

EDALE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES for the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 12th May 2021

This was a remote meeting held on ZOOM

Present:

Parish Councillors: Julie Morten (Chair), Joanna Collins, Cedric Gilbert: Tracy Thorpe (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public

The meeting was chaired by the Parish Council Chair Councillor Julie Morten.

Apologies for absence:

Parish Councillors Morgan Jackson & John Gould. Noted.

Minutes of previous Annual Parish meeting on 10th April 2019 (the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting having been cancelled due to Coronavirus restrictions)

Minutes from the meeting of 10th April 2019 were proposed as a true representation of the meeting by Cllr. Gilbert; Seconded by Cllr. Collins, adopted and signed by Cllr. Morten (Chair).

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Chair's Announcements

Cllr. Morten announced that Due to a recent high-court ruling to impose the return to face-to-face meetings for local councils, the Annual Parish Council Meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday 12th May (agenda item 21/04/7.4(ii)) has been postponed to Wednesday 19th May in order for it to be held at Edale Village Hall. The details have been posted on the Edale Parish Council website.

Clerks report and Financial Report:

A combined Clerks report and Financial report was given by Tracy Thorpe as Clerk.

Despite the Coronavirus pandemic, in the year to March 2021, there have still been 11 regular meetings of Edale Parish Council, but all have been held remotely under Section 78 of the Coronavirus Act. There have been no extraordinary meetings and no regular council meetings were cancelled, although the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled under advice from the Government. There have been 4 apologies for absence from Councillors throughout the year. Derbyshire County Council Councillor Jim Perkins, now retired, attended 9 of the 11 meetings. A representative of the Police attended 2 meetings. High Peak Borough Council was also regularly represented.

During the year Edale residents have continued to attend most meetings.

In March 2021 the Clerk of 9 years, Mr Nick Faulks, retired and was replaced by Tracy Thorpe. Mr Faulks attended the Annual Parish Meeting and all 11 of the Parish Council meetings. For these meetings he has distributed agendas, taken minutes, distributed written minutes and Ringing Roger summaries, maintained the website and provided Councillors with pre and post meeting information. On behalf of the Council the Clerk has corresponded with various authorities, agencies, residents, members of the public and contractors. Miss Thorpe attended 1 meeting as Clerk before the year ended.

The Council's web site edaleparishcouncil.org.uk has been kept up to date with published documents according to their Publication Scheme and the Transparency Code.

The Clerk continues to research a variety of topics for the Council as required, including monitoring new legislation to ensure the Council is compliant.

As Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) the Clerk reported that the Parish Council Accounts for 2019/2020 were audited internally with no adverse comments, and the External Audit Exemption Form was submitted to the external auditors PKF Littlejohn

The RFO and Council continue to enhance the financial procedures to ensure that all financial aspects of the council are correctly administered.

The end of year accounts for 2020/21 have been completed and will be put to the Council for preliminary approval at the Annual Council Meeting on 19th May. Excluding the Edale Charities Car Park receipts, the Council had an income of £6,484 and an expenditure of £6,031 giving a surplus of £453. This can mainly be attributed to underspending on items such as grass-cutting, training, & maintenance due to lockdown restrictions during the year,

The Council's books and accounts will be submitted to Mr John Mariott for internal audit after preliminary approval by the Council on 19th May. The "Annual Governance and Accountability Return" and details of Public Rights will be published in due course as required.

For the 2021/22 period, a 5% increase in the precept was requested from the Borough Council a rise of £258.51. With the tax base at 142 (2 down on last year), the charge per 'band D' equivalent household for the Parish Council will be £38.23, an increase of £2.33.

The Council administers Edale Charities Car Park receipts on behalf of participating charities and takings for 2020/21 were £11,361. All monies received on behalf of Edale Charities Car Park is paid out to the participating charities, and this means that each of the six charities have benefitted by £1,745. A word of appreciation must be given to all those who have manned the car park and organised the rotas.

The Clerk concluded the report by thanking Mr Nick Faulks for passing on an impeccable set of records and files, and all those who have assisted her in her new role thus far.

Chair's report:

The Chair's report was given by Julie Morten as Chairman of the Parish Council.

As we all know it's been a difficult year. Last year's meeting had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic, and this year's meeting can only take place by Zoom, but although restrictions have prevented us from having face-to-face meetings we have still managed to get some things done.

May I first thank the retiring Clerk Nick Faulks who over the last few years has been a great asset to the council and also welcome the new Clerk, Tracy, who has only just taken over the roll and is doing a great job.

The main changes that have taken place during the year are the double yellow lines at Grindsbrook. Last time I reported that the time plates were going to be redone and the TRO for the church parking. Although these have been carried out the influx of visitors has promoted this further action. Although the double yellow lines are currently on a trial basis they seem to be working; at last the church has legal parking, and the parking places outside the school have been remarked.

Other traffic issues include the road up to Upper Booth. The council are still working on this and sending letters on a regular basis. There has been a meeting between the Peak Park and Highways over the Tipps car park and cars blocking the road, but as of yet no proper outcome has come from this.

The toilets last year were a bad problem and I must thank Joanna and Jim Perkins for keeping the pressure on to get them reopened. They are now open and open longer.

The steps over from the church have been repaired using the footpath grant that we applied for from Peak Park.

The Edale Charities car park is always a great financial help to the charities involved. Our thanks must go to Andrew Critchlow and Chris Reid who under very difficult circumstances last year raised a tremendous amount. Thanks also

to John Gould who has now taken on the role of co-ordinator for the Charities car park. Over the coming years the railway partnership are looking to develop that area so the council are in talks to hopefully secure some funding for the charities so they still benefit.

The council has also managed to purchase the red telephone box at upper booth.

I must thank Jim Perkins who has just retired from DCC. He has helped the council in many ways to get results with traffic and toilet issues. He has attended most meetings and has always kept us very well informed.

Finally, a personal thanks to all my fellow Councillors for all their help and hard work over the past year in very challenging times.

Any other business:

The issue of traffic congestion on the road up to Upper Booth was raised, and it was stated that this problem effectively strands residents of Upper Booth in their own homes at weekends. There followed a discussion about the causes of the problem and potential solutions, and the Council agreed that they would keep working to try to improve the situation. It was noted that once the National Trust re-open their campsite they may add their weight to the argument if the campsite customers experience the same problems.

Councillor Collins raised the topic of the Public Spaces Protection Order that has been put in place by High Peak Borough Council and the Peak Park making it against the law to light fires of any sort in public access spaces. She reported that they are asking for suggestions for the best locations to site signs with this information.

With no further business, the meeting was closed

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