

**MINUTES OF THE HELLIFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY
20TH MAY 2021 IN HELLIFIELD INSTITUTE**

Present: Councillors B Hugill, D Statt, J Sleath, J Thwaite, F Ludlam-Brown, I Walton
M Blackwell (Clerk), District Councillor Moorby, County Councillor Staveley.
Members of Public: 0

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

1. Apologies: Cllr B Moore

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on Thursday 9th May 2019 were approved and signed. (No Annual Meeting was held in 2020 due to Covid pandemic)

3. Business arising from the Minutes – None.

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

"Last year was the year of **Corona Virus!** The Parish Council held its first virtual meeting and although it was successful, I am hoping that we can get back to our usual face to face meetings in the Institute and that virtual meetings become a thing of the past!

Thanks to the work of our Clerk, Mary, parish council business continued as near to normal as possible. She certainly rose to the challenge using Skype, WhatsApp, emails and phone calls to keep us informed and the essential business of the council going. I don't know what would have happened without her input. Thank you, Mary.

Unfortunately, there was more **vandalism** in the village, it's a huge shame and causes us much concern. Money spent on repairing vandalism means less money for improvements. The police are informed and advise us that witnesses to vandalism, or other criminal activity, should always call 999 and report it immediately.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem thorough the village, we continue to receive a lot of complaints about this. May I take this opportunity to remind dog owners that no dogs are allowed on any of the play areas at all, for any reason!

The Parish Council again provided **hanging baskets and plants** for the village along with the troughs at either end of the underpass and the village markers which volunteers have planted and maintained throughout the year. It is something that makes the village look really pretty and nice so a special thanks to all those who give of their time.

I'm pleased to report that the **Street Light Replacement Programme** is progressing at pace and within budget. Phase 4 has just been completed and it is hoped that the final phase 5 will pick up all remaining lights by Autumn 2021. Sadly, owing to Covid restrictions, we couldn't host the usual village gathering for our **Christmas Lights**, but thanks to the efforts of councillors, a Christmas tree was installed and lights connected. We hope it bought some Christmas cheer to what was a miserable year for most of us
Due to Covid restrictions, **playgrounds** were shut from the 24th March and reopened 4th July - grass cutting, regular inspections and repairs were maintained during the closure. Unfortunately, the basket swing on Station Rd play area was vandalised and had to be replaced. Station Rd play area gained several new items of equipment over the last three years at a cost of £28,000, it is now time to turn to Thorndale St play areas. We have submitted a grant application for £10,000 from the National Lottery towards the cost of replacing the aging cabin slide with a new Be-Bop Plus climber and slide.

There are seven people on the waiting list for an **allotment**. We are regularly inspecting the plots and any uncultivated or untended plots will be given notice to cultivate and tidy up or the tenancy will be terminated. With so many people on the waiting list, it is unfair if existing tenants leave plots unattended. There were numerous **planning applications** we commented on. The Parish Council continues to object to ongoing applications being the affordable housing at the top of Station Rd and the new application for lodges on the Flashes. We continue to support Councillor Moorby in his efforts to sort the Flashes debacle and parish councillors attended the online.

Craven District Council meeting to discuss the Barristers report. Even after the planning peer review undertaken by Craven District Council, our comments and objections still seem meaningless.

There was no increase in the **precept** this year and **donations** were made to The Church, Royal British Legion, Village Magazine, Living Advent Calendar & the Village Covid Help Hub set up by Joanne McNicholls. Our **Emergency Plan** was updated and a flood alert WhatsApp group formed, to monitor and report on water levels. They were tested in January and the group passed with flying colours.

I'd like to thank our **2 part-time staff** - Mary our Clerk and James our Handyman. Although I've said it before, we are very fortunate to have such good employees, without them very little would have happened, so thank you both.

And finally, I'd like to thank all the parish councillors & other volunteers, without which our village wouldn't be half the place it is. I can't name you all but as Chairman, on behalf of Hellifield Parish Council, I thank you all so much for your valued input and contributions.

5 Reports from Charities

5.1 Settle and District Aid in Sickness Report – read out by the Clerk on behalf of Cllr Moore, the SADAS representative:

"The Settle and District Aid in Sickness Fund is a registered charity, operating since 1960, and its entire purpose is to help people with those increased costs resulting from illness. The Fund makes one-off gifts to applicants in Settle Parish and all the eleven parishes that surround Settle.

Though the Trustees have not met formally during the pandemic, decisions have been made via emails and the work of the charity has continued. There have again been two grants made to residents of Hellifield, at least one related to assistance needed because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The trustees are planning the next formal meeting in June.

The amount of each gift is at the discretion of the Trustees, except the rules say there can be no commitment to recurring gifts. All requests are treated in confidence.

If anyone is aware of a Hellifield resident who may require support I can be contacted on:

bmoore68.bm@gmail.com or 07976215646"

5.2 Long Preston Relief in Need Charity – read out by the Clerk on behalf of 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.

In 2020 the charity is managed by 4 trustees, but can have up to 8 trustees:

- One ex-officio trustee, the vicar of Long Preston, Rev Stuart Stobart (Left the Parish part way through 2020 – replacement not yet appointed.)
- 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, currently all these posts are vacant.

The 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. With the recent, unprecedented, impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on people's working lives it is anticipated that there may be more applications made in the 2020 year.

Part way through 2020, The Rev. Stuart Stobart left his posting as Vicar for the area and as such his position on the Charity. A replacement has yet to be appointed for the area, but it is assumed that one they are in post they will take up the position of ex-officio trustee and resume Chairing the RIN charity administration. Our assets are small standing at £4,163.73 of which £3,897.63 is available for awarding grants. In the last financial year, FY2020, three grants was awarded. Two separate grants to one family struggling with Dinner

money Payments to Hellifield Primary School and one to a family, again with school dinner money arrears, but who attend Long Preston Primary School”

5.3 Trustees of Hellifield Institute – read out by Cllr Statt on behalf of Andrew Crabtree, Chairman of the Trustees:

“Throughout 2020, the Institute continued to fulfil its role as Hellifield’s Village Hall even if, owing to the Coronavirus pandemic, operations were suspended for the greater part of the year (and remain so at the time of writing).

At the close of the 2020 Annual Meeting, the Trustees comprised Andrew Crabtree, Karen Dunwoodie, Richard Brown, Ann Taylor, David Clements, Heather Leak and Kenneth Leak, and all of them continued in their roles throughout the year. Jennifer Darling joined us as a non-Trustee Committee member as has, more recently, Katherine Kellett. The maximum number of Trustees holding office at any one time remains set at eight, as per our Constitution. During 2020, the Trustees/Committee met formally on six occasions (two of which were “virtual” meetings using “Zoom” technology), and continued to liaise regularly on an informal basis. Virtual meetings are continuing into 2021 until Government regulations are relaxed and we are able to meet again safely.

Andrew Crabtree was re-elected Chair of Trustees at the 2020 Annual Meeting and, as he retires as a Trustee on 30 June 2021, a new Chair is to be elected at this 2021 meeting.

When able to, the Committee continued 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 seeks to augment charges by alternative sources of income. It is more than seven years since hire charges were last raised, and during the intervening period costs have risen - so the Trustees have succeeded in their goal so far. The 200 Club draw continues to make a significant contribution to our fund-raising. Once Village Halls are allowed to resume activities, the Trustees intend to re-establish the running of one coffee morning per month as a fund-raiser for the Institute itself. There were no major projects embarked upon in 2020, although purchases of crockery and table tennis equipment were made out of grants received from Craven District Council and North Yorkshire County Council. There is, currently, only one project under consideration for 2021, and that is the replacement of doors and windows in the entrance foyer. However, we do also expect to have to meet an insurance excess of £1,000 arising from building remediation work to correct subsidence.

Perversely, the Institute’s finances have improved during “Lockdown” as Government Grants easily outstripped continuing expenditure, and also thanks to the very generous donation by a villager of the proceeds of the sale of their speakers and electronic equipment. The Committee has already had informal discussions as to how this surplus of funds can best be used to once again ensure that Hellifield Village Hall is the hub of the Community.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow trustees and committee members (and also our informal helpers) for their continued perseverance in holding steady 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. It is a very hands-on role and, even during Lockdown, there have continued to be demands on our committee members’ private time. Needless to say, all have responded willingly”.

5.4 Settle Swimming Pool Report – read out by the Clerk on behalf of Ann Galloway, representative of Settle Swimming Pool:

“Because of the Covid restrictions at the moment. The pool is only allowed to take 10 swimmers at anyone session instead of the usual 43 swimmers. We are gradually opening more hours but we have been only opening for 33hrs a week instead of the normal 84hrs and a lot of the pool staff are on furlough. Hopefully at the beginning of June most of the staff will be off furlough and we will be able to open longer hours. It has been a very difficult time for everybody concerned with running the Pool.

With regard to the Charity Shop when we have been allowed to open, we have been very busy and the shop is going from strength to strength. Our last financial year which ended on 31st March showed a profit of just over £60,000 even with lockdown. This was an excellent achievement.

We now accept donations at the container at the pool for the shop on a Tuesday and Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

If anybody knows anybody who wishes to volunteer at the shop or container or to help selling goods on line will the please contact me on my mobile 07789183512”

Hellifield WI Report – read out by the Clerk on behalf of Karen Dunwoodie, Chair of Hellifield

- “Annual Meeting, normally held in February, extended by 3 months in view of pandemic, so not held until 20th May 2021.
- Since annual meeting held on 20th February 2020, no meetings have taken place due to Covid and only one physical meeting of the committee. Two further committee meetings took place via zoom on 6th March and 14th May 2021. Communication has taken place throughout the year via email with hard copies taken to those not on email.
- Two members have sadly died during the year, one as a result of Covid.
- Despite lack of activity, membership remained high, falling from 40 to 31 members.
- The financial position has remained static with little income or expenditure taking place.
- Despite everything a couple of events did take place through the year - a socially distanced Santa’s Grotto in December, which also involved mulled wine and mince pies with a live Santa and Elves. Also, a socially distanced walk in March in solidarity with all women who have experienced abuse and harassment.
- Although it has been a difficult year in many ways, Hellifield WI Members are resilient and will bounce back with vigour and intent.”

6. District and County Councillors Reports

6.1 District Cllr Moorby reported:

“It has been a difficult year for everyone including all councils. We at Craven have tried to do our best in the way of keeping people safe and making sure businesses and residents have been able to draw on funds if required. Hopefully we are now moving in the right direction with the vaccine roll-out and the government are easing the lock-down, if we still try and stick to the rules, I am sure we will get there.

Businesses and charities in Hellifield have been helped out with government funding distributed by Craven District Council.

With regard to the situation at Hellifield Flashes, which is partly the Long Preston Conservation Area I have to report that following the commencement of the development and the creation of a permanent lake, this has had a devastating effect on the wildlife that used to be there. There used to be upward of two thousand lapwings at this site and now there are none. It has been noticed that some black tailed godwits have been seen on the other flashes. These birds have about sixty breeding pairs in the whole of the UK and are in danger of becoming extinct.

I feel very let down by the apparent inaction by the various bodies that are meant to oversee the wildlife, for example Natural England. There has been a working group set up by CDC to oversee this whole situation but I'm afraid our hands are tied to a certain extent and I personally feel that we will have to see what happens when the planning application for the holiday lodges comes before planning committee.

You may have noticed that there is a consultation taking place regarding the proposed opening of the Hellifield/Clitheroe railway line for passenger traffic. I think this will be a good thing for this area as it could mean that we may have a direct route to Manchester, it could also have the effect of bringing tourists into the Yorkshire Dales from Lancashire as the trains will have to travel either to Ribbleshead or Garsdale to cross onto the other line for the return journey. I have passed comment, that although this will be a good move consideration has to be given regarding Station Road, as this road can't cope with any extra traffic that will be generated, I have also said that at the moment there is no car parking facilities at the Station and both these points will have to be addressed before any decision is made. I am vice chairman of the Licensing Committee at CDC and this has been quite an interesting year. Although we put back the time for installation of CCTV in taxis and private hire

vehicles by a year, it was decided this would go ahead in April for the fitting of these systems, but because of the hardship encountered by the operators and drivers we feel that we will have to look at the situation again and hence, at the licensing meeting on 6th April it was decided that CCTV will not need to be fitted at the moment due to the economic climate causing a lack of income for the taxi and private hire trade and will be looked at again in six months' time. The fitting of CCTV will go ahead in the future. With regard to licensed premises, three instances have come before the Hearings and appeals sub-committee with the consequence that two Premises Licenses were revoked and one had its license suspended for two months with the Designated Premises Supervisor being removed. These actions were taken due to contraventions of the rules regarding covid. The rates as a whole have risen by just over 3.25% which is above the rate of inflation, which I am not very happy about. It must be remembered that although the rates bills come from CDC, they include NYCC, Police and various other organisations which amounts to a great deal more than CDC.

Green Matters

Addressing the Council's emission targets: - Our Assets team have been successful in bidding for funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for the 'Decarbonising Skipton' project. Subject to contract, this project will now go ahead. The developments funded by this project will include online energy monitoring, insulation, over 1800m² of solar panels across CDC buildings, large ground source heat pumps, heat recovery and public displays of carbon emissions in our buildings. We are also partnering with Yorkshire Housing to reduce carbon emissions and fuel bills in 28 properties in the Greatwood and Horse Close Estate. A fairly conservative estimate is that this project alone will result in our achieving a cut of 30% of our energy use in buildings from 2024, compared to our 2019 baseline. Combined with our expected savings in fuel from the fleet vehicle replacement programme this should ensure that we stay on track to meet our 2030 ambition for our own emissions, for at least the next two years.

The Waste Management team have included 3 smaller compaction Refuse Collection Vehicles with electric components in their vehicle replacement programme, with budget allocated, for delivery between late 2021 and early 2022. As well as being more fuel efficient themselves, these new vehicles will allow a further reconfiguration of routes to allow a substantial fuel saving overall.

The move to **flexible working** required by the pandemic meant that all staff were issued with energy efficient laptops. The energy saving for an energy efficient laptop in comparison with a standard desktop PC is, on average, roughly 50%. This change in technology for 40 members of staff has resulted in a carbon saving of roughly 2 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent GHG emissions per year.

Actions to improve emissions across the District: The Planning Policy team, in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council, have launched a consultation on the plan for the Transforming Cities Fund project to improve the Skipton Station area which includes substantial active travel improvements, EV charging points in the station car park, better bus access to the station and a net gain in tree cover. The installation of further Electric Vehicle charging points in CDC car parks has been agreed with our contracted supplier, Osprey. The first installation will be in Ashfield car park, Settle, with further installations in Coach Street, Skipton and three further village locations which are yet to be confirmed. Together with the installations by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and by some private sector partners (particularly Bolton Abbey Estate) this should result in at least 2 fast or rapid public charging sockets being available in *almost* every town and larger village in the district by mid-2022.

Action by partners across the District Substantial **tree planting** is being planned (and in some cases already progressing) across the District. The Broughton Hall estate intend to plant well over 100,000 trees this calendar year with a very ambitious, which has yet to be finalised, Target beyond that. The Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust have recently won £250,000 of funding to plant 26 hectares of woodland and 1km of hedgerows with a particular focus on trialling plastic-free planting methods and the Bolton Abbey estate are also in the early stages of planning a very large tree planting programme. The Environment Agency are about to start a programme of activity to work with landowners to improve **Natural Flood Management** measures in the Aire catchment. They will be working with the White Rose Forest to directly engage landowners in discussing possibilities and requirements. Broughton Hall Estate have engaged early with this programme and have already planned some measures. This engagement

activity will begin in late March. Arla are considering the Settle Creamery for the next round of their '**Carbon Neutral**

Sites' programme. If they do choose this site this would include installing emissions reduction and renewables technology at the site (e.g., anaerobic digestion for their waste product). They are also making support available to partner farms in the cooperative who would like to investigate options for carbon reduction measures.

Skipton Building Society have installed 4 fast EV charging points for staff at their HQ, and replaced 2 of their 7 pool cars with Electric Vehicles.

A new group called '**Carbon Neutral Churches in Craven**' have submitted a bid to the Rural Community Energy Fund for a preliminary study with the intent to install renewable energy generation (mainly solar) for 5 churches in the District.

Skipton Town Council have re-established their **Climate Emergency working group.**

Cononley Parish Council have declared a Climate Emergency and committed to writing an action plan (joining Ingleton and Clapham in the list of Parishes to declare this year).

Waste Management Matters

Engine Shed Lane Redevelopment - Temporary Depot - Waste Management Staff moved into the temporary depot at Airedale Business Centre, Skipton on Friday 5 February 2021. The move was carried out by staff themselves and went very smoothly. The service is running well from the new location, and is a significant improvement in working conditions for staff.

Recycling - The provisional figure for Q3 is 40.98% (379.29kg per household). This is a cumulative figure up to December 2020. Garden Waste collections started again in February.

Environmental Health:

Caravan Sites - Environmental Health, Legal and Planning are reviewing the model Caravan Site Licensing Conditions, in order to update and simplify them. Proposed changes will be referred to Licensing Committee in April 2021. Members will be advised shortly and will be given an opportunity to comment.

Cleaner Neighbourhood Team - The team have reported:

- 16 cases of fly-tipping in January 2020 (7 in November and 8 in December 2019)
- 14 dog fouling reports or requests for dog fouling signs.
- A further 5 reports of abandoned vehicles.

Devolution - The matter of devolution has now passed the consultation period and we will have to see what happens.

6.2 County Cllr Staveley reported:

- This has been a most difficult year for the Council, and we should be both pleased and proud of the way our staff have stepped up to the challenge of trying to deliver services in unprecedented conditions. Not one has refused to adopt new ways of working.
- Over 3k now work from home, this was a huge effort from our IT people to facilitate this
- 82% of our children attend a good or outstanding school
- Our children's services have been rated as Outstanding by Ofsted, the first in the country to get this rating
- Our Public Health teams have been very children's busy managing outbreaks wherever they occur, and leading on helping set up test and trace activity.
- Our social services team went to a temporary 7/7 working model, which we are now consulting staff on continuing with as good practice
- The music service has changed to online and does over 1000 lessons a week this way
- We are transforming our Healthy Child programme to make it work better, working very closely with Health
- We have continued to pay bus operators even when services haven't been running to make sure they are still there when normal running resumes
- We have managed record investment into road repairs this year – sadly there will always be more to do as we manage the largest road network in England.

- We have organised 25 formal Community Support Organisations, and helped hundreds of smaller more informal groups. All with the same aim of helping those who need it.
- We have seen a decrease in fixed term and permanent exclusions
- We have spent money on modernising the rail line from York to Harrogate to Leeds, increasing the frequency of trains per hour, so taking more cars off the road
- We have supported our schools throughout the difficult and challenging times of Covid
- We have supported the 235 care settings in the County by being in daily contact with them, and set up Infection Prevention and Control teams, and helped them access PPE and mobile testing
- We have worked well with a range of partners, local govt people from parishes, districts, national parks, blue light services, NHS, the Army, businesses and especially our volunteers.
- We rolled out a scheme of supermarket vouchers for families in need over Christmas and this will be extended for now, supported by govt cash and CC cash
- We continue to invest heavily in broadband provision, edging ever nearer to 100% coverage – this year should see us achieve 97%. However, we know the final 3 % will be the most difficult, and we are determined not to leave them behind. We are also supporting increased provision of mobile phone coverage, trying to get from 60% to more than 90% of the county`s geography
- We are right behind the devolution of powers and money from Whitehall to County Hall, and hope to start negotiating with govt in the near future. The financial benefit is measured in millions each year.
- As part of the devolution process government have invited proposals to reorganise local government structures in North Yorkshire. We have submitted a proposal based on the existing county boundaries where we already deliver our services, 80% of the total delivery by value. We now have the Minister`s decision on whether we meet the criteria, and how he will consult before reaching a decision. Residents are encouraged to respond
- We are striving to keep CT as low as possible, 1.99% increase this year, and an ASC levy of 1.5%. This represents an increase of c. £50 pa for an average sized property. We don`t like increasing CT at all, after all we are all CT payers ourselves, but we have experienced extra spending this year of £75m on Covid activities alone.
- The govt have supported us but with all the pressures they are facing, we could not expect 100% reimbursement

7. Parishioners Items and Questions. None.

Councillor Hugill thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.

SignedDated