

HESLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, HESLINGTON ON TUESDAY 16 MAY 2017 AT 7.00 P.M.

Present:

5 members of the public - Parish Councillors Mrs P Clements, Mrs P Bramley, Mr R Bramley, Mr P Hall, and Mrs Z Richards

In attendance:

Fiona Hill - Parish Clerk

APM2016/1 Apologies
Parish Cllrs Mr D Blacketer and Lady D Lawton

APM2016/2 Confirmation of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2016
These were approved and signed by Parish Councillor Mrs Bramley, who was Chairperson for this meeting

APM2016/3 To receive the Annual Report of Heslington Parish Council
See Attachment One

APM2016/4 Representations/Reports by:

Meeting Room	–	No report received
Sportsfield	–	See Attachment Two
Village Trust	–	See Attachment Three
North Yorkshire Police	–	No report received
Heslington Church	–	No report received

APM2016/5 Parishioners question and answer session:
None.

Chairman's Signature

Date

Attachment One

A warm welcome to everyone. We always appreciate it when residents come to the Parish Council meetings.

The current financial climate has meant that we have to be extremely careful over the management of our affairs. We continuously monitor our expenditure, and examine very closely how and where we spend the money - your money, and mine. Every project has to be considered and evaluated in terms of cost- effectiveness, and benefit to the community at large.

We give financial support to organizations in the village.

A budget has been agreed for the forthcoming financial year.

During the year, we successfully received Ward grant money for various village applications.

The renovation of the four village benches is complete and we are very pleased to have received favorable comments from residents.

The Village signs are now finished and ready for placement. Our grateful thanks to the six University students who have made them.

Dandelions, maintenance of the grass and tree management are under a review programme which we hope will improve the appearance of Main Street.

The Meeting Room continues to be refurbished under the supervision of an excellent Committee.

We will continue to make improvements and welcome ideas of further projects.

Sadly, the village has suffered greatly this academic year with many nightly reports of noise and anti social behavior from students.

We have worked closely with the University and I am pleased to say there has, at last, been a great improvement.

We hope that the University will continue with the actions it has put in place and there will be no further disturbances to residents.

The Community Governance Review has approved to *deward* Heslington, to re-unite North and South Heslington back into one Parish.

A consultation on the newly updated draft Local Plan is expected in late summer. Heslington Parish may well be affected but do not know the extent. We will be very pleased to hear resident's views before making our submission.

Consultation is the opportunity for residents to express their views, in writing, to City Of York Council within the 8 week consultation period and the Parish Council urge you, as individuals, to do so.

The development of the Neighborhood Plan is progressing. We thank the small dedicated team that is working hard to take it forward.

It is vitally important that in a diverse community such as Heslington, a Neighborhood Plan is well thought through, not rushed and results in a policy document that will be an asset to the community for the longer term.

Anyone who wishes to actively join the Working group will be made most welcome. Dates, times and agendas of meetings are publicized on the notice board and website.

It was pleasing that many residents responded to the questionnaires. The responses from these and the student and the business questionnaires, due to go out this month, will form an important part of the Plan.

We expect that a public meeting will follow and hope many residents will attend.

Within the last month we have welcomed a new PCSO and a Sergeant to the Parish and we look forward to them attending a PC meeting. We thank Tony Barge for his help and wish him all the best in his new placement.

Cllr Bill McClean recently resigned from the Parish Council. We thank him for his contribution and hard work for the many years he served as a Councillor. I know he will remain a very active member of our community.

In January, we welcomed Cllr Jeffrey Stern.

We still have one vacancy, so if you are interested in becoming a Councillor, please contact the Clerk.

Please do contact either myself, the Clerk or any Councillor if there is anything the Parish Council can help with.

We post information on our notice board and/ or website.

Hill, PCSO 3611 Ward and one other once trained, the Sergeant will be 1379 Daniel Leach.

As always our thanks go to

- The Meeting Room committee, for their voluntary work in its upkeep.
- Dave, our lengthsman, for his work in keeping the village tidy and keeping an eye on the village and residents.
- Cllr Clemments for keeping our website up to date and Matthew Clements for his help with the website.
- Cllr Keith Aspden for his help and support.
- Fiona, our Parish Clerk, for her wise council.
- Thank you to residents for their encouragement, support and help in keeping the village tidy. .

And I thank my fellow Councillors, for their support, their hard work and commitment.

Pauline Bramley - Chairman

Attachment Two

As only four nominations were received for the five places on the Management Committee, the applicants were elected. For the next year, as well as these four members, it is anticipated that the Committee will have five Representatives of Nominated Organisations and one co-opted, giving a total of ten Trustees on the Management Committee.

It has been a year of consolidation for the Sportsfield. The repair or replacement of the play equipment begun last year has now been completed and some new equipment installed. The old and new play equipment is popular and fits well on the Sportsfield. The Zipwire has been particularly successful. The play equipment project, led by Parish Council Representative Bill McClean, was made possible by grants or pledges from a number of organisations and individuals. Without their generous contributions to the Playground appeal, the replacement, repair and expansion of the play equipment would not have been possible and the Committee is very grateful indeed for their invaluable support. Bill's initiative and energy were also absolutely vital in bringing the project to fruition.

The completion of the Playground project was marked on 3rd of July by a Grand Opening and Family Barbeque, with the added attraction of the judging the Potato in a Bucket and the Tallest Sunflower Competition. Opened by our Cllr Keith Aspden, this event was another great success, also very much due to the organisation of Bill, who has played such a vital part in upgrading and extending playground equipment.

Another welcome addition to the Sportsfield and to the Village, is the defibrillator now installed on the Pavilion wall. The Sports clubs and the HSMC contributed to the purchase of the equipment and its installation, aided by a very generous donation from Betty's of York.

The longstanding problem of the dog and litter bins has been resolved thanks to the prompt and effective intervention of Keith Aspden and the Heslington Parish Council. New more hygienic metal containers have replaced the former old and completely inadequate bins. Keith's help is much appreciated, as is his advice concerning Discretionary Rate Relief and his assistance in ending the stream of emails from an organisation offering entirely irrelevant administrative services.

Excessive parking and congestion in the Outgang has been much less frequent. This is largely due to an arrangement with Halifax College for the sports clubs to use a car park adjacent to the Sportsfield during most

week-ends. The Committee is very grateful to Head of Halifax College for his generous offer. However, many other users of the Outgang continue to park by the Sportsfield, making occasional congestion there difficult to eliminate.

The high level of use of the Pavilion and Sportsfield means maintenance is constantly needed. Moles have become a serious nuisance and more effective ways of dealing them are being considered by the Committee. The sports clubs are required to clean up their litter and to leave the grounds in a proper state. However, from time to time, usually over holidays, litter is left on or even scattered over the field. This is dealt with as soon as possible but it is difficult to eliminate entirely.

The old ash tree in the hedge opposite the Pavilion had begun showing signs of die-back. But felling was avoided as Halifax Estates considered lopping and trimming sufficed to deal with the problem. This has meant that there is not a large unsightly gap in the hedge line and much of the local landmark remains.

After some discussion last year, the Committee decided to set up a Sportsfield website for a year's trial period. The intention is to link Sportsfield website to the Sportsfield webpage on the Heslington Village website. The text, images and layout of the Sportsfield website need further attention but links with sports clubs have been established and it is hoped that the site will go live soon and link up with the Village website. We are grateful to Bill's initiative and for the time and effort he and others put in this project.

The Sportsfield remains popular, particularly with families and children. It is used regularly by three sports clubs. In the winter season, it is used by the Heslington Football club, which runs two teams, and the Fulford Football club junior teams, from under 6's to under 13's. This large and active club includes children from Heslington - over a weekend up to 50 children use the Sportsfield - and as a part of its comprehensive programme, also provides coaching. During the summer season the Heslington Cricket club, formerly the Civil Service Association CC, use the Sportsfield. They have 3 senior teams and a thriving Junior Section with 3 teams. Practice sessions are held weekly and the club participates in a nation-wide programme designed to encourage young players. The focus on children's sport is something Management Committee is very pleased to support. The Sportsfield is also used from time to time for organised fun runs and children's play activities.

Keeping the pitches in good condition with a high level of use requires constant maintenance. The Committee is aware that this has financial implications. Despite significant outlays for equipment, repair and maintenance, we have remained within budget. The outlook remains very uncertain and the finances will need continued careful monitoring. The charity has received a number of donations and pledges over the last year, including one from Archbishop Holgate's school, and grants from the Fulford-Heslington Ward committee for signage and for setting up the Sportsfield website. We are very grateful indeed to all our helpers and donors and to the sustained efforts of the Trustees in securing them.

The Committee continues to function well, thanks to the commitment, responsibility and cooperation of the Trustees. The Sports clubs have shown commendable flexibility over fixtures and seasonal changeovers. The former Parish Council representative was co-opted on to the Committee but is an elected member for next year. We all appreciate the huge contribution he has made in the past and look forward to continuing to benefit from his enthusiasm and experience in the coming year. Above all the Committee is very grateful to the hard work and dedication of the Secretary and Treasurer. After serving seven years, they are standing down from the Committee and I am grateful to them for their vital contribution to the successful running of the charity over this period. They will be missed. However, replacements on the Committee have been elected and we look forward to working with them. After a couple of stints over the last 15 years, I am giving up being Chair but I am remaining on the Committee. I am confident that next year the charity will continue to carry out successfully the purposes of the Charity.

My gratitude to the current Trustees for their support extends to all others who have been with me on the Committee while I was the chair. My thanks also go to our donors for helping with invaluable financial support over the years.

Maurice Dodson

Chairman

Attachment Three

The past year has been much as previous years, but there are several significant actions are currently underway that will affect the village, and they will be covered in detail in the OGM.

They include the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan and the Article 4[2] Direction.

There have also been several significant planning applications, and the need to call two particular problems to the notice of the CYC Enforcement Officer, and again, I'll deal with the specifics in the OGM.

The University, whose forward thinking has been altered by Brexit, has commissioned a new masterplan for the development of the existing campuses, but has no plans to expand beyond them in the next 15 years.

And once again, The Village Trust organised a leaf sweep in November.

Nick Allen

Chairman