

BARWICK in ELMET and SCHOLES PARISH

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held in Scholes Sports Pavilion on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Stella Walsh (*Chair*) and eight other electors (including Parish Councillors and the Clerk).

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.

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, on the website and on the Parish Council's Facebook page.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Karen Dales and Kinga Ragg.

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on Monday 15th May 2023 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 13rd MAY 2024

The Chair began by thanking her predecessor Claire Hassell for her considerable contribution over many years and then presented her report as follows;

I was voted in as Chair in 2023 and the reduced number of councillors has made it a problematic year. Cllr Slater resigned at the AGM and later in the year Cllr Cantelo stepped down. New councillors include John Hayton and Debbie Gillmore (both Barwick). Unfortunately, for personal reasons Debbie has recently resigned. The team have worked extremely well together, taking on additional duties where necessary. However, a further review of current subcommittees is necessary. Scholes Pavilion is now managed via the F&GP subcommittee. 3 vacancies remain in Barwick and 2 in Scholes.

The precept for 2024/2025 has been increased for the first time in many years, this has been required as costs of maintaining PC assets continue to rise. The Christmas Lights in both villages are welcomed, but the high cost is a heavy burden. Alternative lighting and sources of energy use are also being considered. Residents continue to provide an interesting and exciting range of additional lights. Scholes Lodge Field and Hall Tower continue to be well maintained. The current owner of Scholes Allotments has offered to sell to the PC and negotiations are ongoing.

During the year the Planning Committee has responded to planning applications, however the decisions are made by Leeds City Council. This is becoming a disappointing task as LCC frequently ignore objections and allow planning proposals to proceed which are not viewed as beneficial for the parish.

The Peace Flame Group have worked with both primary schools and Scholes Scouts to design a Peace Flame Flag to be placed in the Peace Flame Garden. Over 300 designs were submitted from the children, which is part of the ongoing educational project linked with peace. The children's enthusiasm and interest in the project is encouraging.

Our sports organisations have all had good seasons, A new football club is now based at Scholes and a further team are being considered.

Phil Maude continues to lead review of The Neighbourhood Plan, and they are reviewing the policies to decide which to retain or amend and any new policies which may be required.

Litter, dog fouling and speeding in the parish continue to be problematic. Leeds Road has been reduced to a 30mph limit, although there is little evidence that drivers are aware of this. The main roads in the village are 20mph hard to see any improvements in drivers slowing down. Litter is a problem and children need to be encouraged to take drinks bottles home with them. Problems continue with dogs causing damage to cricket pitches and being taken on Jack Heaps field. This is the responsibility of residents to keep the local environment safe and clean for everyone to use.

The police no longer attend PC meetings and a representative attends regular Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings.

Thanks to all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for their time and help and support they have given me throughout the year.

6 STATEMENT OF PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk of the PC circulated a summary of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 with a comparison with expenditure and income for the year ended 31 March 2023. This showed an overall income of £69,704.16 and expenditure of £55,178.27. He went through the report and, where there were noticeable differences between the 2023/24 and the 2022/23 figures, explained why. This showed increased income for allotment rents, bank interest, sports rent and water and Jack Heaps fair and a Community Infrastructure Levy payment but reduced income for grants and VAT reclaim (both due to the 2023 figures including large projects being carried out) and no compensation from the bank (due to no errors to cause such to be paid). There were reduced costs on many items including newsletter printing, key fobs, and maintenance costs for the allotments, Pavilion and Peace Flame. One of the biggest single costs was resurfacing of the Verity Strip which had been offset by a contribution from Barwick Cricket Club. The end of year bank balances totalled £88,231.50.

7 PRECEPT

The Precept for the year 2024-25 had been set at £46,859 compared to £43,388 in 2023-24. This was an 8% increase on the previous year.

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 2023/2024 financial year ended, the Trust made fourteen grants totalling £10,900.

9 OPEN DISCUSSION of PARISH AFFAIRS

Concern was expressed regarding weed growth in the exercise area of the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and people exercising dogs. There was a query about whether the decision to suspend key fob access to the MUGA had caused any issues (some instances of anti-social behaviour over the Easter holidays). Speeding traffic was discussed and the loan of speed indicator devices and Ward Councillor funding for vehicle activated signs (typically costing £4,500). There were reports of deer on the roadside killed by vehicles and drivers needed to drive with due caution. There was a question about progress of the Neighbourhood Plan Review Group noting that they had agreed the boundary of the plan to align more closely with the boundaries of the Parish. It was noted that Clifford had had issues with unlawful encampments on PC land and a comment that they had adopted a policy to deal with this situation.

There were no other questions raised by those in attendance and therefore the meeting closed at 7:28pm following which those who were members of the PC had preliminary discussions about some of the items which were on the agenda for the Annual PC meeting which was due to start at 8pm.

Chair, May 2025