

**MINUTES of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021 at 7pm in Saint Phillip's Church

**PRESENT:**

Councillor	Phil Maude (Chair)		
Councillors	Mike Brunt	Claire Hassell	Stella Walsh
	Alexandra Cantelo	Graham Slater	Jacque Ward
	Karen Dales		

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Ward Cllr. Sam Firth and eight residents.

The Chair reported that the Clerk's wife had had surgery and was recovering at home and on behalf of everyone, wished her well and a speedy recovery.

**1 APOLOGIES.** Cllr Remmer.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST.** None.

**3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Eight residents were in attendance, the following issues were raised.

• **Flooding on Scholes Main Street**

Two residents expressed concerns about flooding. During periods of very heavy rainfall, the drains fail to cope with the volume of water resulting in water running over the patio leaving behind excrement. This had happened three times in three months and the patio had to be cleared each time (as last time, it took Yorkshire Water Authority four days to attend and the resident could not leave it that long as their grandchild was too young to appreciate the health risks). Photographic evidence had previously been supplied to the Parish Council (PC), and further evidence going back to 2017 could be supplied. On one occasion, the foul water had come up into the resident's bath. The new development on Belle Vue Road had made matters worse. A proposed solution had been declined by Yorkshire Water Authority as it was felt that this would cause problems further downstream. Excavation of tree roots had not solved the problem. This issue had been ongoing for quite some time but a change in personnel in Operational Complaints at Yorkshire Water Authority meant that the person now handling the complaint was not fully appreciative of previous attempts to find a solution and a shortage of funding (applied for in 2014) was hindering progress. Two Ward Councillors had previously attended a meeting outside the church with those concerned and Cllr. Dales had spent three hours on the telephone. Suggestions were put forward involving writing to the Chief Executive Officer, the Consumer Council, the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) and the Member of Parliament and it was agreed that this be an agenda item for the September meeting where PC support would be considered and that in the meantime, appropriate enquires would be made and advice from Cllr. Remmer sought.

• **Benches**

A resident requested more benches at the top half of Scholes having noted that there were sixteen benches in Scholes and only one of these was by the A64. She had locations in mind (e.g. the top and bottom of The Approach), and it was suggested that people might like to sponsor a bench in memory of a loved one. There had been one outside Osman House. It was reported that another resident was seeking a bench on Rakehill Road near the Scout Hut. It was agreed that this be an agenda item for the September meeting.

• **Bridge**

The Chair advised the resident with concerns about this that she would be allowed to address the PC when item 5.6 was discussed.

• **East Leeds Orbital Road**

A resident expressed concerns about the width of the temporary footpath on the A64 resulting from the construction of the East Leeds Orbital Road. This was not wide enough to allow a parent to walk alongside a child and the close proximity of wing mirrors from passing vehicles and the small size of the

bollards used to keep traffic and pedestrians apart were disconcerting. Ward Cllr. Firth requested a copy of a photograph of a sign outside Morwick Terrace which had appeared on social media.

- **Public Footpath from Main Street to Scholes Lodge Lane**

One resident asked for more pebbles down this ginnel. This was referred to the Scholes Lodge Farm subcommittee to consider at their next meeting.

- **Platinum Jubilee**

A resident advised the PC that a group of residents were planning an event to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** It was **resolved** that the minutes of the PC meeting (2/2021) held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (630-634) having been circulated, be approved, all in favour. It was however noted that Cllr. Brunt had been appointed as both a signatory on the account and as the Internal Controls Officer and that under Financial Regulation 2.2, the Internal Controls Officer could not also be a signatory and therefore there would be an agenda item at the next meeting to consider another Councillor for the role of Internal Controls Officer.

## 5 OTHER ITEMS

**5.1 The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.** It was noted that;

- The Maypole Committee are planning their event for the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022.
- The Peace Flame group are planning to mark the occasion.
- Beacons used for a previous event on the top of Hall Tower Hill may still be available.
- The Royal British Legion are interested in taking part.

Cllr. Slater agreed to take the lead in organising a working party. This would not be a PC event, the role of the PC would be to coordinate what others were planning and to ensure a spread of events over the four day period (2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>) and to set a budget to support event organisers if appropriate. The working party would meet week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> October and the Clerk would book a suitable venue. The September newsletter would carry an article to support the above, Cllr. Hassell and one of the residents in attendance would contribute material for the article.

**5.2 Capital programme.** The Chair had produced a report of capital projects that the PC might consider for future investment. Each was considered in turn, and it was **resolved** that the following projects be included in the Capital programme.

- Improvements to Rakehill Road.
- Improvements to the Verity Strip.
- Investigating using premises in Scholes to operate a retail outlet for the village.
- Developing Hall Tower Field Barwick for use by older children.
- Improvements to Barwick Playground.
- Having a play area on Scholes Sports Field.

A proposal to include assistance to Elmet Greenway in securing a right of way from Chippies Quarry to Station Road in the capital programme was not supported.

Each of the above was discussed and voted on in turn. The key discussion points were;

- **Rakehill Road.** Some Councillors preferred the PC to seek improvement to Leeds Road rather than Rakehill Road as the link between the two villages.
- **Verity Strip.** Needs levelling and compressing, the stone gravel is £200 a load, Cllr. Hassell had been trying to get quotations.
- **Retail outlet in Scholes.** It was understood that the shop might reopen but there was uncertainty about this and the PC had been liaising with Barwick Post Office about the possibility of setting up a pop-up facility at the Pavilion.
- **Securing a right of way from Chippies Quarry to Station Road.** Concerns about motorbikes and a request to see plans.
- **Developing Hall Tower Field.** Cllrs. Hassell and Ward had met a contractor on-site and were seeking a quotation. Concerns about anti-social behaviour at a site not overlooked by properties. Need to engage

with those likely to use the facility to ensure appropriate provision. A circulator path linking facilities in each village suggested.

- **Improvements to Barwick Playground.** General support but a concern not to duplicate the provision on Hall Tower Field.
- **Play area on Scholes Sports Field.** Space for three or four bits of equipment made possible by the reduced size of the football pitch. Concern not to duplicate the “Vision For The Future” provision by ensuring the equipment catered for a different need. Need to address drainage issues.

Other projects had been suggested to the Chair as follows;

- Drainage of Scholes Sports field. Ongoing
- Scholes Lodge Field improvements. To be considered by the Scholes Lodge Field subcommittee.
- More benches. Agenda item next month.

### **5.3 To receive an update on the road closures around Scholes.**

The Chair had circulated emails about the road closure to all including one from the Principal Engineer of Leeds City Council (LCC) received shortly before the meeting. The road closures for the A64 were planned for the middle of October. Clarification about the weight limits on the bridge was being sought (see item 5.6 below) and it was noted that the signs are still up. There was a query about Festival traffic, Cllr. Maude advised that he was in contact with the vice-chair of the Community Fund. The Principal Engineer of LCC was meeting with the Events team the day following the PC meeting to discuss the Festival.

There were concerns about emergency services following reports that four out of five ambulances had attempted to get to Scholes via Leeds Road. This was put down to their GPS navigation rather than the ambulance service not being made aware of the closure but raised questions about the adequacy of signage advertising the road closures. Cllr. Maude would address this and a local resident was also highlighting these concerns.

Positives were noted, the shuttlebus was working well, late night working was not disturbing local residents and there was positive feedback about the temporary footpath down Leeds Road. There was confusion about the 64 bus. Cllr. Maude would draft and circulate a reply noting the above comments.

**5.4 Finance and General Purposes Committee.** It was noted that the Committee had met, and the draft minutes had been circulated.

- It was **resolved** to accept a recommendation of the Committee to have the Correspondence agenda item considered earlier.
- It was **resolved** to accept a recommendation of the Committee that the Internal Auditor only visits annually.

It was noted that various grants had been applied for the “Vision For The Future” project and that these had been recorded in the draft minutes.

**5.5 Santa’s Grotto.** It was **resolved** to allow the organisers of last year’s Santa’s Grotto to have the Pavilion free of charge again this year. This was planned for 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**5.6 Bridge over the disused railway.** A resident in attendance was allowed to address the meeting about this issue noting the untidy appearance due to the paintwork peeling off and suggesting cladding. There were inadequate risk assessments carried out when the painting was previously done (there being road management concerns). Cllr. Cantelo had circulated several ideas embracing the fact that there was once a railway beneath it and noting the use of buffers as the theme of a flower bed. Cllr. Slater reported on a conversation he had had with Heritage Railway Estates (HRE) noting that they were open to discussions. They were responsible for the bridge up to the specified weight limit and carried out an annual inspection. They considered the bridge good for forty tons but the bridge became the responsibility of LCC highways for anything over their twenty-four ton limit. They are a small organisation (one man is responsible for 691 bridges in the north of England) and carry out a major survey every twelve years, the last one being done in 2010. It was **resolved** that Cllr. Slater set up a meeting with HRE to discuss improvements, all in favour

**5.7 Training.** It was noted that Cllr. Maude had attended Public Rights of Way (PROW) training on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The training Cllr. Cantelo was booked on “A basic understanding of the Planning System” on 6<sup>th</sup> July had been cancelled.

**5.8. Website.** Reports showing the number of hits on each page of the website in July and the number of visits to the Facebook page had been circulated.

## **6 PLANNING MATTERS**

The draft minutes of the Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 had been circulated and their contents noted. There were two vacancies on the Committee with no representation from the Barwick half of the Parish. There were no volunteers to fill these vacancies and the next meeting would consider non-Councillor representation.

## **7 FINANCE**

**7.1 The cash book, bank reconciliation statement, screen print and budget monitor** had been circulated and showed nineteen BACS payments made in July amounting to £2,603.52. There were also six direct debits totalling £254.45. Income included Scholes Sports club rents and water charges and Scholes Cricket club had paid for one of the dog-fouling signs and Mount Saint Mary’s had paid for the additional premium needed to cover insurance of the changing rooms. Scouts had paid for their water charges but not ground rent (they normally pay these separately as the water charges are for the 2020-21 financial year). The Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) had taken water meter readings and would be using these alongside secondary readings supplied by the clubs to better understand each club’s actual usage.

**7.2 Cash Book.** The RFO had circulated the cash book. He reported on three invoices received since this had been distributed. It was **resolved** that anticipated payments shown on the Cash Book be approved (eleven BACS payments totalling £2,566.97 and five direct debits totalling £282.98), all in favour. The BT bill was £22.50 + VAT showing a considerable saving on the previous tariff.

## **8 CORRESPONDENCE**

The list of correspondence items 3138-3142 had been circulated

- **3139** was from a resident seeking advice about funding opportunities for post graduate education. He had been given advice about funding sources.
- **3140** was from a resident regarding the wreathes at Barwick war memorial suggesting that they should be removed after six months. A member of the Royal British Legion had dealt with this and thanks for him doing so were noted.
- **3141** was a query from Scholes in Bloom regarding hedge cutting of the school hedge. This had partially been dealt with but only where the school sign was obscured.
- **3142** was from a Barwick resident upset about children who have finished school hanging around the bus shelter on Main Street, climbing on the roof & making excessive noise and peering over the boundary wall of her property. School had now broken up for the summer holidays, meanwhile Cllr. Cantelo would raise this at the next PACT (Police and Communities Together) meeting.

There was a query about footway obstruction on Leeds Road due to verge creep and hedge growth.

## **9 ACTION TRACKER**

The Clerk had circulated the Action Tracker showing all ongoing actions. A message had been left on the telephone answering machine from one of the contractors approached about doing the works recommended in the tree report. He had also registered the “Vision for the Future” project on the Contracts Finder website in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1b.

## **10 CRIME REPORT**

The next PACT meeting would be on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021. Cllr. Cantelo asked those present to let her know of anything they wished her to raise. It was noted that according to the Police website, Scholes and surrounding villages had the second lowest reported crime rate in Leeds but this may be because people are not reporting crimes – the next newsletter would contain an article to encourage crime reporting. There had been an attempted burglary on Leeds Road.

## **11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Next PC meeting - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7pm.  
Planning Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, 7pm, Pavilion

Note: The wording of agenda items to be submitted in writing to the Proper Officer at least ten clear days before a meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Signed

Chair  
6 September 2021