

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Monday 6th May 2021 at 7.30pm
(held remotely via Zoom)**



Chair: Cllr Jan Lepley

Council Officers: Clare Smith (Clerk) & Cate Perman (Administrator)

Parish Councillors Present:

Cllr Duncan Ault
Cllr Debbie Cox
Cllr Vicky Evans
Cllr Bob Felstead
Cllr Gary Scott
Cllr Chris Turner
Cllr Mike Wild

Also Present: 3 members of the public

1. Chair's Remarks and Introduction

Cllr Lepley welcomed everyone present to the Annual Parish Meeting 2021.

Due to Covid restrictions, the Annual Parish Meeting was not able to be held last year.

The Parish Council has limited powers but does have the opportunity to put forward the villages' point of view and influence the decision makers. The Parish Council works closely with other organisations in the village particularly the Community Trust in sharing funding and ideas for projects.

In 2017 the previous Parish Council took over the lease and therefore the management of most of the green spaces in the village, the Queens Hall and ownership of the library. A review of these assets is taking place – we would be pleased to hear your thoughts on this.

In May 2020 Cllr Lepley took over the role of Chair of the Parish Council and since then we seem to have spent our time mainly in lockdown. This affected income generation and slowed some work to a halt. There are plans to explore a water supply to the Aireville Terrace allotments and the Roundhouse. Yorkshire Water are not currently attending sites to carry out surveys for new work so this is unfortunately on hold.

The public toilet on the front facing elevation of the Queens Hall between the crosses and Jolly Tots entrance is becoming well used. It is centrally placed in the village within easy walking distance of the park and the rec and is always available between 8:00am and 6:00pm. The old public toilet is no longer fit for use –the Parish Council plans to demolish it and add seating and a raised bed, extending the seating areas near to the shops and cafes.

Minor works have taken place in the library and Queens Hall maintaining the external and internal fabric of the buildings and simple alterations to make the buildings more user friendly therefore attracting more bookings and income.

Plans for the Greenway continue: the purchase of the land next to Otley Golf Club has proved to be incredibly slow and is still not complete. Ilkley Town Council are now working with Sustrans raising the possibility of links to Ben Rhydding as well as to Otley and beyond. Steps and a barrier have been added at one side of Menston Old Lane, a similar installation is planned for the other side soon. Planning permission for the Burley stretch of Greenway has been submitted and the Council is awaiting feedback from Bradford Council. The eventual vision for the walking and cycling route with bridges across all roads remains distant. When the whole route is planned and has planning permissions then raising funding through successful bids will be necessary before it can become a reality.

The Roundhouse has been renovated but further adaptations to the inside are planned and the roof needs some minor repairs. The four seats donated by the churches situated outside the Roundhouse are extensively used.

The Grange Park Gardeners and some volunteers have kept and made the garden beds in the park and the Village Green into interesting, interactive spaces. You will note newly installed raised beds near to the library.

Grange Park play area is nearly complete – the second half of the play equipment including the zip wire has now been installed and is proving extremely popular – providing interest for an older age range of children. There will be some additional matting around some of the new equipment to keep the surface in better condition during the winter months. Additional seating and bins will also be added near the playground.

We continue to support Love Burley with their work that started as shopping and companionship for those who were shielding. Love Burley continue to support residents in various ways and are adapting as needs change.

The final decision regarding the Sun Lane development led to the Parish Council paying a specialist solicitor to explore any further means of opposing the development. It was clear that there are no further grounds for objection. CEG have approached the Parish Council and requested to share their plans with us – we will of course meet with them – we are very aware of the 50 conditions set that need to be fulfilled as the development takes place.

The Parish Council has strongly opposed the planning permission for additional buildings and extended flying hours at LBA. Whilst we recognise that the expansion of the airport may bring jobs and visitors to the area the extended flying time and number of flights could have a negative effect on health and wellbeing for those living under the flight paths. We still await the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government making a final decision as to whether this planning application is to be 'called-in'.

Looking forward, from 7th May 2021 the law no longer allows the Parish Council to hold its meetings remotely. Whilst we are happy to meet face to face, we appreciate that we need to be careful about larger gatherings in small indoor spaces. We therefore plan to have Council meetings face to face in the library where we can ventilate the space well and we will use Zoom to enable members of the public to join the meetings. The first meeting we will attempt this system for will be library and planning committees both to be held on Monday 10th May. Details available on the website.

Finally, we have a vacancy and can co-opt an additional councillor. If you or someone you know have some time and are interested in the work of the Parish Council, please get in touch with any of the councillors or Clare our invaluable clerk.

2. To receive any apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

3. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 9th May 2019

Resolved that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 9th May 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Open Forum

Resident – Peter Jenkins

Mr Jenkins requested information about the programme for improving pavements around the village. Cllr Lepley explained that this was under the control of Bradford Council, however the Parish Council would contact them to find out further information.

Several street lights have been removed recently by Bradford Council and they are yet to be replaced. This has left streets in complete darkness at night. Mr Jenkins requested a timeframe for the installation of the replacement street lights. The Clerk will contact the street lighting unit at Bradford Council for further information.

Resident – Silvia Tilford

Mrs Tilford asked whether the Council was giving consideration to handing back the Parks and Open Spaces to Bradford Council. Cllr Lepley explained that a review was taking place but it was in very early stages.

Resident – David Asher

Mr Asher requested that a sign be displayed outside the old disused public toilet to direct members of the public to the new toilet at the Queens Hall. The Clerk will arrange this.

The meeting ended at 7pm