

**MINUTES OF FARNHILL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>st</sup> MAY 2018**  
**IN KILDWICK/ FARNHILL INSTITUTE**

**PRESENT** Counc. Gemma Harling (Chairman), NYCC & CDC Representative Counc P Mulligan, Rev Julie Bacon, Clerk S. Harding Hill & 10 Parishioners.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman who thanked everybody for coming and received apologies for absence from CDC Representative Counc A Brown, NY Police and apologies from NYCC & CDC Representative Counc P Mulligan for being late.

The chairman gave a brief update on the work of the Parish Council over the year and stated that the defibrillator was now connected and ready to use and a training session had been held for residents of the village which had had a good attendance. The defibrillator had been taken out three times but had not actually been used.

She reported that strengthening repair work had been carried out to the foundations alongside the track at the top of Lower Arbour and the contractors had managed to complete the work without damaging the wall.

Counc D Atkinson had been working on resolving issues with waste collection at Back Mary Street. The Chairman thanked two residents of the village who had been carrying out litter picking in the village, but reported that fly tipping was still a problem which needed to be resolved.

The Parish Council has been pushing the Canal & River Trust to repair the fence by the aqueduct. They wanted to just replace the section which had fallen down but the Parish Council told them that it should all be done as the other posts were rotten. A preliminary date has now been given for July and the road will need to be closed to carry out the work.

A resident of the village had previously asked if the Parish Council could arrange a Community Speed Watch for the village and the Parish Council agreed to raise the issue at the Parish meeting to see if there was any interest by residents. If anybody had shown an interest the Parish Council would have helped to facilitate it but nobody showed any interest.

The Rev Julie Bacon introduced herself to the residents and explained that her work was shared between 3 churches which were St Andrew's Kildwick, St John's at Cononley and St Mary's at Bradley. She stated that Kildwick was a historic church with 1200 years of history but was facing lots of challenges at the moment. It was 100years since the roof had been done but it was now leaking which was having a detrimental effect on the building which was damp and causing the plaster to fall off. The repairs needed a lot of effort and money and the best estimate received was ½ million which was beyond the resources of the church. The roof was also only part of the challenge to see the church better developed to serve the community. She stated that accessibility to the church was not good, there was no running water and the heating system victorian. She stated that lots of churches were in the same position and that although they had wealth on paper they were not cash rich and assets were not easy to realize. The total funds need would be around one and a half million and they needed to find out if the church was valued by the public and if they thought the improvements were worthwhile. The building was a grade 1 listed building and if the resources needed could not be raised then it may have to be closed.

NYCC & CDC Representative Counc P Mulligan provided a report on recent issues and stated that there was a pot of money of £5,000 through Localism funding which was available for community projects and to get in touch with him if anybody had a project to fund. He informed the public that Local Authorities were facing pressure after 8 years of austerity and NYCC had lost 34% of spending power from Government Funding and lots of Councils were in trouble. NYCC & CDC were on a fairly sound footing for now He said there was talk of devolution and possibly unitary authorities, which would save money but maybe not have the same representation. Brexit was taking a major part in government time at the moment.

He stated that Craven had had a good year and it had been identified that Craven was the happiest place to live. Craven had got 1.6million funding from the heritage lottery for the Town Hall. They had also received grants towards improving the Leeds Liverpool Towpath to Farnhill and Kildwick and for developing Skipton train station and parking and re-development of Engine Shed Lane. He said that although the outlook was uncertain they were confident in meeting the journey ahead.

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 23rd May 2017 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.