

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held in Barwick in Elmet Village Hall on Wednesday 9th May 2022 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Claire Hassell (*Chair*) and fourteen other electors (including Parish Councillors and the Clerk) and Ward Councillors Matthew Robinson and Sam Firth.

1 TO AGREE SOMEONE TO TAKE THE MINUTES.

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

2. NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

It was confirmed that, in accordance with statute, the notice convening the meeting has been duly published on the Parish Council's notice board and on the website.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held using remote access technology on Monday the 5th May 2021 be signed as a correct record.

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

The Chair gave her annual report as follows;

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO BARWICK IN ELMET AND SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL 9th MAY 2022

The year 2021 – 2022 started with the Pandemic still requiring restrictions on face-to-face meetings so the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting were both held via ZOOM. This was the last meeting in this format, and we reverted to face to face meetings for the future.

We started the year with one vacancy which quickly became 3 with the resignations of Howard Bedford and Glyn Davies. Later in the year Phil Maude and Carl Atkinson also resigned and we thank them all for the time, effort, knowledge and experience they have given to the PC.

Regrettably Howard became seriously ill after he had resigned and passed away. His funeral was well attended by family, friends, residents and Councillors. Recently Councillor Walsh unexpectedly lost her husband, and the Parish Council expresses sympathy to both families.

During the year we welcomed 3 new Councillors, Carl Atkinson, David Budd and Kinga Ragg. We thank them for the expertise they bring to the Parish Council. However, we start the new Council Year with two vacancies. We have lived with the development of THE EAST LEEDS ORBITAL ROAD, now thankfully nearly completed and hope to be at the end of road closures, traffic hold-ups and muddy roads.

It has not been an easy year for the Parish Council with a number of internal complaints from various Councillors. These were referred to Leeds City Council without any positive resolution. This has caused significant unease within the Parish Council and put pressure

on our overworked Clerk. It also resulted in the resignation of Phil Maude both as Chair of the PC and as a Councillor.

It is hoped we can all work more harmoniously this year taking into account the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders.

On a more positive note, just completed is the new Multi Use Games Area on the site of the closed Scholes Tennis Club, along with a new tennis court and some fitness equipment, and the refurbishment of the Pavilion so that it is available for hire for small meetings, parties, etc. It is hoped to get the drainage of the former football pitch in Scholes improved during this current year so that it can be used.

Also completed at last is the Japanese Garden at Scholes Lodge Lane, much appreciated by the residents.

We plan to continue developing Scholes Lodge Farm, improve the Verity Strip which provides access to Barwick Cricket Club and the Allotments and there are some embryonic ideas to improve the Heritage England Site of Hall Tower Hill for more activities.

We will continue to support all our Sports Clubs, Community Clubs, and Associations as these are the lifeblood of the Parish.

6 STATEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk of the PC circulated a summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 with a comparison with expenditure and income for the year ended 31 March 2021. This showed an overall income of £93,430.53 and expenditure of £156,159.41. He went through the report and, where there were noticeable differences between the 2021/22 and the 2020/21 figures, explained why. The biggest items of expenditure were the new Japanese Garden at Scholes Lodge Lane (£6,801.98) and the new tennis courts, multi-use games area and outdoor gym equipment in Scholes (£88,967.35). The latter would be paid for by grant funding with £43,450.00 received by 31st March and a further £42,970.77 received since.

7 PRECEPT

The Precept for the year 2021-22 had been set at £39,444. This was a 5.2% increase on the previous year being the consumer price index inflation rate at the time the decision was taken. However, due to an error by Leeds City Council (LCC), fifty-one properties were no longer considered within the Parish boundary and therefore individual householders would see a larger percentage increase on their council tax bills.

8 REPORT on the ANCIENT PARISH OF BARWICK in ELMET TRUST

The Trust was established in 1996, an amalgamation of seven smaller trusts founded in the 16th and 17th centuries. The object of the Trust is to relieve financial hardship, which it does by making grants of money, or by providing or paying for services, items or facilities calculated to relieve the hardship. The area the Trust covers includes not only Barwick and Scholes but also parts of Cross Gates, Swarcliffe and Whinmoor, and parts of Fearnville, Oakwood and Ladywood. This was the Ancient Parish in 1856 and is known as "the area of benefit." The Trustee names can be viewed on the Charity Commission website.

During the year ended 28th February 2022, the Trust made two grants totalling £630, the pandemic lockdowns had possibly affected the level of activity of the Trust.

9 OPEN DISCUSSION of PARISH AFFAIRS

Residents in attendance raised queries about;

- Additional grass cutting on Scholes Lodge field to allow games of croquet to be played as part of the Mad Hatter's tea party planned as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- An update on the concerns raised at the last PC meeting about the PC garage door lock. This had been reported to LCC.
- It was reported that new flexi bus was operating running between the Red Lion public house and the Pendas estate with a hub in Cross Gates. This was on a trial basis until 2024 and there would be no changes before then. It would cost £200,000 to £250,000 to extend it out. Community Infrastructure Levy money could be used to sustain it. The use of a mobile telephone app. was being considered. It was possible to order such a bus from Cross Gates, residents would have to use existing services to get to Cross Gates. From there, they could use the flexi bus to get to The Springs, Saint James's hospital, or Leeds General Infirmary. Passengers could alight anywhere along the route (the nearest pickup point was the old railway bridge near Smeaton Approach) but could only disembark at designated points. The buses ran on electricity.
- There was a query about bicycle racks near the Village Hall. This would be an agenda item at a future PC meeting. Paul Remmer had a contact who could supply these (he wasn't sure how many this contact had). Two bicycle racks had recently been fitted outside Barwick Post Office.
- Ward Councillor Matthew Robinson was congratulated on becoming that father of a boy.
- It was reported that the deadline for the East Leeds Orbital Road had slipped and Festival Republic had been asked to make their plans on the assumption that this road would not be completed. A phased opening was not being considered.

The meeting closed at 8:20pm

Chair May 2023