

Ilkley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE CLARKE FOLEY CENTRE ON MONDAY, 21ST MARCH 2011, AT 8.00PM

Present:

Councillors Bowen, Brown, Dixon, Gibbons, Hawkesworth, McKie, Mann (Chairman) and Robinson.

Inspector Sue Sanderson and 12 residents

Officers:

Mrs C Dale, Mrs F Birdsall

1011/01 Chairman's opening remarks

Cllr Mann welcomed Councillors and the public to the meeting which Parish Councils are obliged to hold by law. He would be reporting on events for the past Council year and his report would be published in the Parish Newsletter and on the web for reference.

1011/02 Apologies

Received from Cllr Walbank, Cllr Emsley, Cllr Best and Mr F Irwin.

1011/03 Minutes of the previous meeting

Proposed by Cllr Brown and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday, 17th March 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record. All present were in favour.

1011/04 Chairman's Report on the year 2010/2011

Cllr Mann reported on the events and activities of the Council for the year (attached).

1011/05 Questions/Comment from members of the public

Mr Davy thanked the Council for its efforts in providing a Christmas tree in Ben Rhydding which had been much appreciated. Cllr Mann said that it was hoped to further enhance the Christmas lights next year and was pleased that finally Ben Rhydding had an illuminated tree.

Inspector Sanderson distributed copies of the Police Newsletter and went briefly through the items. The Police would be concentrating on under-age drinking in the town, especially with lighter nights, better weather; a warning of telephone/letter scams to beware of; check identity of callers; PCSOs would be available at publicised meetings throughout the area. There are regular monthly PACT meetings to which members of the public are invited and where items of concern may be raised.

Mr Irwin had sent some questions for councillors:

Concern at the placing of the Interpretation Panel within the enclosure of the Panorama Stones – Cllr Brown reported that this had been arranged by Gavin Edwards and the likely reason for the siting within the enclosure was to protect it from vandals. This work was with the final monies from the Dr Little Heritage Fund.

Mr Irwin wanted to thank BMDC through the Parish Council for clearing the area around the enclosure. Cllr Brown said that this was at the request of Ilkley In Bloom. The railings were due to be repaired and painted and it was hoped that this would be in time for the Judges' visit in August.

Complaint about the damage done by mountain bikers to the area of the upper reaches of the Riddings between Queens Road and Wells Road which has been reported to BMDC on several occasions. The Council to pursue once again.

The siting of the finger post on the island at the top of Brook Street – Mr Irwin thinks it should be closer to the pedestrian area. Council took the decision for the siting after consultation with various bodies.

Hopper bus to Hebers Ghyll and access difficulties for parts of the route. Again, Council has taken this up with the Police and Highways and some changes have been made. The Police keep a watching brief on this.

Mrs Davy urged the Council to keep trying for 20mph zones outside schools – Ilkley is the only area locally which does not have this and could be confusing for drivers. Cllr Mann assured Mrs Davy that all on-going topics would be taken up by the new Council.

Mr Marshall asked about the recently reported charges for on-street parking. Cllr Hawkesworth said this decision had been taken by BMDC and it was not just Ilkley. She had concerns that this would cause more problems in the town as people parked deeper into the residential areas to avoid the charges and it would lose parking spaces in the town. The decision was introduced at the Budget meeting from BMDC and had been opposed by the Conservatives.

There would be a cost for the introductory year but it was expected that subsequent years would be a profit for BMDC. Mrs Cussons said that the Parish Council should fight against these charges. Cllr Mann said that once the facts were known there would be a consultation process when the Parish would be involved.

Mr Neil Stevens, representing the U3A, asked why the Parish Council did not provide meeting rooms in the block encompassing the Library, Town Hall, King's Hall and Winter Garden. The U3A ran over 70 courses and were always looking for meeting rooms. It was indicated that these buildings were owned by BMDC and any bookings could be made through them for various rooms including the Council Chamber. The town actually had a lot of different sized meeting rooms and it had been a condition of the recent grants to the Rugby Club that their new building include a rentable meeting room for the community.

Mrs Cussons expressed concerns about traffic in Ben Rhydding, especially when the new superstore came into being. The parking by the shops was too narrow and should be restricted in order to prevent all day parking. Cllr Mann asked Mrs Cussons to prepare a short paper which could be considered by Council and taken forward.

Mr Marshall asked if the Riverside Gardens could be lit – possibly with suitable Victorian lamps – to make the area safer and able to be used throughout the year. It might help with the under age drinking problems if the area was well lit. Cllr Mann said this could be considered, possibly a joint project with BMDC. Cllr Hawkesworth said that it was likely that power across the district would be reduced in the coming year.

1011/06 Any Other Business

Cllr Gibbons reported that Dr John Neasham, a very well respected local Doctor, had recently passed away and asked that the Council send condolences to Mrs Edna Neasham and family. This was agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50pm