

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT.**

This is the report on the Councils work for 2017/18. The last Parish Meeting was held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

There have been 11 full Council meetings, 11 meetings of the HUB Management Committee, Staffing Committee meetings and the Neighbourhood Plan working group.

2017/18 has seen changes in personnel and Councillors. Rosie Sanderson, who had been our clerk for 4 years retired in October. Brian Southgate resigned as a Councillor due to other commitments. We were fortunate to have Vicky Williamson already on the HUB Committee and she was keen to join the Council. The staffing Committee have been kept busy this year. Following Rosie's retirement we had to undertake a recruitment exercise, and we appointed a new clerk but unfortunately this didn't work out and this clerk resigned. This necessitated having to repeat the recruitment process., This process is not a short one and takes the best part of three months. We had some strong applicants for the position of Clerk and following the interviews we were pleased to be able to offer the job to Sarah Brooksbank. We were delighted when Sarah accepted the position. Sarah started her role on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March and has hit the ground running with boundless energy. This has made Su, Tessa and myself immensely happy because since the end of December we have, between us been running the Council on a day to day basis.

The Neighbourhood Plan was signed off by both Councils in October 2017. It was submitted by the working group to the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC). Under regulation 15 the plan is subjected to scrutiny by CBMDC. whilst this scrutiny is taking place the working group are obliged to make any changes requested by the reviewing officer. Once this process has been successfully completed the CBMDC team then put the plan out to public consultation under Regulation 16. This is a 6 week process where both the public and statutory consultees can make comment on the contents of the plan. If the plan successfully passes this stage it is then put forward for inspection by an independent Planning Inspector from the Planning Inspectorate. If the Inspector is satisfied with our submission and the evidence that we have provided and he approves, the plan can go forward for referendum.

Moving forward to 18/19, the lease for Corn Mill Green is in the final stages of being drawn up and will hopefully be signed off very soon. Once this is done the lease for the piece of land at the end of Chapel Road will quickly follow. We have had an Arboriculture Report prepared for Corn Mill Green and no work needs to be done with any urgency. We are not planning any major works for this site but we will investigate tidying up and possibly doing some planting to brighten it up. We will also be making plans to replace the two benches that had to be removed because of the

condition they were in. There has also been a request from our newest Councillor for a “May Pole” to be installed, think this might depend on whether Vicky is going to train some dancers!. Whilst I realise that we are too late to get this sorted out for this year, I think it is a very worthwhile idea for us to look at.

The land at the end of Chapel Road once transferred is where we intend to put another “Real” Christmas Tree, which again will be in the future.

We were asked if we could tidy up the land at the Memorial Garden. This was begun by having all the brambles behind the Cenotaph killed off. Recently I have had discussions with Pippa Chapman from Those Plant People about what could be done on the site to brighten it up, Pippa has been to look at the site and is formulating some designs for us to work with. I have also spoken to Kevin Wheeler Head of Steeton School about the possibility of getting the children involved in this project He was very enthusiastic about this.

The other major project we have in the pipeline is the refurbishment of the Keighley Road Recreation Ground. Having already had some money allocated to this project through S106 funding, we thought that it would be relatively straightforward. Unfortunately this has proved to be far from the truth. Although the land is owned by the Parish Council we need to register it with the Land Registry, and herein lies the problem. All the relevant paperwork was submitted and what we thought were the Deeds only to have it all rejected because the “Deeds” were in fact a “copy” albeit a copy done at the same time as the original Deeds. Until we can get this issue resolved and the land registered we are unable to move this project forward.

## **CRIME**

Although crime remains relatively low by comparison to other areas, there has been a significant increase in targeted burglaries. Houses with “High End” cars on the drive are being selected for Hanoi type burglaries where the car keys are stolen specifically to steal the car.

The old long standing problems relating to parking are still with us, they get worse every year and this last year have become more so with Airedale deciding to install barrier controlled parking. This has led to an increase in indiscriminate parking in the two villages. Councillor West has been tasked to work with officers at BMDC to get them to undertake a Parish wide Traffic and Parking survey.

## **FINANCE**

The Councils accounts for the year 17/18 will be available on the Council’s website in due course. The Council decided to keep the precept the same as last year £ 30 for a Band D property.

The Budget for 2018/19 is £50,220, which is an increase of £ 3,635. This has come about because of all the houses that are being built in the Parish.

## **WEBSITE and NEWSLETTER**

Due to changes in personnel, the newsletter has not been published since summer 2017. We are planning to rectify this in the near future.

The website continues to be kept up to date and Sarah has now got to grips with this. Sarah is also planning to update the Face Book page so “watch this space”

Finally, I would like to thank Councillors for their support and understanding over the last 6 months, I know things haven't been easy but at least we have managed to survive. I must express my sincere thanks to Su and Tessa, without who's help over the last months we would not have survived.

In welcoming Sarah, I hope that we can work together and keep making the Council the success it has become.