

Holmesfield Parish

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 12 May 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mr J B Wheat (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mr M Banks, Dr M Blagden, Mr B Hoare, Mr P Reaney, Mrs S Reaney, Mr Wynford Rosser, Dr D Ward
Mrs E Boswell – Clerk

1 Apologies

Councillor Mrs C Huckerby

2 Minutes of the meeting 8 July 2020

The Minutes of the last meeting were received.

3 Chairman's Report

Introduction

I would like to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting; it is nice to be able to meet face to face again. I take this opportunity to thank the 9 Parish Councillors for their work and support over the past year. 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 41st report on the Council's activities during the year. This has been a most difficult year for all in the community. We held in person meetings in July, August, September and October and held Zoom Meetings in February, March and April. Due to legislation we are again holding meetings in person and from this evening onwards we hope that Council meetings will now resume on a monthly basis on the second Wednesday of the month. All meetings take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and parishioners are reminded that time is allocated at the start of each meeting for members of the public to raise any issues within the Parish.

I think we would all like to thank the Holmesfield Support Group started by Aoife Kenny and all the volunteers who have undertaken work and help throughout the village during the last year and I hope this community spirit will continue in the future via the Village Society and other groups in the village.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

Following the retirement of Alison Smith, we are again in the position of seeking a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. During the last year the liaison with the Police has been much improved and we thank PCSO Jonathan Flowers for his more active role in providing support and monthly reports. 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 again being used to monitor the speed of vehicles travelling through the Parish in association with the Police and the Community Speed Watch team and we thank all those involved in this project.

Village Society

I would like to thank the Chairman of the Village Society Mr Nick Wheat for his and the committees hard work. During the pandemic the Children's Well Dressing, the erecting of the Christmas tree took place, but all other events were postponed. We take this opportunity to thank all that are involved in the events.

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 has been made aware of all the details and there are pictorial instructions for use. The Playground and Millennium Garden continue to be well used and maintained. The annual litter pick has not happened this year, and the re-instatement is to be encouraged.

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 highway 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. There is an increasing issue with cyclists speeding down Footpaths and they seem unaware of the legislation prohibiting wheeled vehicles on a Footpath.

Newsletter and Website

Pleased to report that we have managed to continue with the publication and distribution of the newsletter throughout the lockdown. Despite the difficult times we have received tremendous support from 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 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. We are currently awaiting the outcome of two appeals, one being the development and new houses at Cartledge Hall Farm and the other being the proposed scout hut.

Village Hall

Councillor Ward has been appointed the Councillor responsible for the Village Hall. Our Caretaker and Letting Officer Lucy Perry who is performing both roles with enthusiasm and efficiency; and with Andrea Kilner as Deputy Caretaker. The Village Hall has re-opened and we look forward to accommodating hirers old and new. We are also exploring alternative heating methods.

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. Mr Steve Hewins currently holds the contract to maintain these spaces. Amy Shaw continues as the Playground Inspector, submitting a weekly report and 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, and we are still pushing for the investigation into the caravans at Owler Bar.

4 Parish Council Accounts 2020/2021

The Clerk has prepared for audit the annual statements of account for 2020/2021. The accounts for 2019/2020 were passed by external auditors. The income and expenditure are very much in line with our estimates and we are satisfied that our financial position remains sound. My thanks again go the Clerk for her hard work.

5 District and County Councillors

County Councillor Angelique Foster is unable to be here this evening, but has forwarded the following report.

- I have been re-elected as the County Cllr for the area last week, and I am honoured, please do not hesitate to contact me via email with any issues you might need help with
- Confirmation of the extra £120million planned spend on roads now that conservatives have been elected again
- The Highways Department has now nearly caught up with the pot hole repair backlog after the winter months but residents are encouraged to continue reporting
- The whole Highways Department is due to be re-organised to bring in efficiencies and increase performance and a new Cabinet Member has been appointed Cllr Kewal Atwall
- Plans to plant 1 million trees by DCC will now be implemented and all Parishes will be encouraged to participate

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 is currently on Leave of Absence. The accounts for the charities have been forwarded to the Clerk.

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.

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. During 2020 £130.00 grant was made.

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 pupil's 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. During 2020 grants totalled £1907.00

Councillor Philip Reaney reported on that the Dronfield Relief in Need Charity have received lots of requests for help. The aims of the charity are to help people who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress in the ancient Parish of Dronfield – the geographic area covers includes Dronfield, Holmesfield, Unstone, Barlow, Eckington and Totley. The income and spending for the year ending December 2020 was in the region of 4,500.

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 self-administered capital fund of £531.00. No grants have been made during the year. The income during the year has amounted to £4.78 interest and this has been added to the capital fund.

7 Any Other Business

None.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for all their hard work in the past year.

The meeting closed at 7.29pm.

Chairman.....