



2012-2013

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Heathcliffe Bowen

VICE CHAIRMAN: Cllr Mike Gibbons

Ilkley North

Cllr Brian Mann	602262	19 Oowler 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
Cllr Adam Bowles	07445 542207	2 Nordale Close LS29 8EY
Cllr Paul Kitching	604683	71 Wyvil Crescent LS29 8ND
Cllr Gordon Perry	817596	Ivy Bank House, 60 Wheatley Lane LS29 8PW

Ilkley South

Cllr Rory Marshall	rorymarshall@hotmail.co.uk	The Lodge, 20 Rupert Road LS29 0AQ
Cllr Bryan Websdale	07786 443710	20 Middleton Road LS29 9EX
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	Cllr Kitching
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	Cllr Kitching
Keighley and Ilkley Voluntary Community Action	Cllr Bowen
Parish Liaison Meetings	Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Clerk
Police and Community Together (PACT)	Chairman, Vice-Chairman
Tourism Partnership	Cllr Butler
Transport – Metro	Cllr Ridgway
Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts	Cllr Gibbons
Wharfedale On Line Trust	Cllr Butler
Wharfedale Rail Users Group (WRUG)	Cllr Kitching
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 Marshall
Concert on The Grove - Cllr Gibbons	(Deputy Project Manager – Cllr Souter)
Traffic / Car Parking - Cllr Mann	

COUNCILLORS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Finance	Cllr Ridgway, Cllr Sugden
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NEWSLETTER No. 33

SPRING 2013

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 Friday.

**Chairman's Report
to Annual Parish Meeting**

This year has seen much activity on the part of the Parish Council, which I believe has resulted in many positive developments for Ilkley. A significant amount of work has fallen to the Council's project managers, in addition to the standing committees.

The Plans Committee, headed by Councillor Andrew Walbank, has dealt with 138 planning applications so far this year, plus numerous amended plans and appeals. In addition, the most significant planning discussions have been those held by the Ilkley Future Group in relation to the proposed Local Development Framework and the Neighbourhood Plan for Ilkley. These have covered topics ranging from environment and heritage, to education and health. Councillors will be debating the final document formally in May and, while the outcome is yet to be decided, the work of the Group is seen as being very important in assisting the Council to develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

So far this year, 23 grants have been made to local groups and organisations, totalling £41,000. Projects and grants from a wide range of bodies around the town have been considered, including requests from Keighley and Ilkley Voluntary Services and Churches Together in Ilkley. A grant of £4000 was made to part-fund the restoration of the steps and memorial stone in the Riverside Gardens, in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and awards were made to a number of our regular community events. Councillors updated the Awards criteria and tightened up the requirement of applicants to attend meetings to speak in support of their applications. The principle of the Awards remains constant, with local organisations being encouraged to apply for funding for specific items or projects which they have identified as necessary for their own purposes and the betterment of the community.

The precept for this financial year was set at £131,300, which equated to an increase of 6p per week per Band D property. From this total, £50,000 was allocated to Awards and Projects and £15,000 to

community events. Councillors believed that the unique occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was an event worth celebrating, and set aside £7500 from the events budget to cover the costs of holding a street party and supporting the many groups in the town wishing to celebrate the Jubilee in their own way. Additional funds were raised to invest in the Christmas Lights and to cover the increased costs of election provision. By the end of this financial year, our uncommitted reserves will stand at £44,000, and committed reserves will be around £25,000, most of which is allocated for election provision. Given the challenges of Localism, councillors believe the policy of maintaining adequate reserves will be shown to be a prudent one.

Councillors are actively involved as representatives on organisations around the town and the wider community, e.g. Friends groups, Tourism Partnership and the Wharfedale Activity Group. Members take their work on all community bodies very seriously and I know that this involvement is well-respected by those groups. Our attendance at Parish Liaison Group meetings is important, as it provides a conduit for information and debate between parish and town councils and Bradford Council. Membership of the Yorkshire Local Councils Association enables the Council to gain advice and support on a wide range of legal and other matters.

Our project managers have been busy this year, carrying forward specific schemes and initiatives such as the allotments, Concert on the Grove and riverside pathways and the Cemetery. Much effort has been focused on the Christmas Lights, with the Project Manager, Councillor Rory Marshall, heading a team to organise the annual switch on. The increased investment in the Lights and all the efforts of councillors and contractors meant that the finished effect was superb, with a great many positive comments being received from residents and visitors alike.

Ilkley Parish Council manages the allotment sites on Castle Road, Bridge Lane and Leeds Road. There are 130 allotments, with 179 residents patiently waiting to be allocated a plot. A vigilant eye is kept on plots that

appear to be un-worked and holders are reminded if plots are not being managed according to the tenancy agreement. The allotments are self-supporting and not a cost on the Parish and good working relationships are maintained with Bradford Council, particularly the Tree Officer who has assisted with maintenance work.

The Darwin Gardens Trust has received funding of £4500 from the Parish Council to complete major restoration work to steps and antique railings. Application has been made for the Green Flag Community Award organised by Keep Britain Tidy and a judgment is expected in June. Thanks are due to our current contractors, Down to Earth, and also the Area Parks and Landscape Service of Bradford Council for helping to maintain the area for the benefit of all.

Civic involvement has continued apace and genuine efforts have been made to involve the Council in the life of the Parish wherever possible. Despite poor weather all the events planned for the year were held, foremost amongst which was the street party in June to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen. The Concert on the Grove was again a tremendous success, largely thanks to the efforts of Councillor Mike Gibbons. As is traditional, the Parish Council took its place alongside the Royal British Legion, churches and other groups to attend the annual Remembrance Day parade and service. Large crowds gathered to watch Father Christmas switch on the Christmas Lights in November and the Carols on the Grove, organised jointly by the Council and Churches Together in Ilkley, went off well despite the damp weather. Members of the Wharfedale District Scouts visited the Town Hall to learn more about local government and had a lively debate on whether the drinking age should be reduced.

I have been pleased to represent the town at many events and occasions, both within the Parish and in the wider district. These have included the Prize Winner's Concert of the Wharfedale Festival of Performing Arts, the Over 90s Party and civic services in Bradford and Keighley. My consort, Councillor Lexa Robinson, and I were pleased to attend the Soroptimist Annual Dinner and the annual Upstagers pantomime. It was a particular pleasure to attend a presentation evening for A Level students from Ilkley Grammar School and to present a Certificate of Merit to Mr Jim Bray for his contributions to community life over very many years.

The implications of the Localism Act will continue to influence the Council's decisions in the near future. Close liaison between the parish and town councils will become increasingly important, as legislation is enacted and the impetus grows for the management of services and assets to be devolved to a local level.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to all my fellow councillors who serve in a voluntary capacity and do not receive any allowances.

Thanks go to those members of Council who serve as members of our committees and also to our project managers, who continue to develop their areas of responsibility with dedication and enthusiasm. Finally, I wish to thank our Clerks for a year of fine service to the Council and the community. Without their diligence and hard work, the Council would not operate as efficiently as it does at present.

*Abridged version of report given by
Cllr Heathcliffe Bowen, Chairman of Ilkley Parish
Council, at the Annual Parish Meeting*

Statement of Accounts 2011 - 12

The Statement of Accounts of the Council for 2011-12 has been returned by the external auditor (Mazars LLP) with an 'unqualified opinion'.

Unfortunately this judgement was held up due to a complaint submitted by a resident, who challenged a number of the awards decisions made by the Council and several declarations of interest by councillors. In his judgement, the external auditor decided that all awards made by the Council in 2011-12 were lawful and stated that, 'the actions taken by the Council were reasonable'. All the objections raised by the resident were rejected by the external auditor and will not be taken any further.

It should be stressed that if there had been any unlawful activity in the Awards process, the external auditor would have been obliged to refer the matter to the High Court and make a report in the public interest, neither of which he has done.

Regrettably, the additional costs incurred by the external auditor in considering this single objection will be in excess of £5000 and will have to be borne by the parish precept, i.e. Ilkley taxpayers.

The Annual Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the Parish of Ilkley (Ilkley and Ben Rhydding) on application to the Clerk to the Parish Council. Copies will be provided to any elector on payment of 5p per sheet.

A New Councillor Speaks...

I have been a parish councillor for about a year now. It is a privilege to be part of a Council of volunteers who are as one in their dedication to making Ilkley a most wonderful place to live. Although the councillors have this common goal, each one also has their own individual ideas and opinions on just how to improve Ilkley.

I joined the Council in order to make a positive contribution to the place where I live and intend raising my family. I would encourage all Ilkley residents to help their volunteer councillors and get involved and make a positive contribution to making Ilkley an even more wonderful place. Come with ideas, suggestions and a 'can do' attitude to help your councillors and contribute towards making positive

improvements to Ilkley.

There are many opportunities to get involved with small and not-so-small projects. Something I am particularly looking forward to being involved with is the exciting Tour de France coming through our town next year.

Cllr Adam Bowles

Friends of Ilkley Lido

Friends of Ilkley Lido (FOIL) have agreed an action plan with Bradford Council to help promote and improve the Lido for the 2013 season onwards. 'The plan will help us to get the Lido used by more people, have better facilities and introduce new events and activities using this wonderful facility', commented Louise Hale, Chairman of FOIL. 'We are now working closely with the Council on more flexible pricing, longer opening hours, some new facilities such as outdoor showers and sun bed and exploring new initiatives such as a winter swimming club'.

The Lido is due to open on 25th May this year, but if the weather is good there is a possibility that it might be open sooner. Live at the Lido, the annual music event showcasing local bands and musicians will take place on Saturday 22nd June. For more details on Lido opening, FOIL and the 'Live' event, visit www.ilkleylido.co.uk

Outside the Box

- Ilkley's New Community Café

On Saturday 20th April there will be a Community Day at the Outside the Box Café, Ilkley's new café that supports adults and young people with learning disabilities. The day will be an opportunity to view the café's new premises on Bridge Lane (opposite the Box Tree restaurant) and there will be lots of activities, ranging from bread making and seed planting for the café's allotment, to arts and crafts. Students from Ilkley Grammar School will be running a pizza session for young people and local groups are being invited to come in to find out about how they can use and link with the café.

'We have a team of volunteers who are all working hard to get the café up and running and are planning to be open late May', said John Thirlwell, Chairman of the café project Steering Group. 'The new premises really are fantastic and the Community Day is a great opportunity for everyone to come and take a look and talk to us about the project'.

For more details: cafe@outsidetheboxcafe.com

What's on and how to get there?

Voluntary and community groups, service providers and businesses from across the LS29 postcode area are joining forces to challenge older people's struggle to find the right transportation, which gives them

access to a wide variety of activities and services across LS29.

Working alongside Ilkley Community Transport, Accessbus and the local taxi firm, a showcase event is being held providing you with an opportunity to take a closer look at the vehicles, take part in activity taster sessions and have your questions answered.

Come along and find out for yourself what's on offer for the over 50s and how you can get there:

*Friday 31st May and Saturday 1st June 2013
10.00 - 4.00*

Clarke Foley Centre, Cunliffe Road, Ilkley.

Diary Dates 2013

- Saturday 20th April, 7.30, Ilkley Choral Society Concert (*St Paul*, Mendelssohn)
Otley Parish Church, Otley.
- Saturday 8th June, 7.00, Cantores Olicanae Summer Concert (*Liebeslieder Waltzes*, Brahms; *Choruses from Carmina Burana*, Orff)
St John's Church, Ben Rhydding.
- Saturday 31st August, Concert on the Grove.

Forthcoming Meetings for the Council Year 2012-2013

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

There is a meeting of Full Council every month except August.

13th May 2013

The Annual Council Meeting which is the first meeting of the new Council year will be held on 20th May 2013.

Plans Committee

29th April 2013

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/three minutes.