

HAREWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT HAREWOOD VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 15 MAY 2018 AT 7.00PM

COUNCILLOR BEER IN THE CHAIR

The meeting was attended by Harewood Parish Councillors Peter Beer (Chairman), Kate Hill, Doug Masterton, Lisa Maurantonio, Julie Frankland, Ken Mcleod, Roshani De Zoysa and Dan Suckall. Also in attendance were the Clerk, Kevin Sedman, CPSO Susan Broadwell and 28 members of the public.

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed those present to the 2018 Harewood PC Annual Meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Will Jennings and Ward Member Ryan Stephenson.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 10 May 2017

The Minutes of the last AGM were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairperson.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. POLICE REPORT

CPSO Broadwell reported on crimes committed in the period April 2017 to April 2018. A total of 6 burglaries had been recorded over the last twelve months in the Harewood area – a low figure in comparison with the rest of the Outer North East Leeds area. It was noted that the theft of Landrover Defenders was on the increase.

The Chairman thanked CPSO Broadwell for her report.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Council Membership

The Parish comprises two main areas namely Wigton Moor and Harewood and the nearby smaller villages. Analysed by registered voters, Wigton comprises approximately 80% of the population served by the council. The make-up of the parish council reflects these percentages with Harewood and Wigton having 2 and 7 seats respectively. Whilst four of the current members of the council live in Harewood, Councillors Frankland and Suckall represent Wigton.

The Council started the year with two vacancies, I am pleased to report that one of these has been filled and I am delighted to welcome Councillor Roshani De Zoysa to the Parish Council.

The role of Parish Councillor is unpaid yet demands a significant commitment of time so on behalf of the community we serve I would like to offer thanks to all members of the Parish Council for the professional and enthusiastic work they have done on behalf of our community. I would also like to record our thanks to Leeds City Ward Member Ryan Stephenson who is very positively involved in our various projects and makes a significant contribution the progress we achieve.

Cemetery

The Parish Council also acts as the 'Burial Board' and as such is responsible for the day to day running of Harewood cemetery.

Your Parish Council has been working hard on Cemetery matters in order to ensure it can offer its' services to the community in the future; space is the main issue and sadly efforts to secure additional land have failed. During this process survey costs of £3575 were incurred. Advised by our Cemetery Administrator and led by Councillor Julie Frankland, a sub-group has been established to develop a long term plan to improve the Cemetery facilities and services within its current boundary. A budget of £30,000 has been set aside for this work and, subject to planning permissions being achieved the next twelve months should see significant progress. The first step on this plan is to introduce 'part plot' facilities for the interment of cremated remains and to make this service available beyond the Parish boundary, this change being approved at a recent Council meeting.

Maintenance services for the cemetery and Planting Wall Garden continue to be provided by Aireborough Gardening Services, the Parish Council have been pleased with the work done and have renewed the contract for a further year.

At this point I would like to place on record the Parish Council's recognition of the excellent work done by Mr Stephenson our Cemetery Administrator; his experience and professionalism are to be commended.

Planning

Planning applications form a significant workload for the Parish Council. Applications are split into two groups; those that relate to Wigton and those in Harewood and associated villages. Each group is reviewed by the appropriate councillors. The Parish Council considered and commented on 34 applications from Wigton and 9 from Harewood during the last year. Our thanks should go to the councillors involved in this time consuming and important work.

Traffic Management

Concerns over the speed of traffic in the area have existed for a long time; during the last year a number of Councillors have been trained in the use of speed detection equipment and have run surveys centred on Harewood and Wike to record traffic speeds. This work was undertaken in conjunction with the police and Leeds City Council. Councillors Masterton and Frankland are to be thanked for their continuing efforts in this area.

Traffic volumes in Weardley are a growing concern and will no doubt feature in the Parish's work in the new year.

Finances

The first point to report here is the Parish precept. The costs and income of the Parish determine the precept or charge made by the Parish to cover its operation. Over ten years ago the Parish Council was able to significantly reduce the charge due to income from the Cemetery. As suggested last year the 2017/18 precept has had to increase back to approximately the same as the 2005 levels which means a cost of approximately £4.50 p.a. for a Band D property. Despite this increase the Parish precept is still much lower than our neighbouring parishes. The Cemetery income / expenditure analysis below may be useful in understanding why this increase was required:

	Income (£'000)	Costs (£'000)	Notes (£'000)
2010/11	41.6	17.2	
2011/12	54.5	9.6	
2012/13	41.6	16.6	Includes £4.2 on flood works and £1.5 on tree works
2013/14	56.3	18.3	Includes £3.8 on flood works and £5.0 on tree works
2014/15	11.6	5.6	
2015/16	17.3	5.9	
2016/17	10.1	9.7	Includes £3.6 on a land survey

The Parish Council has supported a variety of local groups by approving donations to a number of local projects. The process through which donations are managed has been updated during the last year to improve visibility and operation. During the last year £3425 has been donated to 6 organisations.

The Parish Council works hard to balance the books and is subject to external audit, the accounts are published and available on request. I am pleased to report that the audit confirmed the accounts are in good order and that there is a healthy balance at present. Looking ahead I should advise you that this is expected to reduce during the next year if the cemetery improvements proceed as planned.

Developments in the Parish

Since the last election a new Stakeholder panel has been constituted, with Harewood Parish Council represented by Councillor Kate Hill. The Parish, through Kate has secured major funding for a new project in Harewood which will provide new play, sporting and social facilities for the parish. A local Steering Group chaired by Kate has been established to manage the development under overall control of the Parish Council. Our thanks should go to Kate and those people who have joined the Steering Group for their work on behalf of the whole parish.

Looking Forward

At present three key topics stand out namely traffic in Weardley, Cemetery development and the Harewood play, sports and social facilities. The Parish Council looks forward to securing progress in all these areas and those opportunities yet unknown, in the year ahead.

The Parish council is an active body and its daily operation demanding, as an example an average of approximately 40 emails are received each week which need to be handled. Our Parish Clerk Kevin Sedman is the cornerstone of our operation; before I close I would like to thank him for his hard work, tremendous organisational skills and unstinting support which are essential to our operation.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The following issues were raised:-

- It was noted that, effective from 24 May 2018, a mobile Post Office will be available in the Village Hall.
- The mobile library will now visit Harewood on Saturday mornings.
- Broadband. Many residents experience extremely poor broadband speeds. This is an issue being pursued by Ward Member Matthew Robinson.
- Leisure projects. Councillor Kate Hill provided an update on the proposed leisure facilities on Malt Kiln Lane.
- Car parking continues to cause problems in Harewood Village. The possibility of providing Residents Only parking was suggested.
- Concern was expressed by local residents regarding the possible closure of the Doctors Surgery.

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