

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held by remote access on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Phil Maude (*Chair*) and fourteen other electors (including Parish Councillors and the Clerk).

1 TO AGREE SOMEONE TO TAKE THE MINUTES.

It was agreed that the Clerk of the Parish Council take the minutes.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (2019)

Due to the pandemic, there had been no meeting in 2020. It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on Monday the 13th May 2019 be signed as a correct record.

5 CHAIR'S REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chair gave his annual report. A full copy of this would be published on the Parish Council (PC) website. Below is an abridged version of his report.

The Chair was newly elected to office in May 2020 at a difficult time when the Covid Pandemic had just struck and meetings had to be held virtually. The PC had sought to assist groups who found themselves struggling when their usual sources of income dried up.

The PC had met virtually on twelve occasions. Issues discussed included;

- Speeding in the villages and the possible installation of Speed Indication Devices.
- Funding the cost of an awning at Barwick Post Office.
- An unsuccessful enquiry about acquiring the freehold of Scholes Allotments.
- Support of a successful resident's initiative to set up a Santa's Grotto at Scholes Pavilion.

The Police had stopped attending PC meetings. Instead, Cllr. Bedford had started to attend regular Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings.

The PC was in sound financial health resulting in no increase in precept in 2021/22.

There were plans to spend a substantial amount of money on the Scholes Tennis Courts to provide a MUGA (multi-use games area) pitch and other facilities. Funds were available for other projects and residents were invited to submit ideas to improve the quality of life in the Parish.

Councillors Austin, Young and Greenwood resigned from the PC last year and were thanked for their work on the Council. Councillors Brunt and Cantelo were welcomed onto the PC. There was a vacancy for a Councillor in Barwick.

The Chair then reported under the following headings.

- **Committees and sub-committees** – the PC had committees for Planning and Finance/General Purposes and subcommittees for Scholes Lodge Field, Crime Prevention, Scholes Pavilion and Barwick Allotments all of which had met at regular intervals during the year. An ecologist and an archaeologist had been commissioned to advise on tree planting on Scholes Lodge Field and both had advised against this.
- **Sports Clubs and Volunteers** – although the pandemic had meant that little sport had taken place, many clubs benefited from grants from Leeds City Council (LCC). Barwick Village Hall (which occupies land owned by the PC) was looking for volunteers to help to run it. The PC had given financial support to both In Bloom groups. In December the Peace Flame Group were able to unveil the Peace Flame information board. Councillor Walsh and the other volunteers were thanked for making this possible.
- **Barwick Sports Field** – a new licence which had been agreed with Mount Saint Marys football club for their use of the football field. A new cess pool had been installed at the football Pavilion with some grant funding. It was hoped to secure the freehold of the access track to the Barwick Allotments and get this repaired.
- **Scholes Sports Field** - sports had resumed at the Sports field are were being used by Shadwell United and Five Star Sports. The field became very wet over winter and ways to provide better drainage were being investigated. There were problems with dogs causing damage and messing the field. New Signs would be erected soon to warn dog owners of the problems.
- **Scholes Pavilion** – this was now owned and run by the PC and was available to hire for events such as children`s parties and other meetings. A major project this year for the PC was its Vision for the Future initiative for the development of new facilities on the site of Scholes Tennis Courts. A drop-in session was arranged which was well supported by residents and planning permission was recently granted. Grant support was being sought. Councillor Slater and his team were thanked for their efforts in taking this forward.
- **East Leeds Orbital Road (ELOR)** - LCC had begun work on the ELOR and the disruption this has caused to the village was familiar to all. The PC had set up a working party for regular meetings with the ELOR team to help keep the impact of the new road to a minimum and were working to secure benefits for the village.
- **Planning and the Neighbourhood Plan** – the Planning Committee considered a number of planning applications in 2020/21 and made representations accordingly to LCC. Consultation was expected on a proposed Park and Ride development to be located on the A64 somewhere in the Parish. A review of the Neighbourhood Plan had begun prompted by the discovery that the Parish boundary had been extended to the urban edge of Leeds north of the A64 and extended to Coal Road which would in due course introduce an additional 1,500 houses into the Parish (this being in the northern quadrant of the East Leeds Extension). A small working party had been set up to look at the current Plan and decide on which polices to retain, which to amend and any new policies which may be required.
- **New Website** – a new website had been set up. Councillor Slater and John Ferguson were thanked for doing such a magnificent job and the new site was high recommended as a source of information about the Parish Council and what is going on in the Parish.

Next Year

Looking ahead to next year the PC was investigating setting up an Environment Committee to seek ways it could operate in a more environmentally friendly manner.

Conclusions

The Chair ended his report by thanking his fellow Councillors for the help and support they had given throughout the year and thanked the Clerk for keeping the show on the road and for help and advice provided.

He concluded with the hope that next year shapes up better than the last and that by all working together, Barwick and Scholes could be made a better place for all.

6 STATEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk of the PC showed on screen a summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 with a comparison with expenditure and income for the year ended 31 March 2020. This showed an overall income of £66,520.31 and expenditure of £66,863.78. He went through the report and, where there were noticeable differences between the 2020/21 and the 2019/20 figures, explained why. There was a query about the difference between the 2020/21 and the 2019/20 figures for expenditure on Scholes Lodge Farm. The report also showed the end of year balances on monies being held in the Parish Council's bank accounts.

7 PRECEPT

The Precept for the year 2021-22 had been set at £37,530. There was no increase in precept per household (in a band D property), however, due to a small increase in the number of properties in the Parish, the total collected by the Parish Council would be £382 more than in 2020/21.

8 REPORT on the ANCIENT PARISH OF BARWICK in ELMET TRUST

During the 2020/2021 year the Trust made ten grants totalling £3,752.00. Full details of the trust could be found on page three of the June 2017 Parish Council newsletter which is on their website, see [2017-June.pdf \(barwickandscholespc.org\)](http://2017-June.pdf(barwickandscholespc.org)), the list of members may have changed since then.

9 OPEN DISCUSSION of PARISH AFFAIRS

Residents in attendance raised queries about;

- Removal by LCC of a chicane on the ginnel connecting Carrfield Road to Wendel Avenue to allow access to those using mobility scooters resulting in an increase in inappropriate use of the ginnel by horse riders and cyclists. The resident wondered if a sign could be erected warning users of the concealed entrances.
- Health and safety concerns about the rusty state of the gate on the public right of way near Scholes Allotments. The above ginnel was also a public right of way and the Chair (being a member of Leeds Local Access Forum) agreed to raise both concerns with his contacts at LCC.
- There was a request for provision of play equipment for older children. The Vision for the Future initiative referred to in the Chair's report above sought to make provision for older children and it was reported that the parish Council was also looking at provision of additional play equipment on other sites.
- It was suggested that artwork or walkways (like the "Go Ape" walkways at Temple Newsam park) be provided along public footpaths – accepting that anything so provided would be on a far smaller scale than that at Temple Newsam.
- There was a concern that Scholes library had still not reopened.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm

Chair May 2022