

MINUTES OF THE HELLIFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
9TH MAY 2019 IN HELLIFIELD INSTITUTE YORKE ROOM

Present: Councillors B Hugill, D Statt, B Moore, D Gooch, J Sleath, J Thwaite, F Ludlam-Brown

M Blackwell (Clerk), District Councillor Moorby, County Councillor Welch.

Members of Public: 4

Councillor Hugill welcomed everybody and declared the Annual Meeting open at 7:00pm.

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on Thursday 10th May 2018 were approved and signed.

3. Business arising from the Minutes – None.

4. Chairman's Report – presented by the Chairman, Cllr Hugill.

"We started the 2018/2019 new 4-year term with a full quota of 7 parish councillors after an uncontested election. Six existing councillors stood again (including myself) and we welcomed Cllr Fiona Ludlam Brown as a new councillor.

The Flashes leisure complex application finally came before CDC's planning committee and was thankfully refused. HPC councillors and residents attended the meeting and I spoke in objection. It made a huge difference having so many residents and councillors at the meeting so thank you all for your support and encouragement.

There have been numerous other planning applications throughout the year on which the Parish Council commented. One application to which residents and HPC objected has been to build houses on the Thorndale Play area. As yet it has not yet been determined. A full application has yet to be received for the housing on the site behind Townsons. Last year it was indicated last year that a full application would be made by September 2018, but we are still waiting!

I'm also very pleased to report that the Local Plan has progressed this year and is in the final stages of being adopted by CDC.

Councillors and the Clerk attended various meetings and seminars during the year and we were proud to represent the village at the WW1 Centenary Remembrance Day service in November. As part of the anniversary the Council donated "There But Not There" name blocks and "Price of Freedom" booklets.

The Parish Council again provided hanging baskets for the village planted by volunteers who also planted winter and summer plants for the troughs at either end of the underpass, Hammerton Drive and the village markers, all of which make the village look appealing and nice. So, a special thanks to all the volunteers who help keep Hellifield looking lovely and tidy all the year round.

Parents and friends raised funds this year for a new see-saw on the Station Road play area, due to be installed this May. There were donations from The Beer Festival, Hellifield Youth, The Craven Trust, Cllr Welch at North Yorkshire CC, the Methodist group and a Christmas Fayre run by parents. Unfortunately, vandalism is still occurring at both play areas which is such a shame as the money spent on repairs could have been better spent elsewhere in the village.

New Christmas lights were purchased and again concentrated in the central area of the village, with the Institute, local businesses and residents joining in to make a lovely display. Wayne Harding of the village store kindly donated a tree and also helped with the installation and removal. As usual, Father Christmas made an appearance, the Gala Queen switched on the lights and the WI kindly helped with refreshments afterwards. The Christmas lights are popular, but we do need more volunteers to help with putting them up and taking them down. If the village wants us to continue with the lights, then people will have to come forward and volunteer, it has been suggested that the sites are "hard wired", which would help, as volunteers could then dress the trees and HPC could check the safety.

The allotment rents were increased slightly this year, but still excellent value for money. Unfortunately, after a complaint from a householder local to the allotments, all of one year's allotment income had to be used to fund the removal of an old compost heap.

The Street Lighting Replacement Programme has been agreed and over the next 4 years we intend to upgrade all our old lamps. The precept had to be increased to fund these works, but the reality is, if we don't do it now, spare parts will become impossible to obtain and the lights will go out!

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. We receive many complaints about it, but ultimately it is the owners who are responsible. Craven District Council has the task of enforcing the law but to do so, witnesses need to come forward and be prepared to attend court as a witness. The Emergency Plan has been reviewed and updated, with Councillors recently attending a seminar in the village. Our Clerk has been busy this year in order to ensure we now comply with the new Data Protection Regulations.

HPC is supporting the new village magazine and were involved in the recent "Hellifield Spring Clean Day" litter pick around the village. Over 30 bags were collected, so a special thanks to all those involved

Donations were made to The Church, Royal British Legion, The Village Gala and Settle Swimming Pool.

I'd like to thank our two part-time Parish Council Staff - Mary our Clerk and James our Handyman. I know that I've said it before, but we are very fortunate to have such good employees, without them very little would happen, so thank you both and also thank you to all my colleagues for their support and contribution over past 12 months.

Finally, all your Parish Councillors are volunteers and without all the other volunteers in the village, Hellifield wouldn't be half the place it is. I can't list every person who gives up their time, free of charge, but on behalf of Hellifield Parish Council, thank you all so much"

5 Reports from Charities

5.1 Settle and District Aid in Sickness Report – presented by Cllr Moore, the SADAS representative.

"To date we have had no requests since my last report, from anyone in Hellifield seeking assistance through the charity. In general, there seem to be fewer calls on the charity over recent years. I have put the charity details and my contact number in the new Hellifield Village magazine for June.

This drop in calls on the charity has prompted the trustees to consider if there are other options for supporting those in need in our community. Trustees have taken legal advice and considered a range of options. The concern is that income from investments exceeds expenditure through requests for help and that this does not seem to meet the charity aims. At the last meeting the trustees agreed to pass on surplus in anyone year to organisations which meet the aims of the charity such as a hospice, which helps those residents in the villages, covered by the charity. Payments this year were agreed at the last meeting in October.

However, at present the charity retains its original function and operation and I would welcome information on anyone in Hellifield who has need of support from the funds"

5.2 Long Preston Relief in Need Charity – Read out by James Hordern, representative of the charity.

"The Long Preston and District Relief in Need Charity is an old charity dating back to around 1732 when local gentry bequeathed part of their estates to assist the residents of the ancient parish of Long Preston in times of financial need.

The current charity is an amalgamation of these and a number of other small charities that provided the same sort of assistance in an area covering Long Preston, Hellifield, Halton West and Wigglesworth.

The charity is managed by up to 8 trustees:

One ex-officio trustee, the vicar of Long Preston, Rev Stuart Stobart

One trustee nominated by Long Preston Parish Council, Paul Morley

One trustee nominated by Hellifield Parish Council, Jimmy Hordern

One Trustee nominated by Wigglesworth Parish Meeting, Shirley Wales

Up to three co-opted trustees appointed by the charity's trustees, current just Moraig Hewitt

Our aim remains the same today as it did when the first charities were originally created, to help our local residents with small financial grants in times of need. Applications are treated on their own merit as every need is different and may be eased in different ways.

Our assets are small standing at £4437.32 of which £3909.03 is available for awarding grants. In the last financial year, no grants were sought”.

5.3 Trustees of Hellifield Institute – Read out by Cllr Hugill on behalf of Andrew Crabtree, Chairman of the Trustees.

“Throughout 2018, the Institute continued to fulfil its role as Hellifield's Village Hall.

The Trustees welcomed Ann Taylor and David Clements to their number during the year.

John Flitcroft and Barry Hills stepped down from their roles as Trustees in March 2018 and May 2018 respectively. Andrew Crabtree was re-elected Chairman of Trustees at the 2018 Annual Meeting and has offered himself for re-election at the 2019 meeting.

The Trustees would like to formally thank John and Barry for their hard work during their time as Trustees – in particular, John for his role as Treasurer and Barry for his hands-on role encompassing the oversight of our building and the equipment within it.

The Trustees now comprise Andrew Crabtree, Sheila Swinbank, Karen Dunwoodie, Susan Emsley, Peter Bolton, Richard Brown, Ann Taylor and David Clements. During the year the Trustees decided to recognise their dual role as Trustees of the Charity and as Committee Members for the running of Hellifield's Village Hall by resolving to expand the numbers joining the Committee, the first “recruitment” taking place in early 2019, when Susan Alderson joined our number. The maximum number of Trustees holding office at any one time remains at eight, as per our Constitution. The Trustees/Committee met formally on six occasions during the year, and continued to meet and liaise regularly on an informal basis. The Committee continues to operate various fund-raising activities in order to support the charging structure for room hire. The Committee believes that hire charges should be set at a level that encourages the use of the building by villagers, and so seek to augment charges by alternative sources of income. It is more than five years since hire charges were last raised, and during the intervening period costs have risen, and so the Trustees have succeeded in this respect so far. The 200 Club draw continues to make a significant contribution to our fund-raising. As ever, the Christmas Entertainment evening was a resounding success, both financially and socially, and our thanks are due to Hellifield WI for stepping into the breach and, as ever, to “Ian & Jane” for their continued support of this event, and to all other volunteers who helped make this evening a success. The Trustees continue to run one coffee morning per month as a fund-raiser for the Institute itself.

After a busy 2017, there were no major capital projects embarked upon during 2018.

However, following encouragement from a potential sponsor we did commission the drawing-up of plans for an extension to our building, in the form of a storage room, for which we succeeded in obtaining planning approval. Given the hard work and expense involved in achieving planning approval, it was disappointing to find that the potential sponsor had over-marketed its available fund, and 95% of applicants were turned down, including ours.

During October, the Entrance Foyer suffered substantial damage as a result of part of a tree on a neighbouring property coming down during high winds. Rectification became a major project, but at least gave us the opportunity to test our disaster-recovery capabilities!

Thanks are due to those amongst our number shouldering the bulk of the hard work in ensuring a prompt conclusion to repairs.

Projects for 2019 include the re-decoration the Main Hall and replacement of the flooring in the Entrance Foyer, whilst the replacement of the surface in the back yard is also under active consideration.

Coffee Mornings were held on virtually every Saturday of 2018, run by (predominantly) village organisations for their own fund-raising purposes. Informal sports groups (Table Tennis, Badminton and Indoor Bowls) use the institute on Monday evenings, Tuesday evenings, and Wednesday mornings respectively. Other regular users have included

Hellifield Women's Institute, St Aidan's Mothers' Union, Messy Church, the Cardio-respiratory Group, North Craven Flower Club, the Caving Club, Hellifield Allotments and Gardens Association and Hellifield Parish Council.

The building continued to be used for private functions such as family parties and for small-scale commercial enterprises such as Pilates classes, and also a course on the History of Renaissance Art. We were also pleased to welcome, for the first time, the annual Hellifield Beer Festival held over two afternoons and evenings in June, and we are delighted that this will be repeated in 2019.

Furthering their mission to encourage the use of the building, the Committee continued with its entertainment programme. Events in 2018 included a 70's Night and three musical events featuring national artists, as well as the fore-mentioned Christmas Entertainment evening. The Committee have continued to be active in marketing the Institute's services with further development of the Website, Facebook, a regular column in the Parish Magazine, and email circulars.

The Committee continue to face the challenge of engaging with the thirty-to-sixty-year-old age group within the village. In particular they wish to encourage people from that age-group to join them in the running of the hall.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow trustees for their continued perseverance in developing the Institute/Village Hall's offering, in maintaining and protecting the building's facilities, in ensuring that the Charity's business is conducted in a timely and professional manner, and in ensuring that its financial footing remains sound. There have continued to be great demands on their private time, but all have responded willingly".

5.4 Settle Swimming Pool Report – No report received.

5.5 Hellifield WI Report – read out by Karen Dunwoodie, Chair of Hellifield WI

"I have been President of Hellifield WI for three years and at our annual meeting in February was re-elected for a fourth term of office. This report covers the period between February 2018 and end of January 2019 during which time 9 committee meetings and 11 full meetings have taken place, with an average attendance of 26 members. Our year-end membership was 39 members. For the last three years we have had 6 committee members and at our annual meeting we gained an additional member. I must express my gratitude to my fellow committee members whose unstinting dedication and enthusiasm knows no bounds. We are lucky to have some long-standing and experienced members, two of whom, Pat Wardman and Barbara Thwaite, have received their 50 years membership certificates. We had an interesting range of speakers throughout the year including a reflexology demonstration; a portrayal of help being given to the street children of Tanzania; information about dialects; an amusing talk about 'bedpans and false teeth' and many more. To finish off the year John Dawson relayed amusing stories about his family and life as a farmer near Clapham and also his experience on the TV programme, 'The Lakes and the Yorkshire Dales'.

There are several Hellifield WI Members who do not need a great deal of encouragement to dress up and there was plenty of opportunity throughout the year. We did so as part of the celebration of the centenary of Women's Suffrage when we showed the film 'Suffragette' in May; attended a tea party on the village's railway station platform in July; and stormed the Parish Council in September. At the Parish Council meeting we submitted a proposal to look at ways of disposing plastic waste and rubbish that collects in the becks around the village. We supported this proposal by organising a WI 'litter pick' in September.

Another opportunity to dress up was our performance as 'keep fit enthusiasts' at the Talent Night of Hellifield Gala in August. On this occasion our finale involved ripping off our bras and flinging them into the audience! Members excelled themselves once more with their baking skills and provided an excellent array of cakes and buns at the gala's refreshment stall. Baking was once more at the centre of our activities at two Coffee Mornings held as fundraisers.

We were pleased to take part in the national Healthy Living and Wellbeing week in June by way of table tennis; badminton; carpet bowls; and a WI walk. Some members also found their singing voices and joined the WI Federation's Rock Choir, performing in Gargrave and Ripon Cathedral.

At every meeting members generously bring along items of non-perishable food that is donated to Skipton Food Bank.

Christmas was a busy time when members provided help and assistance in a variety of ways at the Village Christmas Market and also the Christmas Lights 'Switch On'. Also, twelve members at the last minute stepped into the breach and performed a 'murder mystery with a difference' at the Village's Annual Christmas Event (another dressing-up opportunity!). In the lead up to our 70th birthday in February, all members contributed in the task of producing a collage depicting Hellifield WI and the village, which was unveiled at the annual meeting. On this occasion we distributed a booklet outlining activities during the last 70 years and the committee entertained everyone by performing 4 hilarious sketches. They were enjoyed so much by the Chair of the Federation, who was present as a guest, that she asked if we could repeat the performance at the Federation's Spring Council meeting in Leyburn at which over 400 women would be in attendance. Of course we said yes".

6. County and District Councillors Reports

6.1 District Cllr Moorby reported:

"It has been a busy year at CDC

Grants

Each councillor is given £1000 grant allocation in twelve months and I have used up all my allocation, the largest amount was £500 given to Long Preston Playing field to instal an electric supply to the field.

I have given to other projects in both Long Preston and Hellifield. As you may know the parish magazine at Hellifield is no longer in existence and the community have got together and will be trialing a community magazine to which I gave a grant.

Hellifield Flashes

I held meetings both at Long Preston and Hellifield to raise awareness of the Local Green Space issue, you may be aware that the inspector has turned down both of CDC's recommendations, because it is a large tract of land.

This created a period of public consultation that finished on April 1.

Following these meetings, a great many letters of support for the Local Green Space have been submitted and we await the inspector's final decision.

Although it is a large tract of land, I have been told that another local authority has had a piece of land passed as Local Green Space which is larger than the one at Hellifield.

There was a special planning meeting held at Gargrave Village Hall to determine the plans for the proposed holiday centre. I personally am pleased that it was refused by a unanimous decision by members of the Planning Committee.

I was aware that not everyone was against the proposed development, mainly for the jobs it would create, but I ask you. Do you think that this sort of development would indeed have created five hundred jobs?

It has to be remembered that all these jobs would have been seasonal, they would probably be of minimum wage **and I must tell you that there are businesses in the locality involved with tourism that can't fill the vacancies that they have**, people do not want to work unsocial hours including weekends.

There will no doubt be an appeal but the planning officer involved with the case was fairly sure it would not be upheld.

Licensing

I sit on the Licensing Committee and the full council passed a policy in June of last year that would make things for the residents, and indeed

visitors, to Craven a great deal safer.

I was on the working group comprising of three councillors. This was time consuming and hard work. We had a great many meetings and consulted with all parties, including the Police, members of the trade and others to come up with a robust policy.

This policy has been tested in court due to revocations and suspensions imposed by the Sub-Committee for Hearings and Appeals.

Indeed in the last few days I received a newsletter from the Institute of Licensing commenting on a private hire operator, not from this area, taking an appeal first to the Magistrates Court and when this failed, to the Crown Court again this failed and it cost this person £1,600 for the Magistrates Court and a further £2,000 for the Crown Court, the local authority also got costs awarded to them.

The toughening of the policies were required as we don't want to see criminal activities, including child sexual exploitation, associated with the likes of Rotherham, Rochdale and the list goes on.

This is the only situation where a person gets into a sealed container where someone else is in charge and can take the person anywhere.

The fitting of cctv cameras will be mandatory in all taxi's and private hire vehicles from the 1st April 2020 but we as the licensing committee are recommending that they are fitted before.

Any that are fitted have to be to the specification imposed by CDC to comply with data protection” .

6.2 County Cllr Welch reported:

“NYCC has suffered a reduction in Govt finances which has led to an increased of 2.99% to the council tax this year.

I have had the privilege of chairing the Local Constituency Committee for the last year and as a result, was involved along with our local MP in discussing the green paper on Care for the Elderly at the last meeting.

7 Parishioners Items and Questions. None.

Councillor Hugill thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.

SignedDated