legal, and residents should notice no change in delivery.
- The election on May 5th this year will be to the new authority, with 90 Members in 89 wards serving as County Councillors for one final year, then Unitary Councillors for 4 years. District Councils will continue for one final year.
- Parish Council elections are being aligned with this timetable, so parish councillors will be elected for 5 years; thereafter elections will be held every 4 years. There will be no charge for this year's elections, and it is an aspiration of many in the new council that PC's should not be charged for regular elections as this is often a large percentage cost to the precept.
- Working together we have come through another year of the pandemic. We could not have done it without our partners, but also our amazing volunteers, both organised ones and individuals.
- Almost half of our annual spending goes into Adult Social Care and looking after vulnerable children. These are often "hidden" services.
- We had serious shortfalls in staff in social care, both us and in private providers because of isolations due to covid, but even before the pandemic we had many

vacancies in the sector. We have launched a recruitment campaign called 'Make Care Matter', promoting how worthwhile these jobs are, how vacancies are readily available, and how there are career opportunities available to young people.

- We continue to maintain the largest road network in England, which is challenging, and continue to grit a higher percentage of roads than any other authority. We are trialling a new pot-hole filler which could mean speedier and cheaper work in the future.
- We do not support a blanket 20mph speed policy, but will work with local communities and the Police to introduce or support relevant speed limits that drivers will respect and follow.
- We have invested over £100m in the County's digital infrastructure. Our Superfast North Yorkshire project has brought high quality broadband to some 200,000 households and businesses, especially in rural areas which would not otherwise have been reached by commercial suppliers. Classic market failure so often a feature of rural life. The current phase of SFNY expansion will achieve 97% coverage of the County (by population not geography). We have also installed a Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) throughout the County and free public wi-fi in 20 of our towns. We are working closely with mobile network operators to try to ensure that 4G coverage is raised from 60% of the County up to 95% (by geography, not population).
- Our Trading Standards unit continues to protect consumers with high profile court cases against cowboy builders which serves as a deterrent to others.
- We have set an aspiration for the County Council to be net zero by 2030. This is for our own activities but we will support and encourage others in NY to do the same.
- We set up a unique Rural Commission, bringing together a panel of experts, who gave their time freely, to look afresh at our well-known problem areas to come up with new ideas that we can test and introduce where appropriate.
- We have set up and continue to manage commercial companies delivering rural broadband, waste disposal, legal services, audit, house building and services to schools, which even faced with the challenges of the pandemic have delivered value to the Council taxpayer which equates to approximately 2% of Council Tax.
- We have set the final budget of this County Council, at 1.99% council tax, and 2% ASC levy. This is well below the rate of inflation, which is high this year as we all know, but over the last 15 years we have continued to set CT rises below inflation, striking the balance of providing finance for the services we need to deliver, whilst recognising the ability of people to pay.

Report from Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Area Ranger Rob Ashford:

General YDNPA

Farm Team & FIPL

A new grant funding stream has come online in the past year from Defra, as part of their Agricultural Transition Plan, which is directly administered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and can be accessed by residents of Long Preston Parish (within the National Park).

Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) is a dedicated grant programme for farmers and land managers in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The programme will fund projects that:

- support nature recovery
- mitigate the impacts of climate change

- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- protect or improve the quality and character of the landscape or place

Seasonal Rangers

The Park services department (which the Ranger service sits in) recognised the increased pressure on the honeypots destination in the Craven area of the National Park. The department decided additional support was needed for visitor management within this area of the National Park and gave the go ahead for two seasonal Rangers last year. This was a successful programme, which as meant there will be two seasonal Rangers in post once again this year.

The seasonal Rangers were instructed to welcome visitors to the National Park and provide advice on the ground, as well as litter pick in the area. The seasonal Rangers visited YDNPA car parks and busy location such as:

-Burnsall, Austwick, Malham, Horton, Grassington, Clapham, Kettlewell.

Education Team

The YDNPA Education Team have expanded in recent years and are offering lots of opportunities for school and youth groups to access educational visits around the National Park for free.

Trees and Woodlands

The T&W department have recently been successful in securing wood creation funding to support landowners in the National Park in wood establishment projects. NP current tree coverage is at 4% compared to 9% national

In December 2020 the Dales Woodland Forum produced a new ten-year 'Dales Woodland Strategy'. This new strategy sets an ambition to enhance the landscape by creating 6,000 ha of woodland habitat in the Yorkshire Dales National Park by 2030. That would take the area of the National Park covered by woodland from 4.3% to 7%.'

Public Right of Way Maintenance

The overall condition of crossings on the PROW network within the Malhamdale area, which Long Preston Parish sits, is at 90% in good condition.

Continued maintenance of the PRoW infrastructure in the Parish.

Contribution from the YDNPA Ranger service to the Parish for strimming of lanes around the Parish. The Pennine Bridleway at Hunter Bark towards Mitchell Lane was resurfaced in places, with funding from NYCC Green Lane fund. Remedial resurfacing work carried out on the New Pasture Plantation public footpath.

5. Reports from Community organisations

a. The Heritage Group

Richard Boothman reported that the Long Preston Heritage Group had continued going through the archives and contributed information to Sarah Lister regarding the Settle Graveyard Project to bring the ancestors to life in Sarah's book 'Meandering down the Ribble, Born and Bred in the Long Preston Floodplain'. The proceeds of the book will be used to support local charities.

The Heritage Group continues to update its archives on its website, which includes a large number of documents, photographs and images of old newspaper cuttings that

had been collected as well as creating a separate archive on and as part of the Dales Community Archive 'Capturing the Past', provided by 'Friends of the Dales' website.

The archive also includes the oral history of Robert Slater who has always been an avid collector of photographs and ephemera relating to Long Preston.

At the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Heritage Group, all Committee Members will step down and new Members will be elected.

b. Women's Institute

WI President Joan Townson reported that it is good to get back to normal. The National WI annual meeting is held on 7th June in Liverpool and the President will represent the Long Preston WI there. This year LPWI are celebrating its 90th anniversary, a momentous occasion. Going back through the archives they had 130 members and during the war, garments were knitted by the ladies for all the soldiers in Long Preston and Hellifield, they were sent three items each plus a 2 shilling postal order. Money was raised to sponsor a tank which had Long Preston WI printed on its side. Looking back in history we got the impression that there was wealth in the village. A booklet has been put together about the history.

After much discussion it was decided to plant a rose in the WI garden.

Today there are 21 members and 3 adjoining members, 7 of our members do not live in the village. Hopefully we may get a few more members with all these new houses. We have tried to keep our subscription as low as possible and providing cream teas at the May Day has helped.

Recently we organised a trip to Shibden Hall and the Piece Hall in Halifax.

Future events include an invite to a couple who are puppy raisers for the Guide Dogs Association, a walk and supper out in August, celebration night on 14 September, October will have a craft night where people may share their skills.

At the Annual meeting in November Joan Townson will be resigning as LPWI President.

c. Helping Hands Community Group

Annette Metcalf started the 'helping hands community group' in February 2019 in the village hall for the over 55s for free cake and coffee. After all the Covid restrictions in the past, the 'cake & coffee afternoon' sessions returned in June 2021 and it was lovely to see about 20 people attend albeit with Covid rules/restrictions applying. We decided that the first Afternoon session was to be for Prostate Cancer and we raised £94.75, which was brilliant! Everyone was very apprehensive but really appreciated the change of scenery, cakes and company. Before Covid we had a regular group of 4 or 5 people who served cake and coffees. Since then, there have only been three of us. Hopefully the other helpers will feel able to come along when they are ready. In October we had invited the Skipton Branch of The Royal British Legion to talk about the Yorkshire Regiment. We celebrated 100 years of The Royal British Legion in Long Preston as the oldest Cenotaph in Yorkshire is here. We also raised £100 for the Royal British Legion Fund.

In November we had invited a lady from Gargrave who gave us a very informative talk on her expedition to Mongolia with many slides of the flowers native to that area.

In January 2022 19 people went to the Tempest Arms for a celebratory fish & chip lunch to celebrate 3 years of Coffee & Cake Afternoons.

Last week we had a pre-jubilee afternoon tea with Judith & Duckie accompanying us for a sing-a-long.

We would like to thank all the team at Age UK Settle for all their continued support since we started out on our new venture in February 2019.

The 'Strong and Steady' is held in the LP Methodist Church, initially organised by Jill Ecclestone, now Kirsten Civil, for the over 70s in order to retain and gain mobility. Over the last three years we have had a steady turnover of between 6 to 9 people taking part in this activity.

Kirsten Civil also started with 'Bums & Tums' in the Church Hall in September 2021 but moved to the Village Hall by May 2022, due to the increase of 6 to 8 participants. Bot activities are supported by Age UK financially, paying for the tuition fees and the hire of the Village Hall, whereas 'Helping Hands' pay for the hire of the Methodist Church and for the kitchen in the Village Hall.

d. Village Hall Committee

Stewart Robertshaw reported that the Village Hall is home to numerous village organisations and activities, as well as available for rental to outside bodies and private individuals for functions, parties, children's parties and meetings.

The Village Hall Committee has carried out some maintenance matters, such as the installation of a new boiler system in the snooker room, creation of disabled access into the Village Hall, and the caretaker's house has been redecorated. The Village Hall Committee has received grants from the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Development and Sustainability Fund.

In the new year the Committee intends to carry out a repair of the slate roof on the Main Hall as well as redecoration of the first floor meeting rooms.

This year three members have joined the Committee.

e. Church Yard Mowing

On behalf of the Church Yard Mowing team Liz Palmer reported that the team consists of some 20 people who mow the Church Yard in a group of 5 on a rota. Unfortunately there have not been any coffee mornings since the start of Covid, but these will re-start four times per year, twice in the autumn and twice in the spring. The Committee has a bank balance of approximately £4,000. The machinery is in good condition.

Liz thanked everyone who gives their time and hopes that the coffee mornings are well supported.

f. Parish Magazine Committee

Liz Palmer reported that the Committee noted 25 advertisers, which generated an advertising income of £2,385. The Parish Magazine is posted to 5 people at a cost of £10 each. The Committee noted an expenditure of £2,200. The Committee will look into the suggestion by the Parish Council of including approved Minutes in the magazine, on a trial basis for three months, at its next Parish Magazine Committee meeting.

g. May Day Committee

Michelle Scholes reported that the Committee has lost three members at the start of the planning of the delayed 50th anniversary of the May Day celebrations in 2022 but was able to recruit one new member.

As this event should have taken place originally in 2020, there was no need for further fundraiser events this year and the funds raised from the Gala Ball at the Coniston Hotel in November 2019 was used.

Stephanie Phillip, who has been with May Day from the start and who has taught many children the May Day dances, has retired from that role. The staff and pupils of the Primary School worked really hard to make the event happen and a success on 7th May 2022. The dances to be learnt included The Barbers Pole, The Spiders Web, and The Open Plait.

This year saw the reintroduction of a very early tradition in the appointment of May King and there were 5 applications for this.

Soon after the event an appeal was made for new members and some people have come forward to help with the planning in for 2023.

h. Girls' Guides

Helen Cressey had sent a written report.

Guides has been running for many years, Brownies 7-10 years resumed in September 2021 and our Rainbow unit 5-7 years resumed in May 2022.

All the units follow the program devised by the Girl Guide Association, this program is aimed to developed new skills and give the girls confidence, while still focusing on environmental and social factors. The fun activities we have done over the last year are Archery, Bush craft, Open Water swimming, Nordic Walking lots of outdoor cooking and recently we had a professional dancer come to the unit, which allowed the girls to experience Hola Hoop dancing. On the Environmental program we have taken part in the Great British Clean up and the RSPV bird watch as well as looking at our plastic use.

Going forward we have had contact with the Woodland trust regarding tree planting so many people might be coming to the committee in the future for information about local tree planting projects.

6. Parishioners' concerns and comments

There were no parishioners' concerns and comments.

Cllr Bellis closed the meeting by thanking all for their attendance at 9.17 pm.