

Minutes of Cononley Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Institute on Tuesday 12th March 2008.

Present: Cllrs L. Brown (Chairman), M. Allum, R. Mansell, A. Wade. Mr D Gulliver: Clerk to the Council. NYCC & CDC Cllr. M. Wheeler. Approximately 12 electors. **Apologies:** CDC Cllr. P. Fairbank.

The Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 13th March 2007 were approved.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr. Lois Brown reported on the work of the Parish Council during the past year. Her predecessor, Denis Coleman, had stepped down as Chairman on leaving Cononley. Denis had contributed a great deal to the community and devoted a lot time and effort to many issues whilst being on the Parish Councillor and was very much missed. Two new Councillors had been welcomed onto the Parish Council: Richard Mansell & Alan Parker. The Chairman thanked all the Councillors and the Clerk for the time and effort they had put in during the year. In November 2007 the Council had noted with sadness the death of Malcolm Wiseman. During more than two decades Malcolm had been Clerk and later both a Member and a Chairman of the Council. The Chairman thanked the members of the Institute and Playing Fields Committees all of whom give up a huge amount of their own free time to hold events and maintain and run the existing facilities. The Chairman recalled that throughout the year many different topics and issues reach the Parish Council ranging from Planning Applications to Trust issues. Following the introduction of a new allotment agreement the council had decided to inspect the allotments – this had been a learning process for the councillors! It was encouraging to note that allotments are still in great demand. A number of administrative issues were ongoing with the Parish Council including the registration of all land belonging to the Council. Traffic calming, parking & road safety had been constantly on the agenda. Even with its imperfections the introduction of traffic calming to the village was seen as a positive step. A positive outcome of further talks with the County Council has been the promise of additional dropped kerbs allowing greater access for those using wheelchairs and pushchairs. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been very active in pursuing and trying to retain as many public transport services as possible for the community. As someone herself who had ended up stranded in Crosshills with her two small children after no realising there were no late afternoon buses back to the village she could relate to some degree the frustrations of those who need to use public transport on a regular basis. Finally, in July 2007, and with regret, the Parish Council had had to withdraw from further negotiations to acquire the Church Centre as the excessive cost and limited duration of a lease made it just not financially viable.

Stuart Anslow, Head teacher at Cononley Primary School, gave a talk on developments at the school and plans for its enlargement. Stuart was accompanied by Anthony Radley, Chairman of the School Governors.

NYCC & CDC Cllr. Mark Wheeler reported on the generally good results of the traffic calming. On the other hand the village had lost the greater part of its bus services. However CDC had granted £60,000 towards community transport improvements. CDC was preparing a housing strategy [SHELAA]

Joan Banks spoke about the year's work of the Village Institute. Prior to leaving the village Denis Colman had been Chairman of the committee for 26 years. Fortunately several new people had come forward to join the committee. The decision on the Church Centre had enabled the committee to refocus on the on-going task of improving the Institute.

Richard Mansell reported on work to support the Playing Field. The 2007 Gala had enjoyed miraculous weather. The meeting was reminded of the regular cost of providing the field which included an annual bill for approx. £1500 for cutting the grass. There was a need to repair or replace the younger children's equipment in 2009. This work highlighted the need for more people to volunteer as committee members and as organisers at the Gala.

David Gulliver introduced a new book of about the **Cononley Manorial Courts** of past centuries. Unlike this meeting or that of the parish council the members of a manorial court could once fine their neighbours for anti-social behaviour or even clamp them in some portable stocks outside their house.

Questions from the body of the meeting addressed the steadily increasing costs of the Council and the rise in allotment rents. The Clerk explained some of the main components of the budget. Other topics brought up included: the profusion of signs including new ones near the river; the possible extension of the Metro fares zone; lack of progress with Skipton Bus station; the escalating costs of the police service; the lack of a climbing wall at Skipton; the introduction of formal public participation in the parish council meetings and its effect on spontaneous public involvement; the future of the Old Pinfold in Piper Lane.

Chairman. Dated:

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