

**DRAFT MINUTES** of the **ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING** of **SILKSTONE PARISH** held on **Monday 16 April 2018** at 7pm at Silkstone Sports Pavilion.

## **PRESENT**

**Chair:** Cllr Meryl Liddell

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

Ward Councillor Robert Barnard and 3 residents.

In attendance: The Clerk

### **1. APOLOGIES** - None

### **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting on Monday 10 April 2017 as a true and accurate record.

### **3. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Barnard addressed the meeting:

Cllr Barnard advised that the area council have appointed 'Twigs' who take over the Clean and Green team who work with local groups and Parish Council's on environmental projects. The ward alliance fund volunteer groups with grants that need to be match funded with volunteer time.

It was noted that the Council tax has gone up this year by 4.5% which whilst high is less than Sheffield and Rotherham Council's. It is expected the increase will be less next year.

The proposed new authority discussed at last years APM of Sheffield/Doncaster/Rotherham and Barnsley will not go ahead with new plans being discussed for a wider Yorkshire region authority.

The Barnsley MBC Local Development Plan has been considered by a planning inspector whose findings have meant that the plan had to be re-visited to incorporate housing allocation in the borough's villages. As a result of this a proposed site has been put forward for inclusion in the plan known as EC11 at Moorend Lane. A developer has also suggested an alternative site to EC11 at Knabbs Lane, Silkstone Common. Ward Councillors support the Parish Council's view that further development in Silkstone Common is not sustainable, as the infrastructure and facilities in the village would not support any more homes.

A resident who litter picks the village asked if there was any support for volunteer litter pickers. Cllr Barnard advised that resident volunteers are not expected to take litter to the tip. Residents should call BMBC to advise where the bags of rubbish have been left and BMBC will arrange to collect. It was noted with thanks that CARE carry out several organised litter picks in the Parish but are only able to litter pick from where there are pavements for health and safety. Cllr Barnard agreed to raise the issue of litter on roadside verges on the main roads and along Cone Lane on the side without a pavement.

A resident raised the issue of the width of Cone lane. At the top of the lane the roadside verge is encroaching on to the road. Cllr Barnard agreed to raise this issue with a BMBC Highways inspector to ask that the road width is reinstated by removing grass and cutting back trees to expose the road surface.

The planning application at land adjacent to Glebe Farm, Barnsley Road, Silkstone for 3 new properties was discussed as it had been referred to the Planning Regulatory Board. Cllr Barnard advised that he and Cllr Paul Hand-Davis had objected to the plans and requested a site visit but had been voted against at the meeting. The Parish Council and a number of residents also objected to the application (post meeting note: ref October 17 Parish Council minutes).

It was noted that the pot holes on the Tour De Yorkshire route will be repaired before the race on 4<sup>th</sup> May 18 (this will include Silkstone Lane and High street).

#### **4. PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT**

I would like to thank 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 an 80% attendance record for the monthly parish council meetings was achieved.

I would particularly like to thank Richard Leech, who as vice chair has helped and supported me over the last year. Richard Bell, Debra Smith, Ron Stier, Andrew Bowell, Derek Liddell, who have all continued to work hard and contribute towards the success of the Parish Council. I would also like to thank Chrissie Yates and Alan Thompson who have more recently joined the parish council and are already making their mark.

By welcoming two new parish councillors, means that I must also say goodbye and thank you to Steve Fletcher and Susan Wareham for their contributions during their time on the Parish Council.

There is a lot of work that goes on in the background to keep the Parish Council, not only efficient and value for money, but on track to make sure we adhere to all legislation, new and old. Karen Canadine our parish clerk carries out this task brilliantly whilst continuing to support the parish council, being always prepared to go above and beyond whenever it is needed. Thank you, Karen.

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, who became our internal auditor last year. Thank you for your help and advice it has been greatly appreciated. I would like to give heartfelt thanks to Linda Marsh, without her help the Parish Newsletter would never be published. This year saw a new handyman Carl Brown start to work with the parish council. Carl has worked hard within the parish and I hope our working relationship with him 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 on-going 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 Silkstone CARE and Silkstone in Bloom, celebrating all the hard work they have carried out over the last twelve months. This is just another instance of ordinary people within the parish giving up the time to keep the environment we live in as attractive as it is.

Hanging baskets were individually sponsored again last year. This really helps both the villages look attractive during the summer months, whilst remembering loved ones and promoting local businesses. There were 21 hanging baskets across the two villages in the summer of 2017.

The Parish Council continues to support our community groups offering grants of up to £400. This year over £2000.00 has been given to various community groups across the parish.

This year saw a summer fair held in Silkstone Common, for the first time for many years, the weather was kind, and everyone had a fabulous day. The hard work and coming together of the community to make sure the day was a success is just another instance that make me say I am proud to live in Silkstone Parish. All monies raised after expenses went towards the purchase of a defibrillator for each village. These have now been purchased and in place. There is one on the wall of the Station Inn in Silkstone Common and one on the wall of the Huskar Rooms in Silkstone, thank you to the people who have allowed us to place these valuable community assets on their buildings.

This year sadly saw the closing of the Silkstone Common WI after many years of meetings. The group will be sadly missed.

The Parish Council has a number of allotments all of which are currently rented out to allotment holders, who spend may happy hours on their plots. At the time of writing this report there are currently 15 people waiting for the chance to have an allotment to work.

The Huskar 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, BBQs to mention a few of the activities.

Looking forward, next year will hold new challenges that the Parish Council will continue to work hard to ensure the best outcomes for Silkstone Parish. A massive challenge will be the new data protection legislation due to 'go live' at the end of May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). This is European legislation that will affect every Council, group or business that holds any information about anyone and how it stores and uses that information. The Parish Council is already working hard to be ready for when the new legislation goes live and to be compliant to it at all times

One of the main projects will be the writing and approval of a neighbourhood plan. This will need to be consulted on with as many parishioners to make sure the content is what the parish wants. The parish council will be hoping to recruit a band of volunteers to help and support the development, writing and issuing of our new neighbourhood plan. So please watch the notice boards, website and Facebook 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 twelve months and hope that there are many successes to report next year.

**5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – No further questions.

## **6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** to note that the 2019 Annual Parishioners Meeting will be held in April 2019 on a date to be agreed by the Parish Council, when their meeting dates are set in November 2018.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm.

Chairman's Signature	Date

