

MINUTES of the **ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING of SILKSTONE PARISH** held on **Monday 15TH April 2019** at 7pm in Silkstone Common Methodist Church.

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr Meryl Liddell

Councillors: Richard Leech, Derek Liddell, Debra Smith, Ron Stier, Peter Millar and Alan Thompson.

Ward Councillor Robert Barnard, Councillor John Wilson and 1 resident.

In attendance: The Clerk

1. APOLOGIES – None.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting on Monday 16th April 2018 as a true and accurate record.

3. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Barnard addressed the meeting:

Unfortunately, there has been a Barnsley MBC Council Tax increase of +4.49% for 2019/2020 which includes an increase of 15% for the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire.

Cllr Barnard reported that the reasonably new system for grants from Council / Ward Alliance has worked well and resulted during 2018/2019 in support totalling just over £40,000 allocated to 30 local groups in Penistone East and West; matched by volunteer time for each of those groups. This is designed to increase community capacity and make them self-sufficient. Regretfully, some requests just 'do not fit' with Local Government capabilities; for example Swimming Pools. .

Cllr Wilson addressed the meeting:

Pleasing to see that community grants have worked well, such as the new air conditioning units for the Huskar Community Rooms and the Age UK "sloppy slippers" scheme for vulnerable persons. It is also pleasing that improvements in Silkstone Parish have taken place, such as the road resurfacing in Silkstone following changes in the system used by highways to assess every road every year. This gives Local Councillors more input so this is a positive move that means locally we can influence roads improvements. The Barnsley MBC Area Plan has now been passed by Council. Silkstone Parish has not got many areas for planning. Strategic plans gives a process to defend areas against unwanted building active, although controversial.

Cllr Smith asked if the BMBC 'Clean and Tidy' team could be asked to assist with a project to take place in the parish funded through area council looking at litter picking and rubbish clearance in those areas not safe or accessible by local volunteers.

Both Cllr Barnard and Cllr Wilson are willing to help, both in terms of generating interest but also "rolling up their sleeves". Cllr M Liddell will email Cllr Barnard with some thoughts.

Cllr D Liddell asked if there any plans to introduce the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Cllr Barnard said there were no plans to introduce this. With 'Section 106' there are concerns about a lack of discretion on the part of developers and it very much depends on what terms agreed between the developer and BMBC Planning. In cases where there is construction work but nowhere to spend the money it in that locality it will go to another Ward in the Borough. An example recently with a secondary school needing improvement outside the particular Parish. Another example is the MUGA in Oxspring following development in Thurgoland.

4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

I would like to start as usual by thanking all the parish councillors for all their hard work over the past twelve months. Parish councillors volunteer and give their time freely, all attending not just the regular monthly parish council meetings, but lots of other events and meetings between those meetings, always trying to improve the lives and environment for everyone living in the parish. I am proud to say that over the last twelve months they have an 85% attendance record for the monthly parish council meetings was achieved.

The last twelve months has seen lots of changes, mostly good, but some sad and unexpected. The passing away of Councillor Andrew Browell in January shook us all and both my personal condolences and that of the whole Parish Council go out to Andrew's family. We have also had a change of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, Karen Canadine left us for pastures new after 11 years. I would like to thank Karen for all her hard work and wish good luck and best wishes in her new role with Yorkshire Local Councils Associations.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for all their hard work, particularly Richard Leech, who as Vice Chair has helped and supported me over the last twelve months. Councillors Debra Smith, Ron Stier, Alan Thompson and Derek Liddell have all worked tirelessly supporting the Parish Council whilst also doing their best to help and support the community. I would like to thank Chrissie Yates her contribution to the Parish Council over the last twelve months. Chrissie has recently moved out of the parish, so is now not eligible to stand. I would at this time also like to say hello to Peter Millar. Peter has recently joined the Parish Council and I look forward to working with him in the future. The current members of the Parish Council recently stood again in the local elections and were returned unopposed. We all look forward to serving you for the next four years. We also said goodbye to Richard Bell as a Parish Councillor, and I thank him for his contributions as a councillor. On the upside Richard is still very much part of the Parish Council and is now our Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer; welcome Richard in your change of role, I look forward and hope to be working with you for a long time to come.

Our Ward Councillors, Robert Barnard, John Wilson and Paul Hand-Davies, continue to support the Parish Council and the parishioners of Silkstone Parish. All have worked tirelessly on behalf of the Parish, representing us at the highest levels at Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. Thank you all for your hard work.

Thank you to David Hughes, our internal auditor for your continued contribution. Thank you again for your help and advice it has been greatly appreciated. I would again like to give heartfelt thanks to Linda Marsh, without her help the Parish Newsletter would never be published. Carl Brown, continues to work with the Parish Council and continues to work hard within the parish, I hope our working relationship continues. Finally I would also like to thank our colleagues at BMBC for the help and support they have given to the Parish Council over the last twelve months.

The Silkstone CARE group and Silkstone in Bloom have worked tirelessly throughout the parish again this year, their ongoing work program across the Parish is one of the main reasons the two villages look as attractive as they do. I would like to congratulate the group on achieving both, The Duke of York Community Initiative Award and The Queens Award for Voluntary Services. This is a massive achievement, both I, and the Parish Council are proud to have been part, albeit a very small part, of their success.

Hanging baskets are again individually sponsored, thank to everyone who has sponsored a basket and contributed to the ambiance of both the villages.

The Parish Council continues to support our community groups offering grants of up to £400. This year just under £3000 has been given to various community groups across the parish.

It has been an eventful year. One of the highlights was the 'Huskar 180', this commemorated 180 years since the dreadful disaster that took the lives of 26 young people, the youngest of whom was seven years and the eldest was only ten years his senior. Several events took place between 4th to 8th July which included the unveiling of three community gardens, a fantastic floral display in the church, a drama held in two parts; part one at Silkstone Common J & I School, then part two held in the Red Lion Public House car park. The week culminated in a reception and very special service at the Church which was attended by over 90 descendants of the original families. The success of the week was a testament to the hard work of all those involved.

We were very proud to have been selected as one of the villages the Tour de Yorkshire passed through. The weather was kind making it a great day out for many members of the community, with a few of our budding photographers taking some brilliant photographs.

There were events in memory of the ending of the Great War. 120 men from the Parish answered the call to arms with 15 never returning. The Parish Council has sponsored the purchase of two English oak trees and memorial signs dedicated to those brave men.

The Parish Council has several allotments all of which are currently rented out to allotment holders, who spend many happy hours on their plots. At the time of writing this report there are currently 17 people waiting for the chance to have an allotment to work.

The Huskar Community Rooms continue to go from strength to strength, the group who manages the rooms are proud of the successes they have celebrated over the last twelve months. The rooms boast a wide range of activities including yoga, craft, a dance school, scouts, brownies and many more. It is also a successful venue for birthday parties, hog roasts and BBQs to mention a few of the activities. The Huskar Committee has recently purchased amongst other things air conditioning for the dance studio and CCTV to help protect the building.

The success of 'Silkstone Luncheon Club' should also be celebrated for having also achieved The Duke of York Community Initiative Award. This group goes largely unsung but are a vital in helping our older residents avoid social exclusion. They run a minibus around the parish picking up residents to the luncheon club having a lovely meal at the Station Inn, Silkstone Common.

Another group is the 'Good Companions', this group has been meeting for almost 60 years and is open to all. They meet monthly and have a wide and varied agenda throughout the year including days out, a musical sing a long, a ukulele band and a strawberry fair to name but a few. I know that new members will be made very welcome.

Looking forward, next year will hold new challenges for the Parish Council who will continue to work hard to ensure the best outcomes for Silkstone Parish

The writing and approval of a Neighbourhood Plan is still something the Parish Council would like to achieve. The importance of a neighbourhood plan cannot be over emphasised, as it will help to ensure the two villages in the parish develop in a way, we as residents, want to see.

We will also be holding a Summer Fair again in the coming year on Silkstone Playing Fields. Please watch out in the newsletter, notice boards, website the summer fair Facebook page for more information.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone in the parish for the support you have shown us the Parish Council. I am looking forward to the challenges over the next four years, but especially the next twelve months. I know there will be many more successes to report next year from our fabulous parish.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No further questions.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED to note that the 2020 Annual Parishioners Meeting will be held in Silkstone during April 2020 on a date to be agreed by the Parish Council, when their meeting dates are set in November 2019.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.28pm.

Chairman's Signature	Date