



ILKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Elected to represent the residents of Ilkley and Ben Rhydding



NEWSLETTER No. 30

APRIL 2012

Contact: Parish Clerk Tel: 01943 436212 • Town Hall, Station Road, Ilkley LS29 8HB
e-mail: ilkleypc@bradford.gov.uk • <http://parishcouncil.ilkley.org>

Parish Council Office opening hours 10.00am - 1.00pm Monday to Thursday.

Chairman's Message

I am pleased to welcome you all to the first issue of the Parish Newsletter of 2012. I hope you are all looking forward, as I am, to a wonderful year of celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen.



Photograph courtesy of Cllr Mike Gibbons

The early part of the year saw the departure of two members of the Council. Richard Reed left after only seven months as a councillor, to spend more time with his family and enjoy his retirement. The Council was sad to lose Andrew McKie, who felt he could not continue as a councillor following the recent judgement of the Bradford Council Standards Committee.

At the end of February, the Council welcomed Mr Alan Draper as the new Clerk to the Parish Council. Alan has a background in fraud investigation management, having worked for several London boroughs. Councillors' grateful thanks go to Mrs Fiona Birdsall, the Deputy Clerk, for ably supporting the Council during the recruitment period for the new Clerk.

As Chairman of Council, it has been my pleasure to attend a number of community events over the past few months, including carol services before Christmas, presentation evenings for Year 11 and 13 pupils from Ilkley Grammar School, and wonderful performances from the Upstagers and the Ilkley Amateur Operatic Society.

As you can see from the photograph opposite, it was my great pleasure to welcome Matthew Lewis (of *Harry Potter* fame) to switch on our Christmas Lights last November. The event was a memorable one, with a crowd of adoring fans surging into Christchurch to catch a glimpse of Matthew after the switch on. With over 3000 hits, the video of the event on the YouTube channel has certainly been generating a great deal of interest, and hopefully some good publicity for the town.

Cllr Heathcliffe Bowen

Co-option to Ben Rhydding and Ilkley South Vacancies

Are you keen on working for the community? Do you want to serve the residents of the Ilkley Parish? Following the resignations of Richard Reed and Andrew McKie, vacancies have arisen in the Ilkley South and Ben Rhydding Wards. As no poll was called by electors for either ward, the Parish Council is in a position to co-opt two electors from the Ilkley Parish to fill the vacancies.

The previous vacancy for the Ben Rhydding Ward also remains unfilled, as councillors wanted to seek additional expressions of interest to widen the pool of potential applicants.

Any elector wishing to put themselves forward for co-option should submit a written statement to the Clerk to the Parish Council, Town Hall, Ilkley, as soon as possible. Expressions of interest must include electors' reasons for standing for co-option, what skills, knowledge and understanding of local issues they believe they can bring to the Council, and any ideas for future developments. Following a short-listing process, eligible candidates will be invited to attend a Full Council meeting to give their reasons why they should be chosen to fill the casual vacancy. Councillors will then decide, by a majority decision, which person will fill the vacancy. We look forward to hearing from many of you!

Civic Concert to Mark the Anniversary of the Accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Ilkley's celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II started in spectacular fashion with a civic concert at St Margaret's Church on Saturday 11th February.

Over two hundred people attended the concert and enjoyed some wonderful performances from the City of Bradford Brass Band, the Steeton Male Voice Choir and Margaret McDonald, mezzo-soprano.

The Parish Council thanks all those who supported the concert, particularly the team at St Margaret's Church for all their efforts in preparing the church beforehand and their invaluable assistance on the night. Members of the 1224 (Wharfedale) Squadron Air Cadets, too, helped to make the concert a success by parading their Colour splendidly at the beginning and the end of the concert.

Ilkley Parish Council agrees 2012-13 Budget

Following extensive working discussions, Ilkley Parish Council set its budget for 2012-13. These discussions took into account the present economic climate, the widely-held desire to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and the need to maintain sufficient reserves to implement changes brought about by the new Localism Act.

At a Full Council meeting on 23 January, councillors agreed unanimously to set the precept for a Band D property at £19.25 per annum, which equates to an increase of around 6p per week per Band D property. Strenuous efforts are made year on year to moderate expenditure and the Council remains committed to achieving value for money for Ilkley residents.

In reaching their decision, councillors followed the normal practice of most companies and public bodies when completing budget negotiations, and kept those discussions private until the release of the agreed figures. There was no secrecy or desire to hide anything. It was a simple matter of councillors wishing to fully understand the process, their commitment to it and what that would mean for the taxpayers of Ilkley, and a genuine sense of not wanting to have any unintended errors reported.

Councillors believe that the increase is a small price to pay for investing in the community, for example the Christmas Lights, and celebrating the unique occasion of the Diamond Jubilee. The precept agreed is modest in comparison with others levied by councils across Yorkshire and the Humber.

By agreeing its budget for 2012-13, the Council hopes to provide Ilkley with some wonderful Jubilee celebrations, and to continue to make significant contributions to the life and fabric of the town.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee 2012

In January, the Council convened a meeting at Ilkley Rugby Club to co-ordinate and develop plans to

celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. About one hundred people attended, representing schools, churches and voluntary organisations active in the town.

Cllr Mike Gibbons gave details of the events being planned by the Council, which included a concert to mark the Anniversary of the Accession of HM The Queen, a Street Party in June and a Jubilee-themed Concert on the Grove. Representatives present gave details of their plans for the Jubilee, many of which were well-advanced.

To ensure effective co-ordination of all activities being arranged for the Jubilee, it was agreed to have a diary of events in the Visitor Information Centre in the Town Hall, and all organisations were asked to use the diary to give details of events being planned. To maintain the momentum of this project, it was agreed to hold a follow-up meeting to see how plans were progressing.

Cllr Jennifer Souter

Air Cadets Debate Hot Topics!

Members of the 1224 (Wharfedale) Squadron Air Cadets visited Ilkley Town Hall early in March to learn more about local government and to take part in a mock debate in the Council Chamber. After electing a Chairman, the Air Cadets had a lively debate on such diverse issues as reintroducing the death penalty and whether footballers' pay should be given to Service personnel.



Photograph courtesy of Cllr Mike Gibbons

Throughout the evening, the Air Cadets were guided in protocols and procedures by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council. For the record, the motion to reintroduce the death penalty was defeated and the proposal to give footballers' pay to members of the Armed Forces was carried overwhelmingly.

A New Councillor Speaks...

I am proud to be one of the new Parish Councillors in Ilkley because I love the town and want to do everything I can to help to keep it special. Like many councillors, I am a volunteer doing my council work in my spare time. Accordingly, 'everything I can' is actually not as much as I would like, because I work

full-time (and more) for my business. If I wanted to I could make parish council work a full-time job and some of the councillors who are retired, work very long hours for the town indeed. None of us are paid anything for our time and very few claim expenses. The recent increase in the parish precept certainly cannot be said to benefit the councillors directly.

The good thing about the precept is that it is money which will be spent entirely in Ilkley. Councillors argued long and hard about the level of the increase, and were concerned that the Council's reserves had been depleted as a result of spending decisions in the past. We knew the Jubilee celebrations would be expensive, but well worthwhile. We felt that we should do the town proud by putting on a good show in honour of Her Majesty The Queen. The Christmas Lights too need improving, and we increased the budget for them substantially.

It is possible that Bradford Council might cut services over the next few years and we wanted to be in a position to go some way to covering those service cuts. With the Localism Act coming into force this year, giving parish councils more powers, we wanted to have some funds available so that we could help our community.

We also had to increase the amount set aside for election provision, as Bradford Council has advised us that the expense of an election in a single parish ward would cost up to £7000.

The Parish precept does not hit businesses or the poorest in our town. It is a genuine contribution by local electors to their local community, paid according to the value of the house they live in. It is spent under the auspices of elected councillors, in public, with full transparency, and I am confident that Ilkley will be better for it.

There are now three vacancies for the Parish Council, and I hope more Ilkley electors will be prepared to put their heads above the parapet and ensure that the precept the Council raises is spent on things for the good of our unique and special community.

Cllr Steve Butler

Council Responds to New Homes Proposal

In October 2011, Bradford Council revealed its Local Development Framework (LDF) plans for Wharfedale, covering the period up to 2028. Three thousand new homes are proposed for the Wharfe Valley, 1300 to be built in Ilkley, including a high percentage of affordable homes in the town.

Ilkley Parish Council felt it was important for Ilkley residents to 'have their say' on this matter, and organised a public meeting at Ilkley Rugby Club in December last year. More than 120 people attended and it was clear that there were some strong feelings and opinions on the plans.

A wide range of topics and issues were discussed, including parking and transport, danger to the Green Belt, Ilkley's tourist heritage and economy, lack of

jobs for proposed new families, shortages of school places, medical and hospital provision...the list was substantial and significant.

All comments from that meeting, as well as from the many other submissions made to us by Ilkley residents, were relayed to Bradford Council as part of the formal consultation process. In summary, Ilkley people said, 'significant improvements to infrastructure and economic development in Ilkley must be addressed before any consideration can be given to the proposed new housing'.

The Parish Council now awaits the draft LDF report, anticipated in June 2012, and will arrange similar opportunities for Ilkley people to express their views. Our thanks go to Ilkley Rugby Club and students from Ilkley Grammar School for their generous assistance in facilitating the meeting.

Cllr Paul Kitching

Civic Concert – Town Twinning Visit

A civic delegation from our twin town of Coutances will be welcomed on Sunday 29th April with a concert by the City of Bradford Brass Band at Craiglunds Hotel. Tickets are priced at £7.50 each (to include supper) and are available from the Ilkley Visitor Information Centre, Town Hall.

Forthcoming Meetings for the Rest of the Council Year 2011-2012

All meetings are on Monday evenings at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, except for the Annual Parish meeting and unless indicated otherwise.

The Town Hall Council Chamber is accessible by lift and accessible toilet facilities are provided.

Agendas are posted on the Parish Council's notice board outside the Town Hall and on the web site at <http://parishcouncil.ilkley.org> at least three clear days prior to the meeting.

Full Council

16th April 2012

21st May 2012 (Annual Council Meeting)

Plans Committee

23rd April 2012

14th May 2012

Public Participation

Members of the public and press are entitled by law to attend all meetings of the Council BUT may not participate in the meeting. However, early in the Agenda there is a "Public Participation" slot at which point the meeting is adjourned for any member of the public to raise an issue. Individual contributions from members of the public should not exceed two to three minutes.

Ilkley Parish Councillors 2011 - 2015

2011-2012

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Heathcliffe Bowen

VICE CHAIRMAN: Cllr Mike Gibbons

Ilkley North

Cllr Brian Mann	602262	19 Owler Park Road LS29 OBG
Cllr Lexa Robinson	608418	113 Leeds Road LS29 8JS
Cllr Joanne Sugden	607013	Myddleton Cottage, Langbar Road LS29 0ED

Ilkley West

Cllr Heathcliffe Bowen	600762	8 Woodlands Rise LS29 9BU
Cllr Stephen Butler	608234	46 King's Road LS29 9AT
Cllr Mike Ridgway	601117	19 Ghyll Wood LS29 9NR
Cllr Jennifer Souter	602485	2 Curlew Close LS29 9DG

Ben Rhydding

Cllr Mike Gibbons	605313	Apt3, 19 Low Beck LS29 8UN
v		
Cllr Paul Kitching	604683	71 Wyvil Crescent LS29 8ND
v		

Ilkley South

Cllr Rory Marshall	rorymarshall@hotmail.co.uk	The Lodge, 20 Rupert Road LS29 0AQ
v		
Cllr Andrew Walbank	608079	9 Kimberley Street LS29 8JU

*All Parish Councillors serve in a voluntary capacity.
They are not paid and do not receive any allowances for attending meetings.*

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

All Saints' PS Governor	Cllr Walbank
Bandstand Management Committee	Cllr Robinson
Churches Together in Ilkley (CTI)	Cllr Kitching, Cllr Mann
Coronation Hospital	Cllr Gibbons, Cllr Sugden
Coutances Twinning Committee	Chairman, Cllr Gibbons
Darwin Gardens Trust	Cllr Bowen
Friends of Ilkley Lido (FOIL)	Cllr Bowen
Friends of Ilkley Moor	Cllr Kitching
Friends of the King's Hall	Cllr Gibbons
Ilkley and District Good Neighbours	Cllr Kitching
Ilkley and District Road Safety	v
Ilkley Business Forum	Cllr Kitching, Cllr Ridgway
Ilkley Fairtrade Group	Cllr Mann
Ilkley Flower Show	Cllr Souter
Ilkley in Bloom	Cllr Ridgway
Ilkley Senior Citizens	Cllr Butler
Ilkley Youth & Community Association	v
Keighley and Ilkley Voluntary Community Action	v
Parish Liaison Meetings	Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk
Parish Plan group	Cllr Bowen
Police and Community Together (PACT)	Chairman, Vice-Chairman
Tourism Partnership	Cllr Butler
Transport – Metro	Cllr Reed, Cllr Ridgway
Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts	Cllr Gibbons
Wharfedale On Line Trust	v
Wharfedale Rail Users Group (WRUG)	v
Wharfedale Activity Group (WAG)	Cllr Kitching
Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA)	Chairman, Vice-Chairman

PROJECT MANAGERS

Allotments - Cllr Walbank	Benches - Cllr Mann
Cemetery and Riverside Pathways - Cllr Robinson	Christmas Lights - Cllr Mann
Concert on The Grove - Cllr Gibbons	Traffic / Car Parking - Cllr Mann

COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Awards and Projects	Cllr Gibbons
Finance	Cllr Ridgway, Cllr Sugden