

PARISH OF STAINFORTH (North Yorkshire)

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Stainforth Village Hall at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 11 April 2017

Present: Cllrs Blackburn, Asher, Sharp and Warren. Also the Clerk and one parishioner, Mr John Asher, Chairman, North Craven Heritage Trust.

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Blackburn, acted as Chairman of this meeting.

As well as being a parishioner, it was in his capacity as Chairman of North Craven Heritage Trust, that Mr Asher attended this meeting. The imminent closure of Castleberg Hospital had only very recently been announced and Mr Asher was spearheading a campaign to prevent closure if possible. As the only parishioner present (other than the members), the Chairman decided to deal with this item as a Parishioner Concern (Item 8) and so as not to unduly detain Mr Asher, brought the matter forward to the beginning of the meeting. Mr Asher had produced two very comprehensive documents describing the present state of affairs, and these were discussed. He urged those concerned to forward their views to those involved, contact details being in the documents he had provided, and to get actively involved in the campaign to keep the hospital open if at all possible. The Chairman thanked Mr Asher for his presentation whereupon the latter retired from the meeting.

1 Apologies - County/District Cllr R C Welch and Sgt Les Moorhouse of the local police.

2 Police Report

In the absence of a police officer, a written report had been submitted. During the last 12 months, total crime was down from 2020 to 1954, a drop of 66. Over the same period, Craven Rural crime was 1068 against 1098, a reduction of 30. Two speed camera vans and 6 staff are now based at Skipton Police Station to cover the whole of Craven. It is intended that they will be deployed daily, some days 2 at once and new locations will be covered.

3 Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Tuesday, 19 April 2016

The minutes were circulated before commencement of the meeting and following approval, were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4 Matters Arising - none

5 Cllr Richard Welch will report on County and District Council matters

Cllr Welch was unable to be present but he had sent written reports, the main points of which were as follows:

NYCC

£500m received from Central Government in 2010 to be reduced to £300M by 2020.

Bridge at Coniston Cold – increasing efforts to have the bridge widened to lessen disruption after accidents.

Community Library – now being run by 60 volunteers

Council Tax increased by 1.99% + 2% ring fenced for elderly care.

Recycling and waste sites now being run by Yorwaste.

NYCC is one of first councils to implement 30 hours of free child care for 3 & 4 year olds.

Funding obtained for Settle Hub, Settle Library and Settle TC for extra parking discs. Also

for Hellifield sports roof repairs, Hellifield Station Road play park... 'SETTLE' letters for Castleberg for Tour de Yorkshire.

Primary Schools – Horton in Ribblesdale and Rathmell may close.

Two banks to close and the future of Castleberg Hospital is under review.

Craven DC

Finance very important in service delivery; to embark on a 'joint venture' scheme with developer to generate cash from property, land and assets.

Council Tax – increased by £5.

Community Grants - £400 to Swimming Pool re disabled access; £150 to Giggleswick

Gardening Group for tools etc and £450 for Craven Voice Singers.

Planning Committee – now stood down after 18 years on the committee, 8 of which as Chairman. Now a member of the Policy Committee.

New houses being built under shared ownership schemes.

YDNPA

Area now increased by 25% with a few new members. Local Plan passed, approved and implemented. More sympathetic approach to roadside barns with more being converted to housing. Interesting National Park statistic – over last 10 -15 years, 1000 new houses have been built, yet according to the Census, population has only risen by 110.

Continued/

Stainforth Parish Council - Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday, 11 April 2017 continued

6 Transparency Code for smaller authorities

The Chairman described how the auditing of smaller authorities including parish councils, was to change within the next 12 months and this had been referred to at last year's Annual Parish Meeting. To enable all relevant authorities to comply with the law, funding was being made available to parish councils with annual turnover not exceeding £25K to enable them to purchase the necessary equipment, software, web site development and training. PC's need to make application for the funding and it is the intention of this Parish Council to submit the required application as soon as possible.

7 Clerk's Report

Meetings – 11

Membership of the Council – the Council was sorry to receive the resignation of Cllr Vivienne Mills recently and expressed its appreciation to her for her work during the last three years.

Finance – balances at end of year £6242 (£7286), a decrease of £1044. This was caused by an increase in the Clerk's hours and the cost of the electricity supply to the street lights. Other costs have been contained.

Precept for 2017/18 – increased to £7190.

Registration of Asset of Community Value – the Council successfully registered the Craven Heifer public house as an Asset of Community Value. Registration is with Craven District Council and prevents any disposal of the property until the local community has had time to consider the outcome.

The Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations have been revised during the last year. The annual audit process is changing during the next year.

The Clerk – the operation of parish councils continues to change, the Transparency Code is now being enacted. As the name implies, this calls for more publicity to be given to the financial and operating affairs of the parish council. In addition to making the information available by the usual methods, it can be posted on a village website. Hence, the information is posted on the Stainforth village website, it is also published by Craven DC. To enable parish councils to comply with the Code, funding is being made available to assist with the cost of equipment and training as well as website provision. This matter will shortly be discussed by the Council.

Agendas and Minutes – posted as required by the Transparency Code, ie on the village website. Appreciation is once again due to Mr Frank Woodhams for his help in this regard.

Street lights - repaired as required.

Highways and general repairs – matters are attended to as soon as possible after report. Of particular note during the last year has been the damage caused to the Packhorse Bridge at Little Stainforth. Repair has not been wholly satisfactory and has been referred to the owners, the National Trust, who are arranging for further action to be taken. The Council is monitoring the situation.

8 Parishioner Concerns – see above

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.29pm.

PFL

11.4.17

