

LONG PRESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MONDAY 21ST MARCH 2016

MINUTES

Present: Parish Councillors John Goodall, Nick Tyrer, Andy Kay, David Inglis, Paul Morley, Parish Clerk, Gillian Muir; incoming Locum Clerk Marijke Hill, CDC Cllr Chris Moorby, NYCC Cllr Richard Welch, representatives from Church Mowers, Guides, Heritage Group, May Day Committee, Playing Field Association, Over 70s, Relief in Need, Village Hall, Women's Institute, and 3 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Parish Cllr John Sturgess

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Goodall, as a true and accurate record.

3. **Parish council report**

The Chairman, Cllr Goodall delivered the parish council's report. The council strives to be as transparent as possible. Agendas, minutes, finance reports and other council documents are available to download from the website or can be seen on request prior to each council meeting. The precept has fallen from £28,000 in 2014-15 to £25,000 in 2015-16. It will be £23,000 in 2016-17. Financial reserves are adequate. A lengthsman has been contracted to maintain the village, new benches have been installed and repaired using the precept and generous donations from residents. Street lighting improvements are on-going. This summer, a contractor will be hired to use the council's own mowing equipment to cut the village greens. The Christmas lights group will continue in an informal basis. The telephone kiosk next to Maypole Green will be adopted by the council for £1: ideas were welcomed on how this facility could be used to benefit the community. The Clerk, Gillian Muir will soon be leaving the council and was thanked for her work. Marijke Hill was introduced as the new Locum Clerk.

Cllr Morley outlined the planned road closures for the Tour de Yorkshire. To mark the Queen's 90th birthday, a beacon will be lit at dusk on 21st April and an event will be held on the main green on 12th June.

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

CDC Cllr Moorby highlighted the loss of income the council is facing from sales of dry recyclables and the strain on waste management services due to the significant number of housing developments happening across Craven. The challenges caused by cuts in Government funding and future reductions in small firm business rates were outlined. Community grants will be phased out; instead each councillor will be allocated a pot of grant monies for distribution.

NYCC Cllr Welch explained the impact of Government austerity on services delivered by the county council and the effect on council tax. An extra 2% funding was received for social care: Limestone View extra care housing scheme in Settle

will open next month. Local community libraries and parking issues were highlighted. The Scrutiny of Health Committee has investigated the potential health implications of fracking: no fracking is planned for Craven. Concerns re ambulance response times were raised: Craven Area Committee intends to lobby Julian Smith MP. Individual councillors have a 'members' locality budget' that can be allocated to community projects. The Yorkshire Dales National Park boundary is expanding and will increase in size by 25%. The Park's budget has been protected this year, although has been cut by 40% since 2010.

No reports were received from YDNPA or the Police.

5. Community organisation's reports

a. Age UK North Craven

The lunch club is held every 2nd Thursday of the month. Age UK North Craven recently provided helpful consumer advice to a local resident that resulted in decreased electricity bills.

b. Church Mowers

Mowing will re-start on 2nd April.

c. Guides

Long Preston & Hellifield Guides meet on Tuesdays in Long Preston in term time: 7.15pm to 8.45pm. Brownies meet at Hellifield Institute on Wednesdays in term-time between 5.45pm and 7.15pm. The Rainbows meet on Tuesdays in term time: 5pm to 7pm. More leaders are needed. Anyone interested is welcome to contact Liz Palmer.

d. Hartley Trust

No report was made.

e. Heritage Group

The Bid Dig project is a great success. Finds are being analysed. There is speculation that Long Preston is considerably older than first thought. As part of the project, a celebration event is being organised in June. Work will be done by the garden club to minimise weed growth and create a wild flower patch in the Baptist burial site. A local history day is being held on 11th May in Settle library.

f. May Day Committee

Various fundraising events are being held. On 15th April children's races will be held on the playing field. The screening of Lady and the Van raised significant monies. A new marquee will be purchased for this year's event which will be held on 7th May. This year is the 46th May Day celebration. Tributes were paid to Stewart Robertshaw and Stephanie Phillips for the contributions they have made. New volunteers are always welcome.

g. Playing Field Association

The PFA has a new committee in place. Negotiations will soon take place for a new lease. The new committee is keen for the facility to be viewed as a village asset to

be used and enjoyed by the local community. New volunteers are welcome to help with repairs and improvements needed on the site.

h. Over 70s

There are currently 90 members in the village for which the group host a summer and Christmas lunch. Significant birthdays are also celebrated. The group is always keen to recruit new members.

i. Relief in Need

Work for the charity is on-going and it is running well.

j. Village Hall

The finances are in good order. The hall will soon be re-painted. The committee has applied to CDC for a grant to install a fire alarm system. The parish council has given its support to this application.

k. Women's Institute

Celebrations to mark the centenary of the W.I in 2015 were highlighted. Long Preston W.I. meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm at the village hall.

6. Parishioner concerns and comments

Weight restrictions and fly tipping on Moor Lane were discussed.