**Parish meeting – Thursday 6 May 2021**

**Welcome**

Very different parish meeting this year. - None last year. - Covid

**Very short, simply** to meet legal requirements.

Explain 1st June deadline.

No remote meetings after 7 May 2021

Arranged last minute as soon as info was released.

Gather issues and concerns from Parishioners.

**Intention to hold traditional meeting later** in the year when all restrictions are lifted, and parishioners feel more secure meeting together.

Info gathering meeting.

Issues

Parishioner proposals for solutions

Invite local service providers to offer their perspectives.

Parking

Speeding

Development plan – how we would like to see our village in the future.

Finance

Other issues

**Challenging two years** since last meeting in 2019

Changing composition of PC

Increased representation from 5 to 7 councillors

Resignations – Gemma, Mike

Welcome to new Councillors: Simon Wood, Sarah Nelson, Jeni Mc Farlane

Impact of Covid

remote meetings

impact on services

provision of support within the community

council members organised and staffed a group parallel to the Council – Friends of Farnhill

number and complexity of planning applications

Transformation of the ethos of the Council

Governance, effectiveness, efficiency, greater democracy

responding to primary legislation

moving to proactive agenda as opposed to reactive agenda.

**Support from our District and County Councillors** must be recorded with thanks – we are very lucky to have two very active, very helpful and very motivated councillors who feed us up to date information, support our efforts where they are able both financially through grants and in acting on our behalf where it is within their power and remit.

**For the Future**

Very pleasing that there is developing interest in the Parish council and that a number of parishioners have nominated themselves to fill our current vacancy.

A promise of more parishioner involvement beginning with a public meeting as described earlier.

Responding to the challenges which will arise at the demise of Craven District Council and the setting up of the the new Unitary Authority/ies depending on which model is decided by government.

Craven and the West

NYCC single authority

Continuing focus on challenging inefficiencies

Finance

**Council Chairman’s Report – May 2021**

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|  | On-going Matters | Successes |
| Arbour | * Proposal for further improvement to the Arbour – May 2021 | * Seating area and viewing platform constructed at top of lower Arbour. * Large section of wall at top of lower Arbour rebuilt [grant supported] * Graded footpath at lower section of permissive footpath in lower Arbour [grant supported] * Access to right of way footpath at southern end of Lower Arbour improved by pruning and clearing |
| Better Meetings and procedural matters |  | * Review into how to improve Parish Council Meetings established * All Councillors issued with a Council file with information relevant to responsibilities, policies, assets, plans and protocols. * Purchase of remote meeting programmes for use during lockdown * Purchase of new PC for Clerk * Purchase of portable hub for use in the Institute to enable wifi * Review and improvement of Council standing orders |
| Canal and River Trust |  | * Repairs to Redman’s Bridge * Rebuild wall at junction of Starkey Lane and Newby Road. |
| Collaboration with Kildwick Parish Meeting |  | * Worked together on responses to several planning applications which had impacts on both villages.   + Land off Skipton road   + The vicarage   + Fairmount * Collaborated on response to Conservation Area Consultation – proposing heritage status for Kildwick and Farnhill Towpath and surrounding area. * Joint response to litter issues at the bus stop on Skipton road * Consultation on Parish council proposals * Joint response to Remembrance Day situation during Covid * Joint request for Chief Executive to investigate concerns over planning issues. * Parallel programme of reinstatement of heritage lights. |
| Development Planning | * Short-, medium- and long-term development plan in the process of being written arising from walkabout inspections | * Programme of Councillor walkabouts initiated to identify matters requiring attention. * Proposal for the Arbour – May 2-21 * Programme of grass cutting, and footpath maintenance established. |
| Dogs | * Increased amount of dog waste not being removed by dog owners. * Concerns about dog waste bins at the entrance to the Moor | * Extra dog waste bins installed at bottom of Starkey Lane |
| Drainage | * Investigation to drainage issues at Shelley Well and or Bradley road * Investigation and monitoring of gully issues on Main street, Skipton road and Whitewells | * Three separate repairs to drains on Mary Street. * Repairs to drains on The Crofts. * Repairs to drains on Bradley Road |
| Environmental issues | * Electric car charging points? * Review of environmental development of Council Assets including the Arbour. * Order for seat on path above lower Arbour to be repaired. * Refurbishing the Pinnacle??? | * Seat replaced at Milkin hill Bridge |
| Finance | * Gathering public perception about increasing precept to pay for on – going maintenance, repair, improvement, and Village development | * No increase in Parish precept for 2020 and 2021 * Review of Council Insurance * Review of Council financial Regulations |
| Footpaths and Rights of Way | * Broken stiles on Rights of Way * Perceived rights of way being blocked by fencing. * Broken or missing footpath signs on footpaths and rights of way * Cycling on Farnhill Moor * Establishment of right of way on footpath between Hanover Street and the Arbour track * On- going discussion with owners of Farnhill Hall to allow footpath between Canal and Main street to be partially surfaced to avoid mud puddling during periods of wet weather * Review of all footpaths prior to 2026 | * Extremely helpful dialogue and advice from NYCC footpaths Officer |
| Highways |  | * Resurfacing of Main Street and Newby Road. * Grit bins installed and serviced at Langkirk Close, Starkey Lane and Main Street. * Wall rebuilt at bottom of Starkey Lane and damaged lamp re-furbished – pressured canal and River Trust and Insurers |
| Inspection Regimes | * Continued development of detailed inspection regime and individual councillor responsibilities | * Constructive dialogue between Council and Council’s insurers and Health and Safety organisations leading to the establishment of a regular inspection regime of council Assets |
| Land Ownership and Lettings | * Establishment of title to various pieces of land within the Parish * Establishment of responsibilities of various boundary fences and walls within the Parish | * Review of all lettings of Council owned land properties and new contracts issued as necessary and appropriate |
| Lights | * Two lights out under the culvert awaiting replacement as part of a project by NYCC to install an LED improved circuit | * New heritage lamp on Main street by the play area * Upgrading of heritage lamp at Hanover Street * New heritage lamp on order for top of Main Street on Kitson’s row * Heritage lamps now in place at   + Parson’s walk   + Bottom of Starkey Lane   + Newby road   + Bottom of Main street above culvert   + Main street by Play Area.   + Main street at Bainbridge Wharfe   + Main Street at junction of Bradley Road   + Whitegates at junction of Arbour Top |
| National Legislation | * Review of Council policy and practice for Health and Safety * Review of Council Policy and practice for GDPR * Review of Code of Conduct for Councillors | * Timely, efficient, and effective response to Covid regulations to enable Parish Council meetings to continue during Covid including the establishment of remote meetings. * New standing orders for Council approved |
| Parking | * Concerns expressed by villagers re parking on Main Street, Starkey Lane, Lang Kirk close, Main Street, Mary Street and Whitegates– public meeting to be held after Covid to seek detail of issues, proposals for alleviation – Representatives of Highways, Police, Yorkshire housing, Craven district [or successors] planning and environmental departments to advise on possible solutions | * Consultation document on proposals to alleviate parking on Langkirk close – Mixed response so promise of an open meeting [when restrictions allow] to address the issue of parking throughout the village |
| Planning | * Continuing involvement in Craven district Council Review of Planning [in some part established because of Parish Council pressure] and delivery of the improvement plan arising from the review. | * A huge proportion of Parish Council Time has been consumed in responding to an ever-increasing number of planning applications within the Parish [estimate 40% of Council time] – statutory responsibility. Some successes in identifying detrimental issues on some plans and raising concerns which have been noted by planners in some cases sufficient for the applications to be turned down. However, some failures where the developer has taken advantage of the planning laws to submit a continuous number of subtly changed applications to take advantage of what we see to be flaws in planning law and procedures and eventually win on appeal [in one case only for the property then to be advertised for sale with planning permission] - profit over community??? |
| Play Area | * Contract issued to remove unsafe equipment and replace. | * Play area closed during the development of property above as a measure of safety. * Inspections identified issues with some equipment which is to be replaced |
| Speeding | * Encourage the establishment of a community group to monitor and report speeding in the village [in conjunction with the police service] [as in Cononley where such a group has successfully reduced incidences of speeding in the village] | * Liaised with Police and Highways in support of a concern about speeding on Main street and submission of a study of speeds on that road undertaken by a householder – no perceived problem by Police or highways so no action will be taken |
| Support for Community during covid |  | * Although legislation denied the potential for the Parish council to establish a community support group, a parallel Friends of Farnhill group was established by Councillors [supported by the Council] to offer support to individuals or families unable to access services during lockdown |
| Trees | * Monitor reports of work done on trees in the conservation area without the necessary planning permissions | * Regular inspection of all trees belonging to the Council to ensure safety and environmental sustainability |
| Waste | * Monitor and report the impact of weather [in particularly high winds] on issues caused by waste collection processes in the village |  |