

**MINUTES** of the **ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING of SILKSTONE PARISH** held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022** at 7pm in Silkstone Common Methodist Church.

## **PRESENT**

**Chair:** Cllr Richard Leech

**Councillors:** Derek Liddell, Debra Smith, Sue Williams, and Lesley Gill.

Ward Councillors : Cllr Robert Barnard, Cllr John Wilson and 2 residents.

In attendance: The Clerk

## **1. APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED** to note apologies from Cllr M Liddell, Cllr Millar, and Cllr Wake.

## **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:

Since the last Annual Parishioners Meeting in 2019, we have experienced a very difficult time due to the Pandemic and societal changes. It has proved equally challenging for Local Government to continue providing services.

Unfortunately, there have been Council Tax increase of +1.5% for 2022/2023 from Barnsley MBC plus increases of 4.7% for the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire, 1.99% for South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Authority. In addition, there has been an additional 2% Adult Social Care levy placed upon taxpayers.

Cllr Barnard raised more local issues for the parish, particularly in relation to the Traffic Regulation Order in Silkstone, which most people are reasonably happy with but there will be unintended consequences, such as displacement of parking in other areas of the village and potentially issues with speed on High Street.

It is to be noted that South Yorkshire Police will only intervene if there is obstruction, but only if they see it actually occurring.

Cllr Wilson addressed the meeting:

Following on from the issue of speeding, Cllr Wilson said that there were to be pilots of 20mph zones so it will be interesting to see how these are received and whether they reduce speeding. It is also to be noted that Barnsley MBC have approved a budget of £2M for road safety during 2022/2023. The involvement of the Parish Council is therefore to be encourages to provided speed data to the Officers of Barnsley MBC.

Ward Councillors asked if there were any questions.

Cllr Leech said that it was becoming frustrating at the lack of response from Officers at Barnsley MBC in relation to the Business Plan templates being awaited for Silkstone Common Recreation Ground.

Cllr Wilson apologised and said that there was currently an audit of all Barnsley MBC land being undertaken so that may explain the delay.

A resident asked whether the Parish Council would be considering taking out a loan to improve Silkstone Common Recreation Ground; Cllr D Liddell said that there was already a loan in place in relation to the

Huskar Community Rooms so it is doubtful the Parish Council would go down that route. Cllr Smith said it was likely that Grants would be sought for any improvement works.

#### 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. Attendance at council meetings has been 85% this year which is excellent.

Can I firstly thank former councillor Ron Stier who retired last summer after over 20 years on the council. Ron still regularly attends meetings and actively helps with other jobs within the parish, Lesley Gill – is our guru on planning and development issues.

Derek Liddell - our veteran councillor who is also on the board of NALC – the national body overseeing local councils.

Meryl Liddell – Vice chair and parish newsletter editor. Thank you for your support.

Peter Millar- our social media expert.

Debra Smith – our finance expert and has been instrumental in the development of the NDP.

Janice Wake – our newest councillor who brings in expertise of Neighbourhood Watch scheme development.

Sue Williams – specialising in Youth Engagement, Sue set up the Youth Council and organised multiple youth events.

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.

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, an amended version of the proposed parking restrictions were achieved and although not perfect is considerably better than Stagecoach wanted. 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 assisting Meryl in creating the newsletter, a fine read and an important way of keeping everybody informed about is happening. Also, can I thank Stuart 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.

I must personally thank Susan Wareham, Karen Gorman and Andrew Wilson 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. Congratulations to SUFC who have just won the league and have gained promotion.

The major project within the parish this year has been the Neighbourhood Development Plan, NDP. As I write this the first period of consultation is closing and then the draft plan will go off to be externally assessed. The NDP, when 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.

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 is being renamed in honour of Her Majesty, The Queen, and work is underway to create a new garden for all to use. This will be completed in stages throughout the year and CARE are providing great help in bring this project to fruition.

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. Generally, our parish continues to have a low level of crime compared to other parts of the Borough. However, over the last few weeks there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour behind the garage and other incidents around the villages. Damage to cars and property along with door-knocking seems to give some of our youths a great deal of please. I don't think they realise how this affects the victims.

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. Car crime is on the increase in the parish so we should be more vigilant than ever, why not consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch Group. Use the new 101 phone number for reporting non urgent crime.

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.

In June, the parish will celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee with the lighting of a beacon and a village fair. More detail can be found in the summer newsletter.

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 asked about the future of the Methodist Church. Cllr Leech said that he and Cllr Smith had met with the Minister and agreed that Cllr D Liddell will stand on their Management Committee due to his previous experience of ecclesiastic organisation.

Another resident raised the issue of Rats on Cone Lane and if anything could be done. Cllr Leech said he had seen the Rats, but it would appear they are on private land around the gardens at the Cross, maybe attracted by bird food. If it is becoming a Health hazard, then it should be reported to Barnsley MBC Environmental Health team.

The same resident also raised the issue of the damage fence between Bernard's Place on High Street, Silkstone and the land owned by the Horsfield family. It would appear that it has been removed so may need something putting in place to prevent children having access to the old church.

Concern was raised at the meeting about a particular family in Silkstone who appear to be suffering financial hardship following a bereavement.

Cllr Williams took the opportunity to thanks Cllr Leech for his hard work during the year, particularly the maintenance work he undertakes for free and litter picking around Silkstone recreation Ground.

## 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**RESOLVED** to note that the next Annual Parishioners Meeting will be held in Silkstone during April 2023 on a date to be agreed by the Parish Council, when their meeting dates are set in November 2022.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Chairman's Signature	Date