

# HAREWOOD PARISH COUNCIL



**Harewood**  
Parish Council

Representing  
Harewood, Wike, Weardley and Wigton Moor

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT MUDDY BOOTS, HAREWOOD VILLAGE HALL  
ON WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2023 AT 7.00PM**

**COUNCILLOR KATE HILL IN THE CHAIR**

The meeting was attended by Harewood Parish Councillors Kate Hill (Chair), Doug Masterton, Howard Foreman and Mike Pawson. Also in attendance were the Clerk, Kevin Sedman and 4 members of the public.

The Chair introduced herself and welcomed those present to the 2023 Harewood Annual Parish Meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WEDNESDAY 12 MAY 2022**

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**

There were no police representatives present.

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

***Introduction***

This year marks the end of the current Council's four year term. All Council seats, two in Harewood Ward and seven in the Wigton Moor Ward were up for election. Councillors Hill and Masterton stood for Harewood Ward and Councillors Pawson and Foreman for Wigton Moor. All four were returned unopposed. Councillor Brian Armstrong served for three years but decided to step down before the election and our longest serving member, Councillor Dan Suckall, has retired from public office. Harewood Parish Council is a team and we work together for the benefit of our Parish residents. As Chair, I offer my sincere thanks to all members and former members of the Council for their sterling efforts and for the personal support they have given me.

The Parish Clerk, Mr Kevin Sedman, has continued to support Harewood Parish Council's operation and management. Councillors greatly appreciate his good advice. He carries out his duties and

responsibilities to the highest standard and his contribution to the work of the Council is invaluable. Our Cemetery Clerk (Phil Stephenson) and our most recent appointment Caroline Dale (Recreation Area Caretaker) also play an important role in supporting the Parish Council.

We currently have five vacant seats on the Parish Council. If you have a genuine interest in serving the community as a councillor for the Wigton Ward, please view our Code of Conduct on the website and get in touch with us by email: [contact@harewoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:contact@harewoodparishcouncil.gov.uk). Councillors joining now would be co-opted members until the next elections, due in May 2027. Anyone interested in co-option should send a brief CV and a statement of their proposed contribution to the work of the council.

## ***Strategic Aims***

At the beginning of my tenure as Chair, I outlined the three strategic aims for Harewood Parish Council.

- 1. To improve communication and outreach**
- 2. To be inclusive and friendly**
- 3. To be proactive and forward-looking**

As the term of the current Council finishes it is a good opportunity to review our progress towards achieving these aims.

## **Communication and outreach**

Over the last four years, Harewood Parish Council has modernised its communication and operating systems. We have increased the use of email communication and online documents to reduce paper waste and postage charges. Although we are legally obliged to hold our Council meetings 'face-to-face' in public, our meetings are not regularly attended by members of the public. In the past we alternated our in-person meetings between Harewood and Wigton but, since the loss of the Michael Kempley Room, we have met in Wigton Moor United Reformed Church on High Ash Drive. Negotiations with the Harewood Village Hall committee will hopefully allow us to resume alternate meetings in Harewood village in Summer 2023.

As part of this aim we introduced our e-newsletter, which is distributed electronically to subscribers to our email list. It has been well received although we still need to grow our subscriber list in the Wigton Ward. We have an archive of published editions of the newsletter on our website, where we also regularly post notices and other information: [www.harewoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.harewoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)

The Harewood Village Facebook group provides a convenient social media platform when appropriate but it mainly reaches Harewood Ward residents. We need to find other community platforms we could access, particularly those that are likely to reach our Wigton residents.

In terms of wider partnerships, our councillors attend the two local Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings that cover our Parish: Alwoodley and Wetherby,. Harewood Parish Council is also part of the Wetherby Local Care Partnership (WLCP), which brings together health and social care and local third sector organisations. The Chair attends regular meetings of the group. The WLCP connection has linked the Parish Council with WiSE (Wetherby in Support of the Elderly <https://w-ise.org.uk/> ) and we look forward to working with them, and Harewood volunteer groups, in the future to bring WiSE events and services to Harewood Ward. Councillor Foreman is a Trustee and Chair of MAECARE (Moor Allerton Elderly Care <https://maecare.org.uk/> ) and is our link to the organisation that provides services and support to older people in the Wigton Ward.

Harewood Parish Council is represented on the Emmerdale Fund Panel and we have contributed to the review and funding of projects in Harewood and neighbouring Wards and parishes. We were pleased to

support the procurement of Bardsey Fields for the community as well as fund improvements to the Wike Scout Camp and other similar projects.

**During the last four years, we have raised the profile of Harewood Parish Council by creating a strong brand and improving outreach and communication. We acknowledge that our network in the Wigton Ward, which makes up 80% of our civil parish community, still needs to grow.**

## **Inclusivity**

Throughout its term, Harewood Parish Council has aimed to be friendly and approachable and to develop a fair, open and transparent operational model. We would welcome more diversity on the Council in terms of age, gender, ethnicity and faith. Parish Councils are an important democratic link to the larger city councils yet many remain under-subscribed following the latest round of elections. If membership falls further, some will no longer be viable, and a valuable tier in local government will be lost.

**We have achieved our aim of creating a collaborative and committed Parish Council but we still need to strengthen and diversify our membership profile.**

## **Activity**

We have undertaken a number of projects during our four year term. Some we have funded directly and some we have campaigned for relevant authorities to provide.

### **Key achievements**

- a. Our flagship project, the creation of the Harewood Recreation area
- b. Installation of Christmas lights on the Harrogate Road and The Avenue, Harewood and High Ash Drive and Slaid Hill in Wigton
- c. Installation of real time bus displays in Harewood and Wigton Moor
- d. Installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) in two locations in Harewood and Wike.
- e. Installation of new Parish Council noticeboards in Harewood and Wigton Moor.
- f. Re-surfacing the paths and entry driveway at the cemetery

We have also supported local groups with our small grants; just a few examples are the Little Library on Wike Ridge Avenue; the floral displays in Slaid Hill and community events like the Platinum Jubilee celebrations for the late Queen Elizabeth II and, more recently, Coronation events for King Charles III.

### **Forward Look**

Our future plans include development of the outbuilding in the cemetery to create a shelter and a new Garden of Remembrance.

We have increased the precept by 4.99% for 2023-2024, to cover a rising costs for maintenance. A larger increase would have been necessary but we were fortunate to secure a grant from the Emmerdale Fund to offset the costs of maintaining the recreation area. We will be seeking further grants and funding from a variety of sources to support future projects like our proposed improvements to the cemetery.

### **Parking and Traffic**

Harewood Parish Council has been closely monitoring the data downloaded from our Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Recorded traffic volume and speeds in Wike have been alarming and we have raised this matter with Ward Councillors and local Police partners in the PACT meetings, and brought it to the attention of the Mayor for West Yorkshire. We are working with LCC Ward Councillors and Highways to implement measures to calm traffic in the hamlet of Wike.

## ***Summary***

Harewood Parish Council will continue to strive to achieve best value on behalf of the residents of Harewood and Wigton but we need your help to identify local needs and priorities, including key projects and initiatives that you would like to take forward. We will then develop a new strategic action plan, in collaboration with local partners, to take us forward into our next four year term.

Finally, it has been my privilege to serve as Chair of Harewood Parish Council for the last five years and, if I am elected as Chair for a further term, I will continue to forward Harewood Parish Council's mission to have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of our community.

## **6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

The following items were raised:-

Thanks were given by the Harewood Village Hall Chair for the donation of £500 approved by the Parish Council towards the cost of a Coronation Event at the Village Hall.

Thanks were also given to the Chair for her continued efforts during the year in delivering the strategic aims highlighted above.

There ensued a discussion regarding the lack of councillor representation in Wigton.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.10 pm

**CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL     K Sedman**

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