

RYHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 11th April 2023, based at the St Pauls Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Ryhill at 6.00pm

PRESENT:

15 Residents

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr C D Bashforth and assisted by Cllr B Burnage and Clare L Baxter, Clerk to the Council

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Booth

District Councillor Maureen Cummings

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3.0 CHAIRS REPORT 2023

Thanks to councillors and the Clerk

I would like to thank the Clerk and all councillors who continued to be fully active in their various roles within the council, and on committees and outside bodies during another very busy year. I would particularly like to thank my deputy of the last 16 years, Cllr Burnage.

We are sorry that our Clerk is leaving us at the end of the month, after 21 years of service. We owe wholehearted thanks to Clare for her hard work and commitment to Ryhill and we wish her the very best of luck for the future.

District councillors

I would like to thank our district councillors, Maureen Cummings, Paul Stockhill and Usman Ali for continuing to work with us over the last year. Maureen has been particularly supportive, attending both Zoom and face to face meetings, and we wish her every success in the coming election. District councillors play a very positive part in bringing our concerns to the attention of Wakefield MDC.

King's Coronation Celebrations

Council is involved in planning the King's coronation celebrations to take place in May through a dedicated working party of our councillors. They worked really well in 2022 during Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The afternoon tea and Plant a Tree for the Jubilee initiatives were well received by parishioners.

Website

Council commissioned the development of a new professionally designed website this year. This was in response to advice by our external auditors because Wakefield MDC, where we posted our annual accounts, was unable to guarantee continuous access to them by all interested parties. The website is: www.ryhillcouncil.co.uk

Protection of green spaces owned or leased by the parish council

Ryhill Parish Council continues to protect the green spaces in our parish boundaries as best we can. We secured the ownership of our two allotment sites and these continue to be popular with parishioners. We also maintain Ryhill Park and Stray and the old station site as areas for public amenity. We own Ryhill Park and we lease Ryhill Stray and the old station site. We would like to thank the many members of the public who use the areas with respect to other users and also those who control their dogs as requested.

Parish Precept

The parish precept has been set at £54,185 for 2023-2024, the same as for the last 9 years. This is possible by the careful management of our finances and despite the large and unexpected expenses that have arisen this year, and increases from every supplier of service.

Safe Scheme

We continue to fund the Safe Scheme in Ryhill because of the very positive results achieved and appreciative comments by parishioners. We pay for extra policing by our regular neighbourhood police team to deal with specific problems identified by parishioners, including speed checks, dealing with off-road motorcycles and anti-social behaviour. Their tasks and duty hours vary as complaints and issues arise. Without the Safe Scheme we would see very little police presence in the village because we are considered to be a very low crime area. Officers also work late and into the early hours so may not always be seen by parishioners but we receive a very detailed monthly report about their activities and many successes. Parishioners may contact the Clerk to the Council to suggest priorities for our officers though we know that many parishioners speak directly to officers during their patrols.

Donations to organisations

The Parish Council made a donation to the British Legion remembrance wreath

and gift, and also to St Paul's Methodist Church, without which the parish risked losing its postal services based there.

Sports, leisure and youth services in Ryhill

We continue to support these services in the village. The governance of the sports and youth centre changed in April 2015. It operates as a charity but the day-to-day management is the responsibility of a charitable incorporated organisation, Rycoft Leisure CIO. The services remain the same and councillors from Ryhill Parish Council are members of the management teams. We are very pleased with the progress that has been made during its first years as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the continued success of our local teams.

Hanging baskets, bulb planting and planters

We are committed to improving the look of the village with the above. We have received many positive comments about the hanging baskets and the adopted flower tubs that have been installed. The hanging baskets will be provided again this year.

Last year Council purchased and installed 6 new planters on Nostell Lane and these were adopted by three parishioners on Nostell Lane and by St James' Church. They were installed with the help of members of the parish council and several volunteers. Siting of the planters is dependent on health and safety issues. All planters are included in the twice-yearly planting programme funded by Council though some adopters choose to pay for the planting themselves. The planters' scheme is a cost-effective means of improving the appearance of the village.

Additional Grit Bins and Rock Salt

Council continues to provide winter rock salt for the bins that we have purchased over the last few years. The siting and filling of the bins is one of the roles undertaken by our village caretaker.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator for our village is located outside St Paul's Methodist Church. It is used approximately once every fortnight. The pads for it are provided and funded by Ryhill Parish Council and Cllr G Booth cleans and resets the device after its use.

Provision of Christmas tree and lamp post features

This has been taken over by the parish council over the last few years using funding from our precept. We undertook this with the kind cooperation of St

Paul's Methodist Church. We have found that the tree and lights provision is much more cost effective this way even though this involves a lot more time and effort from councillors. Once again, last Christmas, we had Christmas features on the lamp posts throughout the village. This is dependent upon risk assessments of lamp posts by Amey. We had many positive comments about the tree and lights and hope to provide the same again this year.

Village caretaker

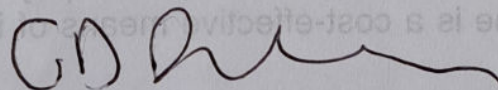
We continue to fund our own village caretaker who undertakes a wide variety of tasks on behalf of the parish council. Our caretaker is John Hope and you may see him around the village as he carries out his tasks. These tasks are often those that are no longer provided by Wakefield MDC. John strims around seats and some paths, he stencils the pavements to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets, sites and refills the grit bins.

Cheryle Bashforth MEd, BA(Hons) PGCE LCGI

Chair of Ryhill Parish Council

4.0 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

UNDOCUMENTED



9 April 2024