

EDALE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES for the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 13th April 2022

Held at Edale Parish Hall, 8pm.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Julie Morten (Chair), Joanna Collins, Cedric Gilbert: John Gould, Morgan Jackson. Tracy Thorpe (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public

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

Apologies for absence:

None.

Minutes of previous Annual Parish meeting on 12th May 2021

Minutes from the meeting of 12th May 2021 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:

At the Annual Parish meeting in May 2021 the issue of traffic congestion on the road up to Upper Booth was raised. Cllr. Morten reported that the Parish Council continues to regard this as a serious problem and regularly sends letters to the authorities concerned. The Council are very restricted in the actions they have at their disposal, but will continue to do what they can to find solutions to this problem.

Another topic raised at the 2021 Annual Meeting was the Public Spaces Protection Order banning fires of any sort in public places. Cllr. Collins updated this meeting that whilst no physical signs had been erected during the previous year, HPBC are still promoting this PSPO through social media channels.

Chair's Announcements

None.

Clerks report and Financial Report:

A combined Clerks report and financial report was given by Tracy Thorpe, as follows:

“In the year to March 2022, there have been 11 regular meetings of Edale Parish Council, with only the April 2021 meeting held remotely due to Coronavirus restrictions. There have been no extra-ordinary meetings and no regular council meetings have been cancelled. There have been 6 apologies for absence from Councillors throughout the year. DCC Cllr. Jim Perkins attended 1 meeting prior to his retirement, then DCC Cllr. Nigel Gourlay attended 7 of the remaining 10 meetings. High Peak Borough Council was regularly represented by Cllr. Joanna Collins who is also a member of Edale Parish Council.

During the year Edale residents attended 5 meetings to speak on planning issues and other Parish business.

I have now completed one full year as Clerk, and in that role I have attended all 11 of the Parish Council meetings plus the Annual Parish Meeting. For those meetings I have distributed agendas, taken and distributed minutes, provided summaries for Ringing Roger, maintained the website and provided Councillors with pre and post meeting information. On behalf of the Council I have also corresponded with various authorities, agencies, residents, members of the public and contractors.

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.

I continue 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) I am pleased to report that the previous year's Parish Council Accounts for 2020/2021 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 together continue to enhance the financial procedures to ensure that all financial aspects of the council are correctly administered.

I am also pleased to report that the end of year accounts for this year 2021 to 2022 have been completed and were put to the Council for preliminary approval at the Parish Council meeting earlier tonight. Excluding the Edale Charities Car Park receipts, the Council had an income of £6,618 and an expenditure of £6,168 giving a surplus of £450. This can mainly be attributed to a reduction in the Clerk's expenses (I do less mileage than the previous Clerk as I live in Edale), and underspends on training, donations, and meeting room charges.

The Council's books and accounts will be submitted to Mr John Mariott for internal audit later this month. The "Annual Governance and Accountability Return" and details of Public Rights will be published in due course as required.

For the coming 2022/23 financial year, a 7% increase in the precept has been requested from the Borough Council. With the tax base at 143 (1 up on last year), the charge per 'band D' equivalent household for the Parish Council will be £40.63, an increase of £2.40. The increase was requested in order to maintain a cash reserve for future village projects, and also with a view to balancing the budget next year.

The Council administers Edale Charities Car Park at Station Yard on behalf of participating charities, and the total income for 2021/22 was £16,811. £216 was spent on the provision of temporary toilets at the station yard for Easter weekend 2021, which left a net income of £16,595 to be distributed equally between the participating charities at the end of the financial year. This means that each of the 5 involved will receive £3,319.

That concludes my combined report, and I would like to thank all the council members for welcoming me last year and for the assistance I have received in carrying out my role as Clerk and RFO during these past 12 months. Thank you"

Chair's report:

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

"With Coronavirus still very much with us, last year's meeting was held by Zoom. The Council observed a one-minute silence to honour the passing of HRH Prince Philip. It was also the last meeting of DCC Councillor Jim Perkins who over the years has been a great asset to Edale with his commitment to try to get things done to address many issues in Edale. A vote of thanks was given to him on his retirement. In May we were finally back to face-to-face meetings and welcomed Nigel Gourlay as the new DCC Councillor.

The Parish Council now owns the red telephone box at Upper Booth, and the glass has been replaced. A plan is in progress to put a map and local information in the phone box.

The village Christmas tree, which was paid for out of the Chair's Allowance, looked great outside the Church again this year.

The parish Council have applied for grants from DCC and HPBC to help with costs for village Jubilee celebrations.

Regarding Highways issues, the Council continues to liaise with the relevant authorities on problems within the Parish. Responses and actions are often slow due to things out of our control. However there has been some success with double yellow lines up Grindsbrook, outside the carpark and a marked timed bay at the Church. Also the replacement of two public footpath bridges, one at Barber Booth (number 8) and one at Grindsbrook (number 37) is now complete.

Serious traffic problems continue on the road to Upper Booth. It is believed that meetings have been held between the Peak Park, National Trust and DCC Highways but no report has been given to this Parish Council. With ever increasing visitor numbers the Council need a response to this issue sooner rather than later.

Another ongoing issue in the valley is the misuse of public footpaths by mountain bikers. This problem is to be tackled in conjunction with other members of the Peak Park Parishes Forum.

The Edale Charity Car Park has done very well this last year, due to the 56 day usage allowance. A huge thanks must be given to John Gould who oversees the running of this.

Lastly, as a new project for the coming year, the Council has plans in place to trial a plastic bottle recycling bin in Grindsbrook.

For a small Council we try very hard to address the issues in Edale. We endeavour to pass on complaints to the relevant authorities and follow up until we get a response. With visitor numbers increasing the strain on our small village is quite visible, but we will continue to do our best.

Finally, many thanks to Tracy, the Parish Clerk, who keeps up with all the emails, letters and finances. She is a true asset to Edale Parish Council”

Public Speaking and Any Other Business:

Thanks were given from Edale Methodist Church for the money they will receive from the car park funds. It is much appreciated.

A resident who is a keen dog-walker commented that it would be useful to have a bin available for dog poo at the intersection of paths near Skinners Hall, and at the bottom of Ollerbrook lane. They reported that they have visited similar areas where bins exist and there is noticeably less dog poo around. Cllr Collins replied that HPBC do not have the resources for new bins but that there is a bin at Mill Cottages that is rarely used which could potentially be moved. The Clerk will write to HPBC with this request and c.c. Cllr. Collins who will follow it up. A new bin will also be requested.

Another resident raised the problem of storm water rushing down Peak Lane and blocking the drains with gravel and mud causing flooding down the main street of Grindsbrook. Cllr. Gould and Cllr. Jackson said they had recently met with Peak Park to discuss this issue, and DCC have said they will put traps in further up the lane. It was commented that this lane is the start of the Pennine Way, one of the most important trails in the country, so there should be some funding to sort out this issue. It was agreed that a plan to solve this problem should be put together in order to know exactly what to request funding for.

Cllr. Gould reported that the national policy on temporary usage of land will revert to 28 days per year from April. This will restrict usage of the car park, however Network Rail have been asked to tidy up the area at Station Yard so more spaces should be available.

Several complaints have been received regarding the posts linked with wire on the land opposite Skinners Hall. This is an ongoing issue that has been raised in the past. It has been raised once again that it is dangerous for people walking along the road as there is no safe place to get out of the way of passing cars. This issue was discussed and it was agreed that it is necessary to fence-off the derelict barn but the layby should be left clear. The Clerk is to write another letter to the land owner suggesting that the layby is cleared and the other posts are moved further away from the road edge to make it safer for pedestrians. It was also suggested that he should erect a sign stating that the barn is an unsafe structure, to protect himself against liability.

With no further business, the meeting was closed

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