

GIGGLESWICK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 12TH June 2018

1. Present: Giggleswick Parish Council: Councillors Perrings (Chairman), Airey, Bradley, Coleman, Davidson, Ewin-Newhouse, Greenhalgh, Jones and Williamson; Parish Clerk Marijke Hill and three members of the public.

Apologies were received from North Yorkshire County and Craven District Councillor Welch.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th April 2017.

The minutes of the meeting, having been circulated in advance, were **approved** as a correct record and **signed** on the proposal of Cllr Coleman seconded by Cllr Airey.

3. Chairman's Annual Report:

The Chairman, Cllr Isobel Perrings, presented her report for the Year 2017 – 2018, a copy of which is filed along with these Minutes.

Planning applications for the Council's comments are received on a regular basis and continue to be the main reason for parishioner's attendance and comments during our public participation times.

In May this year the Governing Body of the Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group voted unanimously to keep Castleberg Hospital open and the Chairman paid tribute to the many parishioners and community groups who engaged so fully with the consultation process. The Hospital has been recognised as a community hub and will become an appropriate place for a range of services.

The Harrison Playing Fields are rightly a focal provision within the parish and the play equipment installed last year has been well received. A change in the contractor for the grass mowing has just been implemented and the Council will continue to maintain and improve this area over the coming year.

The transaction to purchase the telephone kiosk has been completed and painting and other basic refurbishment has commenced, after which the primary school and its pupils can utilise this space.

Local parish elections took place and it was hoped to give parishioners their democratic opportunity to vote for councillors. Although seats were uncontested, the process brought forward three new representatives and the Chairman formally welcomed Councillors Bradley, Greenhalgh and Williamson to the Council.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the two newly retired Councillors Pat Simpson and Mike Pryal, both will be greatly missed. Cllr Perrings also thanked the Vice-Chairman and the other fellow Councillors for their invaluable support and time as well as the clerk, Marijke Hill for her dedication.

4. Financial Report:

Having circulated a statement with the Annual Accounts for the year 2017 – 2018, a copy of which is filed along with these Minutes, the Chairman pointed out that the revenue surplus for the year is £21,630. This is mainly due to a S106 Agreement for the development of Lords Close of £7,729; a VAT reclaim of £5,430 and the sale of a small parcel of land for £5,000. The Council had increased its precept request by £3,000 to cover the maintenance costs for grass areas in the village that were maintained by NYCC in the past, but it was

unable to find a contractor to carry out this budgeted maintenance work, thus creating a surplus of £3,000.

The overall financial position is currently in a very healthy state with adequate resources to ensure that further improvements to the parish's facilities can be continued during the coming financial year.

5. County / District Councillor's Report:

The Chairman read out the report from North Yorkshire County Councillor Richard Welch. Cllr Welch reported that by 2020 NYCC will get £200 million a year less than in 2008 and many services had to be cut. A large part of the budget is allocated to care for the elderly with 2% of the 4.99% council tax is now earmarked for elderly care.

NYC Cllr Welch will be the Chairman of the re-organised NYCC Craven Area Committee, now a Constituency Committee with six extra members from the Ripon area.

The community library in Settle is doing well with over 60 volunteers.

NYC Cllr Welch has given £2000 to the Castleberg Scouts for refurbishing the Drill Hall; £1000 to Hellifield Station Road Playpark for equipment; and £1000 to assist Settle Town Council with the cost of fireworks at the Christmas Lights switch on, all from the Members Locality Budget. Another £1000 was allocated to Settle Church for a portable stage for functions. An Environment Grant scheme has been introduced.

Any litter picking group that would take collected rubbish to Settle Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) would need their cars registered with NYCC to allow the use of any HWRC.

The Chairman read out the report from Craven District Councillor Richard Welch. Cllr. Welch reported that CDC will cease to receive any money from central government and it is entering into a Joint Venture with a construction company utilising its assets for mutual benefit. £500,000 has been paid for releasing land for housing.

Also, CDC's Revenues and Benefits Department is undertaking a joint partnership with Bradford Met Council for cost saving and a more professional approach.

The Craven District Council Local Development Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination and it is expected to be approved early 2019.

Ward Member Grants have been issued to Castleberg Scouts for refurbishing of their building. The Craven Museum and Gallery in the Town Hall in Skipton has been awarded a £1.5m grant for redevelopment.

CDC has launched a campaign to clean grass verges from litter this spring.

Cllr Welch also reported on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The Local Plan is up and running, but more clarity is needed on the distance from the road that any road side barn conversion should be permitted. Road side barns can be converted into local occupancy or holiday-lets. The eligibility for conversion depends on accessibility by a standard road vehicle without the need to create new tracks.

Council tax proposals for second homes (not holiday lets) has been put on hold for the time being but it has increased the public awareness and concerns.

The Parish Forum Meetings have been held in several parishes but attendance from Parish Councils has been low. Only 19 out of 58 had representatives attending. This is where National Park officers meet with Council members to discuss mutual interests.

6. Reports from local organisations

6.a The Women's Institute

Julia Wall presented her report. The Giggleswick WI meets every first Thursday of the month in its new venue at the Hobson Room in Giggleswick School. In the past years the meeting venue was the Parish Rooms but with member numbers increasing the WI need an accessible venue. The business meetings cover national, regional and local issues that are important to members of the WI. Guest speakers have been invited to speak on suffragettes, garden design and chocolates recently. Giggleswick WI is part of the Ingleborough Group of WIs and it participates in the annual show in Ingleton. The WI has been prize-winners there as well as at Bentham Agricultural Show with baking, crafts, horticulture and flower-arranging.

Members organise monthly lunches, outings, a book club, a craft club, a walking group and visit members who are ill with a gift of flowers.

The WI has raised funds for the Settle Swimming Pool, Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Marie Curie. On 4 August the group will be holding a cream tea, cake and plant stall at the Quaker Meeting Rooms to raise money for Yorkshire Cancer Research. Also scheduled for this year, if NYCC permits it, is the clearing, planting and maintaining of a flower bed in the swimming pool car park.

6.b The Giggleswick Gardening Group

Tony Carroll presented his report. The GGG was formed in 2015 after members of the community became involved in the voluntary clearing up of the Church Gardens. When Skipton Building Society organised the Grassroots Giving, the GGG was successful and it won £500 for the purchase of some equipment. The GGG meet every first Monday of each month at 10.00am at the village notice board at Tems Street. Litter-picking equipment was purchased and 13 routes 'walk out and litter-pick back' were devised. Around 145 sacks of litter are collected annually.

The GGG has also developed wild flower areas in the grounds of St. Alkelda's Church with the help of the Hay-time Officer of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and pupils from Giggleswick Primary School have been helping with the sowing of wild flower seeds. The Riverside Path has been cleared from encroaching vegetation and many positive comments have been received from passing members of the public. The two Public Footpaths from The Mains to the B6480 and between the churchyards into the village have been cleared of weeds and the 30mph signs approaching the Hart's Head are kept clean.

Although the group counts 13 members on the list, the regular attendance is usually 5 and more help is needed to take on the many ongoing tasks.

6.c The future of the Parish Rooms

Cllr Jones presented his report. The Parochial Church Council is the proprietor of the Parish Rooms and, after necessary repairs to the roof and re-decoration of the upstairs and the kitchen, rooms in the building can be hired out for £10.00 per hour or £25.00 per session. The Parish Council hire a room for its monthly meetings and this room is also used for elections. There is some uncertainty about the future as the current priest in charge is leaving and a new priest may be appointed after the possible amalgamation of parishes.

7. Parishioners' questions

There were no parishioners' questions.

The Chairman thanked all for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.17pm.