

Holmesfield Parish

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
8 May 2019 at 6.45pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mr J B Wheat (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mr M Banks, Mr M Blagden, Mr B Hoare, Mrs C Huckerby, Cllr P Reaney and Mrs S Reaney,
3 Members of the public and Mrs E Boswell – Clerk

1 Apologies

Mrs G Hoare, Mr N Wheat and Mrs V Wheat

2 Minutes of the meeting 9 May 2018

The Minutes of the last meeting were received.

3 Chairman's Report

Introduction

I would like to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting and take the opportunity to thank the 9 Parish Councillors for their work and support over the past year. Following the election we are now seeking to co-opt two members. I would also like to thank our Clerk Liz Boswell, she is appreciated for her excellent service and guidance throughout the year. This is my 39th report on the Council's activities during the year and am delighted to see the members of the public in attendance, parishioners are reminded that Council meetings take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month and time is allocated at the start of each meeting for members of the public to raise any issues within the Parish.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

Sue Grocutt is retiring from the Council after 16 years, we thank her for her service and send her best wishes for the future. In her role as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and we continue to have a close association with the Police, though the receipt of crime figures is not always timely. Our main crimes continue to be thefts from houses, vehicles and out buildings and the occasional domestic disturbance. All crimes are reported in the Parish Magazine to assist in crime prevention. Our own speed gun is used to monitor the speed of vehicles travelling through the Parish in association with the Police and the Community Speed Watch team.

Village Society

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Village Society Mr Nick Wheat for his and the committees hard work in arranging the various events over the past year; including the Children's Well Dressing, the erecting of the Christmas tree and the Carol Singing Event. We take this opportunity to thank all that are involved in the Christmas events including The Rutland Arms for the provision of the tree, the erection of the tree, the provision of refreshments and for the kind donation of the electricity for the lights. The telephone box at Millthorpe is being well used as a book swap and we thank the volunteer that administers this. The defibrillator outside the Village Hall is up and running, the access code is on the front of the storage box, the ambulance service have been made aware of all the details and there are pictorial instructions for use, we thank Dr Mark Blagden and Dr Ian Shaw for the training sessions. The Playground and Millennium Garden continue to be well used and

maintained and the important annual litter pick that helps to keep the village a pleasant place to live.

Road Safety

We continue to report lorries ignoring the 7½ ton weight restriction through the village and find it frustrating that very little action seems to happen when reports are made. We thank Councillor Phil Reaney for his prompt work in reporting pot holes and other matters of concern to the highways authority.

Footpaths and Bridleways

Footpaths and Bridleways are maintained by Derbyshire County Council, but the Holmesfield Footpaths and Bridleways Society continues to play an important role in reporting matters of concern, undertaking minor maintenance work and ensuring that the rights of way in the Parish are fit for purpose, and we thank Phil Reaney for his liaison between the organisations.

Newsletter and Website

We have achieved good support of our advertisers old and new. The coloured covers and historical notes continue to be well received and seem to have raised the profile of the newsletter. Nick Wheat continues as editor, and Whittington Moor Printing Services Ltd have been appointed, we are producing a quality product for the Parish. Our thanks go to Ken and Sandra Hunt and all the many helpers who continue to distribute the Magazine each month.

Planning

We continue to monitor all applications received from North East Derbyshire District Council and the Peak District National Park. Most applications relate to domestic extensions and the stabling of horses which have been generally non-contentious. The Planning Department are understaffed and this has seemingly resulted in a lack of consistency with large developments passed and smaller refused. The development of the Horns Inn site is now complete and the development looks well on the site. The George and Dragon site received consent for a dwelling, but we are pleased to report that it is currently being run as a Public House. The building of three bungalows was objected to and refused by North East Derbyshire District Council but was passed on appeal. An application for the conversion of a barn to a dwelling at Stable Mallet, Main Road has been again refused on appeal. We are currently awaiting the outcome of the application for a Scout Hut in the village.

Village Hall

Our Caretaker and Letting Officer Lucy Perry who is performing both roles with enthusiasm and efficiency; and with Kendra Clarke as Deputy Caretaker. The Village Hall continues to be well used and maintained.

Open Spaces

The Council owns the Millennium Garden, the Playground, Football Field and the Memorial Garden at Millthorpe; and wish to thank all the people who give up their time in various capacities to maintain these areas. Amy Shaw has been appointed as Playground Inspector. Financial support towards the maintenance of the church yard at St Swithin's continues.

Transport

Under the direction of Councillor Mark Blagden, we continue to provide the timetables in the newsletter.

Peak Park

Councillor Shirley Reaney continues to monitor and report on the activities of the Peak District National Park Authority.

4 Parish Council Accounts 2018/2019

The Clerk has prepared for audit the annual statements of account for 2018/2019. The accounts for 2017/2018 were passed by external auditors. The income and expenditure is very much in line with our estimates and we are satisfied that our financial position remains sound. My thanks again go to the Clerk for her hard work.

5 District and County Councillors

Congratulations are given to District Councillor Carol Huckerby on her re-election last week and for her continued support at North East Derbyshire District Council. Councillor Angelique Foster continues as County Councillor for Dronfield and West.

6 Charities

There are Charities whose function is to benefit the residents of Holmesfield in different ways. These are The Holmesfield Amenity Trust, The Penny Acres Charity, the Relief in Need Charity and the Holmesfield Educational Foundation. The Council also has representation of the trusteeship of the Dronfield Relief in Need Charity.

Councillor Huckerby reported on the Penny Acres Charity which was created in the 18th century with a donation of land on Cowley Lane, which land is still owned by the Charity Commission on behalf of the Trust. It is let to a local farmer and the rent payable is divided equally between the Relief in Need Charity and The Holmesfield Educational Foundation.

Councillor Huckerby reported on the Relief in Need Charity. This was created in the early 19th Century. It receives income from the Penny Acres Charity, and from two other charities administered by the Charity Commission. Its objects are to relieve hardship, need or distress suffered by residents of the parish. Such needs are these days intended to be covered by the Welfare State, which did not exist in any recognisable form when the charity was founded. Last year The Trustees very rarely receive an application, but would like to receive further applications. The availability of funds is advertised monthly in the Parish Newsletter.

Councillor Huckerby reported on the Holmesfield Educational Foundation. Originally created in its present form in 1820 when land (now the site of Penny Acres School) was enclosed from the Common by the Enclosure Acts and awarded to the School Board. It is let to the Derbyshire County Council. The Charity's funds derive from other investments held by the Charity Commission. The income is to be used for assisting pupils resident in Holmesfield to further their education. For many years grants were made to assist in the purchase of textbooks but now applications are usually received for computers or related items. There have been a number of applications during the last year.

Councillor Shirley Reaney reported on that the Dronfield Relief in Need Charity have met twice this year, flowers have been distributed to the elderly via Rev Bold's Committee, funds donated to the Welcome Club, Unstone School. The Government's introduction of Universal Credit has led to urgent requests for cash, rather than goods, whilst claims are being processed.

Councillor Wheat reported that the Holmesfield Amenity Trust was created in 1980 by Geoff Willan. Its objects are to promote the preservation of land and buildings of beauty or historic interest or ecological or other scientific importance in the parish. The Trustees meet every three months. There is a small self-administered capital fund. No grants have been made during the year. The income during the year has amounted to £4.77 interest and this has been added to the capital fund.

7 Any Other Business

It was raised that it is the onus of the trustees to ensure that the objectives of each of the charities are being met, whether the charities should be advertised in different ways to attract more applications and whether projects could be sought for the Amenity Trust.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for all their hard work in the past year; he thanked the members of the public for their interest and attendance at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm.

Chairman.....12 June 2019