

MINUTES of the **ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING of SILKSTONE PARISH** held on **Monday 17th April 2023** at 7pm in Silkstone Sports Pavilion.

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr Richard Leech

Councillors: Derek Liddell, Debra Smith, Janice Wake and Lesley Gill.

Ward Councillors : Cllr John Wilson and 1 resident.

In attendance: The Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer – Richard Bell.

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED to note apologies from Cllr M Liddell and Cllr Millar.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting on Monday 11th April 2022 as a true and accurate record.

3. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr John Wilson from Barnsley MBC addressed the meeting:

Council Tax rates in 2023-2024 are the lowest in South Yorkshire. The Council budget includes a 1% fund for Adult Social Care in the Borough.

A £2M fund has been allocated for Highway repairs and Ward Councillors will be asked to bid for projects. There will be a number of Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) across the Borough in an effort to tackle excessive speeding.

There are proposals for having 20mph limits outside schools, either during school open/close times or all day. Cllr Leech said he would favour all day – the problem as ever is enforcement.

4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Firstly, I would like to thank all the councillors who have given their time and effort for the benefit of the Parish this last twelve months. Parish councillors are volunteers and many attend multiple meetings a month on our behalf.

Can I thank former councillor Sue Williams who stepped down earlier this year. Sue continues to help the parish now acting as newsletter editor.

Your councillors are: -

Lesley Gill – Vice Chair
Derek Liddell
Meryl Liddell
Peter Millar
Debra Smith
Janice Wake

I would also like to give special thanks to our Clerk, Richard Bell who has, as ever, had a very busy year with all the new and existing Council projects.

Ward Councillors

Again, I would like to thank our Ward Councillors for the support they have given us when dealing with BMBC. Working with our MP, Miriam Cates, speeding restrictions through the parish are being proposed and hopefully introduced this coming year.

Thank you, Robert Barnard, Paul Hand-Davis, and John Wilson,

Supporters

Amongst the many who help within the parish, can I thank Linda Marsh for in creating the newsletter, a fine read and an important way of keeping everybody informed about is happening. Also, can I thank Stewart Walton for his DIY skills helping maintain the pavilion and benches around the villages and finally David Hughes, our internal auditor.

Horsfields Garden Centre provided the village Christmas trees again. Thank you, Emma, they looked marvellous.

Groups

I must personally thank Susan Wareham and Karen Gorman for their endeavours promoting CARE and assisting with other council projects. CARE have again been instrumental in keeping the Parish neat and tidy this year arranging regular litter picks and village maintenance sessions. CARE has a Community Equipment resource where tools and gardening equipment are available for use on Parish projects. CARE is a fabulous group of volunteers who work tirelessly throughout the villages, and I thank them all on the parish's behalf.

The managers and coaches of Silkstone United football and cricket teams must be thanked for the great work they do in promoting sport to the youth within the parish. They do a great job, and our cricket club thrives. Managers are needed to set up and run junior football teams on what is one of the best pitches in the Barnsley Borough.

Silkstone Warm Welcome was set up in January to provide a warm and friendly place for people to have a chat and a cuppa. Age UK have attended and given advice to residents, thank you, Helen. Thank you also to Julia and Alan Thompson, without whom the Parish Council would not have been able to set up and run the Warm Welcome.

Parish Projects

The major project within the parish this year has been the Neighbourhood Development Plan, NDP. As, last year, this project is ongoing, being externally assessed now. Hopefully a referendum will take place in 2023 and then if approved, will determine housing development within the parish until 2033.

Ian Turner has worked tirelessly with a group of other volunteers to create this draft plan. Thank you all.

Speeding throughout the villages continues to be a problem and Speed Indicator Devices have been installed to inform drivers of their speed and collect speeding data to pass on to the relevant authorities. Next year the Parish Council hope to introduce other speed reduction measures.

The Chestnuts in Silkstone has been renamed Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Gardens in honour of Her Late Majesty, The Queen, and CARE have provided great help in bring this project to fruition.

Parish

The Parish Council support both the Churches in the Parish where they can by providing grants for one off items.

Grants are also awarded to other groups within Silkstone and Silkstone Common.

CCTV has been installed around the Recreation Ground and footage has been provided to the police when a crime has been committed. Hopefully this will discourage the perpetrators and get the police to make more visits.

There is an ongoing problem of substance abuse behind the garage, so something to make your children aware about.

Dog fouling continues to be an issue within the Parish. A minority of dog owners continue to allow their dogs to mess and not clear up. This is both inconsiderate and dangerous when allowed on the playing areas of both our recreation grounds.

Coming Year

In May, the parish will celebrate the Kings Coronation with the lighting of a beacon and then, in June, a village fair in Silkstone Common.

Conclusion

Your Parish Council continues to strive to make our parish a desirable place to live. Please help all our community groups where you can.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident congratulated the Parish Council for organising the Hanging Baskets in the village which really were spectacular last year.

A resident asked what was happening with Silkstone Common Recreation Ground and efforts by the Parish Council to take over the CISWO lease from Barnsley MBC. Cllr Leech said that it was progressing slowly as the SCSRA do not seem keen to work in partnership as suggested by Barnsley MBC.

The PC hope to engage with the group soon after Parish Council elections in May.

On the question of speeding Cllr Wake said there were initiatives looking at changing attitudes by working with children. Cllr Gill said that lorries travelling through villages at excessive speed was a real problem in the more rural parts of the Borough.

Cllr Leech said that there were a number of issues that needed addressing, 'Dragon's Teeth' repainting in Silkstone Common, the crossing situation in Silkstone and streetlights not working, especially around 'The Cross'.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to note that the next Annual Parishioners Meeting will next be held in Silkstone during April 2025 on a date to be agreed by the Parish Council, when their meeting dates are set in November 2024.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Chairman's Signature	Date