

MINUTES OF FARNHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD
MAY 2016
IN KILDWICK/ FARNHILL INSTITUTE

PRESENT Counc. Gemma Harling (Chairman). Guest Speakers CDC Representative Counc P Fairbank, CDC & NYCC Representative P Mulligan, Clerk S. Harding Hill. & 18 Parishioners.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who thanked everybody for coming and gave a brief update on the work of the Parish Council over the year. She spoke of the new Traffic Island at Cononley Crossroads which the Parish Council had campaigned for with the help of Cononley Parish Council and NYCC Counc P Mulligan. The Parish Council had had positive comments about it and although it was not ideal it was an improvement. The Parish Council had also had a new light put up by Parsons Bridge which had received good comments. Improvements had been made to the footpath at Lower Arbour to give a more gradual gradient and the Parish Council hoped to make further improvements to the steps further up and give them a lower rise.

NYCC & CDC District Representative Counc P Mulligan reported that NYCC were under financial pressure due to cuts in government funding. The Revenue Support Grant had been cut by 40% over the years. This had resulted in savings having to be made which included handing the libraries over to volunteers to run with the help of NYCC, stopping the grass verge cutting and turning some of the Street Lights off overnight. Efficiencies had been gained by working in partnership with other Councils and merging to avoid repetition of services. He spoke of improvements which had been made to the towpath between Bradley & Skipton and that hopefully improvements could be extended to Farnhill and West Yorkshire in the next couple of years through the local enterprise partnership.

There had been problems with blocked drains and flooding on Main Street in Farnhill, but Highways had worked hard to resolve the problem and were still carrying out repairs. He stated that drains were all cleaned twice a year, but perhaps they needed to direct more resources to where there were problems with drains.

He spoke about the Local Plan Consultation which was available online or at Crosshills Library. Farnhill and Kildwick were included in the plan and they had been allocated to build two houses per year for Kildwick & Farnhill combined. Consultants had advised that a figure of between 170 & 370 houses should be included in Craven's plan so CDC Council had settled for 256. An initial plan would be put together and then more consultations before submitting by December.

CDC voted to have a management company and develop property themselves rather than sell to developers and to use the properties for affordable homes and social housing.

He informed the Parish Council that more funding was available across the Airedale Ward through Localism Funding for local projects.

CDC District Representative Counc P Fairbank gave an update on the Police and Crime and stated that Kildwick & Farnhill had had several incidents of flags and garden ornaments being stolen and also 2 bikes being taken from sheds.

She also reported on parking and stated that parking at Aireville Park had been free of charge but workers and shoppers had been taking advantage so CDC were introducing charges, but those using the facilities would be refunded. It was also decided to charge lorry drivers for parking overnight in the Car Parks. Pop & Shop Parking spaces had been introduced at the High Street Car Park which cost 20p for half an hour and they were also going to have 10 spaces at the Coach Street Car Park.

She informed the Parish Council that CDC had been allocated to take 100 Syrian Refugees to accommodate in Skipton and Craven. They would be granted 5year Humanitarian Protection Visa's and the government would be giving funding to provide them with facilities such as rent and education.

Waste Management was to have a complete overhaul after two vacancies had arisen and they were now under new management. The first item on the agenda was collection points and it would be on the agenda at the Select Committee on the 16th May. She urged members of the Council to attend and put their views forward. She stated that CDC had been discussing the disposal of blue bags and commingling paper with the plastic and tins, but it was still to be decided.

She also gave an update on the toilets in Skipton Bus Station and said that the 7 year contract was coming to an end and that they would be replaced with 3 ordinary toilets ladies, mens and disabled.

Residents raised concerns about future maintenance of the Arbour and removal of trees and the deterioration of wildlife and it was requested that the Parish Council support wildlife when making any future plans for the Arbour. The Chairman responded by saying that Lower Arbour was difficult to manage due to the structure of the land and that plans had not been finalized. The Parish Council were striving to make the Arbour a safe place for people to enjoy and had to find a balance between ensuring peoples safety and preserving wildlife. She stated that the Parish Council have to have a Tree Inspection carried out every 3 years in order to get Insurance Cover and that the Inspection had recently been carried out and they had advised the removal of some trees which had defects. The Parish Council had recently planted a lot of trees and shrubs at the Arbour and would not remove trees that were not causing problems.

A resident raised an issue about it being very dark on the road by the side of Kildwick Church near the vicarage. The Chairman informed them that Farnhill were unable to do anything about it but would mention it to Kildwick Parish Chairman.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 28th April 2015 were approved by the meeting and signed as a correct record by the Chairman. No further issues were raised by the public, so the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting.