

GIGGLESWICK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 13TH April 2021 by zoom

The Chairman paid tribute to the sad passing of HRH The Prince Philip and **recorded** the Council's appreciation of his many years of loyal service and commitment to the Nation. The Council extend heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty The Queen and members of the Royal Family and a minute silence was observed.

21.1 Present: Parish Councillors Perrings (Chairman), Airey, Bradley, Coleman, Davidson, Ewin-Newhouse, Greenhalgh, Jones, Williamson, Parish Clerk Marijke Hill and four members of the public.

Apologies: District Councillor Staveley

21.2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2019.

The Council **noted** that the 2020 Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled and it **confirmed** the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 9th April 2019, having been circulated in advance, as a correct record and **signed** by the Chairman.

21.3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Cllr Isobel Perrings, presented her report for the Year 2020 – 2021. The Chairman started her report by reflecting upon the unprecedented past 12 months. Nobody at this time last year, could have predicted a series of lockdowns and stay at home advice, closures of shops and businesses, furlough schemes and reduced incomes, underpinned by constant uncertainty about what to do for the best. As far as the Council was concerned, it initially felt appropriate to pause and take a breath and in doing so, the Council approved to delegate powers to the Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer with business conducted in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman. Council business was very much as usual with the usual maintenance, repairs and grass cutting continuing; planning applications were circulated to all Councillors for their consideration and the Council continued to address parishioners' concerns and queries. In July, it felt appropriate to trial virtual meetings and these have been successfully held since August last year. Virtual meetings are due to cease in May and the Council is tasked by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to hold meetings for local authority members, in person from May 7th. This will present a challenge for the Council in terms of an accessible meeting room with adequate social distancing; however, the Council aims to provide face-to-face meetings from June onwards.

Regarding the Harrison Playing Fields Councillor Bradley proposed detailed plans for the Pathways Improvement Project in July of last year. Once the contractor's quotation was approved, Cllr Bradley project-managed on a daily basis. The pathway was completed in January this year and has been enormously well received by parishioners and visitors alike. The Chairman sincerely thanked Cllr Bradley for all his hard work and dedication towards this project.

A Working Group has been set up to regularly monitor the Harrison Playing Fields and members hope to meet soon to suggest further improvement and maintenance works, including replacement and new, additional play equipment in the play area, fitness equipment and additional seating and benches around the whole area.

Some items, unfortunately, have moved at a rather slower pace due to the pandemic. The Council still has concerns about the speed of traffic around the village and was disappointed last year that the County Council was unwilling to reduce the speed limit along the B6480. Other traffic calming measures are being looked into and Cllr Williamson has recently met with a County Council Officer as part of a working group with Long Preston, Langcliffe and Ribblesdale Parish Councils to investigate the use of removable Vehicle Activated Signs. Many parts of the parish fell victim to the frost earlier in the year, with many road users struggling to move around safely during snowy and icy conditions; the Council has again lobbied North Yorkshire County Council to move the priority of our roads in order for them to be gritted but again have been notified that no changes will be made to their existing routes.

Six District and Borough Councils have joined together to propose an East / West model of local government. Craven, Harrogate, Richmondshire and Hambleton would join together to form a unitary council in the West, with Selby, City of York, Ryedale and Scarborough would form a unitary council in the East. North Yorkshire County Council's proposal is to form one council across the whole of North Yorkshire, leaving York as a separate, small unitary authority; people have until 19th April 2021 to have their say as part of the Government's consultation. The Council is concerned about how local decisions are agreed and how local issues will be addressed in the future after the reorganisation.

Moving onto financial matters and the summary of receipts and payment for 2020-2021, the Chairman reported that the Council's receipts totalled £29,277.75 of which £26,500 comprised of the precept. The payments for this period totalled £47,062.29 and, therefore, show a deficit of £17,784.54. The extensive pathway project totalled £26,748, inclusive of reclaimable VAT, of which almost £14,000 was for materials. The Council's revenue and capital funds currently total £21,433.

To conclude, the Chairman firstly gave personal thanks to the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Jones and fellow Councillors who give invaluable support and time to this parish. Cllr Perrings greatly appreciated all efforts and commitment as a great team and hard work over this past year. Secondly, the Chairman thanked Marijke Hill. As Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Marijke is extremely professional and dedicated. She has certainly risen to the challenges this year has presented in a very professional manner and through her extensive knowledge continues to ensure that the Council's work and decisions are compliant.

21.4 Reports from County and District Councillors, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Police

21.4a North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Report

The NYCC written Report from County Councillor David Ireton was read out.

The County Council should be both pleased and proud of the way our staff have stepped up to the challenge of trying to deliver services in unprecedented conditions. Not one has refused to adopt new ways of working. Over 3,000 now work from home, this was a huge effort from our IT people to facilitate this. The County Council has worked well with a range of partners, other local government, people from parishes, districts, national parks, blue light services, NHS, the Army, businesses and especially our great volunteers. We have organised 25 formal Community Support Organisations, and helped hundreds of smaller more informal groups. All with the same aim of helping those who need it. Public Health teams have been very busy

managing outbreaks wherever they occur, and leading on helping set up test and trace activity. Social services teams went to a temporary 7/7 working model, which we are now consulting staff on continuing with as good practice. The County Council has supported the 235 care settings in the county by being in daily contact with them, and has set up Infection Prevention and Control teams. We continue to implement our flagship Extra Care Housing - two schemes opened this year in great Ayrton and Scarborough, with three on course for next year: Skipton, Bentham, and Filey. Unfortunately, at the moment it is questionable if the Ingleton site, which has been earmarked for extra care since the closure of the middle school, will take place. Our children's services have been rated as Outstanding by Ofsted. The first in the country to get this rating. We are transforming our Healthy Child programme to make it work even better, working very closely with Public Health. The County Council has supported all schools throughout the difficult and challenging times of Covid. We have managed record investment into road repairs this year – sadly there will always be more to do as we manage the largest road network in England. As part of the devolution process government have invited proposals to reorganise local government structures in North Yorkshire. County and District Councils have submitted a proposal to Government. The County proposal is based on the existing county boundaries and the District proposal is based on an east west split. We now await the minister's decision on which proposal, if any, we face.

21.4b Craven District Council (CDC) Report

The CDC Report was presented by Cllr David Staveley at the Parish Council meeting:

Essential services continued running throughout numerous lockdowns and the waste collection teams continued to collect around 1.4 million bins a year.

The Revenues and Benefits team distributed grants of over £40 million to over 2,500 local businesses.

Bereavement Services worked incredibly hard to keep funeral services running for families. Environmental Health officers became Covid-19 experts, advising businesses on how to be Covid-secure. Staff from Customer Services, Communications and Partnerships as well as staff from Skipton Information & Visitor Centre made thousands of calls to help shielding residents. Customer Services took over 48,000 calls.

Skipton Town Hall launched 'Culture At Home' providing a range of activities for residents during lockdown.

The District Council planted over 9,000 trees on its own land.

Electric vehicle charging points were installed in the Skipton Town Hall car park.

Sir Captain Tom Moore visited Craven.

Plans were approved to transform Langcliffe Quarry into a purpose-built rural enterprise centre. The new development will create over 26,000 square feet of new business space, combining the refurbishment of the old traditional stone buildings together with new buildings to provide modern light industrial and office space.

The Government announced local government reorganisation would take place in North Yorkshire - Craven joined five other district and borough councils to put forward the East & West model.

The planning team dealt with over a thousand planning applications.

A full and balanced budget was approved for 2021/22 and over 35,000 council tax bills were sent out.

CDC took action against a small number of hospitality businesses for Covid breaches.

The District Council agreed £150,000 funding for Settle Area Swimming Pool and will also underwrite up to £135,000 by way of a loan for the pool. CDC also successfully secured £31,542 for the pool, from Sport England's National Leisure Recovery Fund. CDC was successful in securing match funding towards a £1.2 million project to decarbonise Skipton. Solar panels will be installed on a number of Council buildings including Skipton Town Hall and Craven Leisure, with work due to start this spring. The project includes over 1,800m² solar panels, large ground source heat pumps, heat recovery, online energy monitoring, insulation, and public displays of carbon emissions in Council buildings.

There were no reports from the YDNPA and NYP.

21.5 To receive reports from local community organisations.

a. Freda's Community Playgroup and Pre-School

The Treasurer, Ellen Mercer, reported that the current site of Freda's Playgroup will be decommissioned in 2022. Freda's Community Playgroup has obtained planning consent to take down the former caretaker's bungalow and replace this with a completely new building, which will not only facilitate the playgroup and pre-school, but will also be open to local communities for meetings. The new premises will come with a 50-year lease from North Yorkshire County Council but fundraising is proving difficult. A lot of grant applications have been rejected this year and a 'just giving' page has been opened.

The Chairman, Cllr Perrings, replied that the Parish Council is supportive of this project and hopes to be kept updated.

b. The Women's Institute

The President, Carolyn Duff reported that the Giggleswick WI is hopeful to use the room for meetings at Freda's Community Playgroup, once completed. The WI had its meetings in person until March 2020, after which they continued virtually with those members that were confident. Some summer gatherings were organised in the summer at the Victoria Hall. It is hoped that by autumn the WI can return to face-to-face meetings and that people will return to renewing their membership.

c. The Giggleswick Garden Group Litter Picking Group

The GGG Litter Picking Group has been operating throughout all the lockdowns since March 2020. Twelve or more people have regularly patrolled the set routes in family couples, including one Parish Councillor, in various parts of the parish and collected, on average, at least one black sack per person each month. Black sacks have been delivered to members on request or the sacks have been collected on the first Monday of each month – social distancing being observed at all times. Each couple has been given their own equipment and set routes for the year. The difference being now that couples go out, usually during the first week of the month, or more often, and report back any items of importance that need reporting. For example, three broken finger-posts pointing to Public Footpaths were reported to NYCC and are awaiting repair. Each month an email newsletter is sent to the team reporting the feedback from members regarding their exploits with their litter-pickers and sacks. This is done to keep the team in touch with each other. Many comments are made by members of the public who appreciate the work the Group does. Our motto is *Pride in our Parish*.

d. Settle Area Swimming Pool

The Chairman of Settle Area Swimming Pool, Pat Taylor, reported that the Trustees are now in a position to undertake the project to refurbish the changing rooms and create a large dry side space in the near future as major funding by Craven District Council has been secured. The Friends of Settle Swimming Pool will wind up the charity and transfer all its capital to the Trustees of the Pool. The project will go to tender soon and a model of the project can be seen in the pool entrance for the time being. The Pool has had to comply with all covid restrictions, meaning that only ten swimmers can attend for 30 minutes only before the pool is cleaned again. The pool has a strong group of regular swimmers and families and sessions are completely full. The Charity shop has continued selling on line and the Chairman thanked all people for their gifts and donations. The waste paper and cardboard collection was discontinued, as the price for paper became negative and volunteers were vulnerable. However, recently the price of paper has increased and the Trustees are considering starting collecting again in April of this year.

21.6 To receive parishioners' concerns and comments

a. The Parish Council had received a representation about the road junction at Beggar's Wife Bridge, where cars are parked on the small verge, impeding visibility.

b. Cllr Airey raised concerns regarding the erection of a large boundary fence at Otter Rise on Bankwell Road.

The Parish Council will address both issues at an ordinary Parish Council meeting as soon as possible.

The Chairman thanked everybody for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.14 pm.