

Bishop Monkton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 21st March 2019 at Bishop Monkton Village Hall.

Commenced: 7.00pm

Concluded: 8.30pm

Present: Cllr Pamela Brown (Chairman)

Cllr Stephen Verrill

Cllr Anthony Garnett

Cllr Ben Cairns

Clerk: Rebecca Crabtree

The meeting was attended by 20 members of the public.

Introduction by the Chairman.

Cllr Pamela Brown, introduced herself as the new Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Cllr Brown introduced the new Clerk of the Parish Council, Rebecca Crabtree. The previous Chairman, Emma Oates, was thanked for her all her hard work.

A report on Bishop Monkton Parish Council activities for the year 2018-2019 by members of the Parish Council.

Cllr Brown gave the following report:

In the past twelve months the council has completed projects which include:

A new Bus Shelter has been installed on the A61 to Harrogate and there has been positive feedback from residents and it is used on a regular basis.

A new grit bin has been installed on St Johns Way and these will be checked and filled on a regular basis. Cllr Brown asked residents to let the council know if they need filling or a bin is missing.

There is new sand bag store at the Ford, we need to contact the flood wardens to request to transfer the sand bags from where they are currently stored at Church Farm.

The willow tree at the Ford has been pruned but Cllr Brown has been told that no further pruning will be allowed.

A second defibrillator has been sourced and is situated at The Masons Arms. Cllr Cairns confirmed he will arrange for instructions of use to be done for this.

Cllr Brown made everyone aware that the Welcome Packs are now completed and they include a walking booklet, a letter from Parish including the history of Bishop Monkton, a parish magazine, information about the Burton Leonard shop, a church letter, and a Village Hall letter. Cllr Brown thanked Pip Garside, Susan Short, and Bob Upton for helping produce these and delivering them.

The Walking Booklet has been completed. This will include maps once we have authorisation to do so. They are selling fast and we will be ordering some more shortly. Cllr Brown thanked Martin & Catherine Bethel, Pip Garside and Susan Short for their involvement in the project.

The Playground Springer has now been repaired. A submission for commuted sums will be completed for this.

In the next twelve months the council will be working on a number of projects which include:

Cllr Brown confirmed that Cllr Cairns will now be the representative for the Burial Grounds Committee and he has agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss the donation required.

Copies of the minutes of this meeting will be available on the Parish Council Website.

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Bishop Monkton Parish Council

The benches alongside the beck are very uneven and new foundations are required. Peter Taplin has agreed to repaint the benches and Cllr Brown thanked him for this.

Cllr Brown said that there had been discussions to install a new picnic bench and asked for everyone's thoughts on this idea.

There have been some issues regarding pruning of the old Christmas tree. The Parish Council has had to go to the planning department for permission to get the tree reshaped. The Planning Department have asked the council to rescind the planning application or they will put a TPO on the tree. A further meeting is required to discuss the options available.

We are no longer receiving monies for the recycling bins at the Village Hall and they are causing some issues including rubbish/glass being left and general damage therefore it has been agreed that these be removed.

The BMPC Website is going to be revamped and will include photographs of works when they have been completed. The documents on the website will be updated regularly.

We will be re-introducing the agendas and minutes on BM Today website

A number of residents have been in contact about the re-introduction of ducks to the beck. There are pros and cons to this but the council has been told that they will return if conditions are okay.

Four mallards were in the stream this week.

To approve the Minutes of the last meeting dated 21st March 2018.

The minutes of last year's Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st March 2018 were approved

An update from the Village Hall Committee Chairman, Gerald Shervington.

A report from the Bishop Monkton Village Hall Committee was presented by Gerald Shervington.

Gerald thanked Richard for the BM Today website and his input.

The village hall is flourishing, last year they had 835 separate room bookings, the bookings are managed by his wife, Lesley, for the past 6 years and Gerald thanked her for her work.

When the Kebbell site is completed and given the proximity of the development with 50 or so more residents the security of the Village Hall should increase, however Gerald has decided to improve the security by investing in better external doors to the hall, quotations have been received and this will cost in the region of £10k. This is a priority as the complex was valued at £1,400,000 last year.

The hall has been in operation some 15 years now and Gerald confirmed some costly maintenance is required on the building.

Sammy and Billy Miller have organised a games night on 6th April and all proceeds will go to the village hall.

Gerald made everyone aware that there are a number of un-paid volunteers, who visit the grounds daily to cut the grass, prepare the wicket amongst other things and confirmed the village would not have the facility everyone enjoys without them and formally thanked them for their endeavours.

The Village Hall has a very good working relationship with the Kebbell site team; they have allowed them to use the parking facilities amongst other things and in turn they have been very generous; to date they have supplied cricket covers, contributed towards a new mower for bowls and have started on the new pavilion, where it is hoped it will be used to the max with weddings and maybe even concerts and our various sports.

They have agreed to provide two Petanque courts. (French boules)

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The annual Hog Roast will take place on Monday 27th May. Gerald asked to get in contact with him if anyone would like to help on the day.

A report from Michael Harrison, North Yorkshire County Council.

County Councillor Michael Harrison, North Yorkshire County Council reported to the meeting as follows: -

The council has identified four main priorities for 2022 which are

- every child and young person have the best possible start in life,
- every adult has a longer, healthier and independent life,
- we are a modern council which puts our customers at the heart of what we do and;
- strong economy.

In the original forecasts, a budget shortfall was projected of £186m by the end of 2021/22. However, this position has deteriorated by a further £11m, reflecting in particular the significant pressure on the budget for children's and young people's services. Savings of £157m to meet this shortfall have already been achieved.

Highways are responsible for one of the largest and most diverse road networks in England covering rural areas such as the Moors and the Dales to the more urban areas of Harrogate and Scarborough. Overall, they have responsibility for approximately 5,800 miles of roads. In addition, they are directly responsible for around 3,800 miles of public rights of way and we maintain over 1,630 bridges.

They have been successful in securing an additional £29m of funding for highway maintenance over the last few years and their growth deal with partners and the Local Enterprise Partnership has led to a total £44m investment in highways maintenance in 2018/19. This money is currently being spent on improving the quality of roads across the county.

They are continuing with the roll-out of replacing street light units with more energy efficient LEDs to reduce energy costs. They have a 20-year guarantee and less maintenance costs.

Flashing speed signs will only be installed if there is a concern and they have available funds. The policy has just changed which now means that communities can buy their own signs.

The County Council are committed to improving public and sustainable transport for Harrogate to York routes and they have £9m committed to this project. The County Council is developing proposals to enable the current one train an hour to be increased to two by 2020 and to reduce journey times.

Due to landslides, the A59 at Kex Gill will be re-routed and this will be completed as soon as possible.

They are reviewing the way that they use money to meet the needs of children and young people with behaviour and those that are at risk of exclusion to prevent it from happening.

A report from Nick Brown, Harrogate Borough Council.

Nick Brown was unable to attend the meeting and gave his apologies.

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The Chairman will close the meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting by taking questions along with Cllr N. Brown.

The following questions were asked:

Will traffic calming ramps be installed to help combat speeding?

What is the latest update on the Harrogate Local Plan?

Will drainage be improved in the area and will drains be installed where there is none currently?

Can speed signs be installed if we collaborate proof of the need for this?

When will the speed matrix sign be moved? (This has been requested to be sited before the Kebbell Home entrance into the village)

Is there going to be a co-option to fill the councillor vacancies?

Would we able to set a 20mph speed zone through the village?

Cllr Brown thanked all in attendance for giving up their time to be at the meeting.

Minutes signed as a true and correct record by Cllr Pamela Brown – Chairman of the Bishop Monkton Parish Council.

Signed by Chairman of the Meeting:

Date:

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