

MINUTES of the **ANNUAL PARISHIONERS MEETING of SILKSTONE PARISH** held on **Monday 15th April 2024** at 7pm in Silkstone Common Methodist Chapel.

PRESENT

Chair: Cllr Lesley Gill.

Councillors: Cllr Derek Liddell, Cllr Meryl Liddell, Cllr Janice Wake, Cllr Peter Millar, and Cllr Richard Leech.

Ward Councillors: Cllr Robert Barnard, Cllr John Wilson, Cllr Alex Burnett and twenty-five residents.

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

1. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED to note apologies from Cllr Smith and Cllr Logan.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting on Monday 17th April 2023 as a true and accurate record.

3. WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Robert Barnard from Barnsley MBC addressed the meeting:

Council Tax rates have increased for 2024-2025 but are still the lowest in South Yorkshire. The Council budget includes a 1% fund for Adult Social Care in the Borough – Council is aware that many people are struggling with the economic situation.

The Boundary Commission Consultation about proposed Ward Boundary changes was discussed, Cllr Barnard said that the Conservative Group has put forward a suggestion to change the current 'thirds' method for Ward Councillor election, they also agreed with the Liberal Democrat group that Silkstone parish should not be split, with Silkstone staying in Penistone East but Silkstone Common moving to Dodworth Ward, as proposed by the Labour Group.

Silkstone Parish Council have been proactive seeking the views of residents from the parish to send their views to the Boundary Commission.

Cllr Barnard said that initiatives had been put in place by Penistone Town Council for drop-in sessions if residents are struggling with finances. The Citizens Advice Bureau and Age UK were also involved.

An allocation has been made for pothole repairs across the Borough, Cllr Wilson said it was imperative residents reported these online to get them fixed.

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 some attend multiple meetings a month on our behalf.

Your councillors are: -

Richard Leech– Vice Chair
Derek Liddell
Meryl Liddell
Peter Millar
Debra Smith
Janice Wake
Jim Logan

I would also like to give special thanks to our Clerk, Richard Bell who has, as ever, had a remarkably 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.

Supporters

Amongst the many who help within the parish, can I thank Linda Marsh and Sue Williams for creating the newsletter, a great document and 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 were wonderful.

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 magnificent work they do in promoting sport to the youth within the parish. They do a fantastic 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. Thank you 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

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 major project however has been the Methodist Chapel. Now recorded as an Asset of Community Value by Barnsley MBC means that in the event that the Church decide to sell the building, the Parish Council will be offered it for sale first.

The Clerk is working hard to gather quotations for improvement works so that a bid can be made to the Community Ownership Fund offered by Government.

A Summer Fayre will be taking place on 15th June 2024 on Silkstone Recreation Ground with plans proceeding at a pace, if anyone wishes to have a stall, please contact Cllr Gill or the Clerk.

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.

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.

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 School Catchment Areas and whether these would change with the suggested Boundary Review. Cllr Wilson said that the two were not linked but there is pressure on Penistone Grammar School given the planned housebuilding projects.

More information was requested by a resident relating to how the ACV works in practice, with the permission of the Chair, the Clerk explained that once the Church decide to sell, the Parish Council is given first option to buy and has six months to raise the necessary funds.

A resident asked about the Noticeboard outside the Chapel and if the Parish Council could help to purchase a new one. Cllr Leech said that the Parish Council could not purchase one as it was not their property so unfortunately it would have to be the Church.

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 8.35pm.

Chairman's Signature	Date