**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON**

**Tuesday 4 May 2021 via Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. J. Metcalfe (Chairman) Cllr. C. Lis OBE

Cllr. S. Brash Cllr. J. Emsley

Cllr. J. Mckenzie Cllr. D. McGonnigal

Cllr. J. Walker Cllr. J. Brown

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Alison Hack (Clerk)

**APOLOGIES:**  Cllr. A. Weller

1***.*** ***Items raised at last year’s Annual Parish Meeting - None***

***2. Police Report –*** In the absence of a police representative there was no report

***3. Chairman’s Report* –** The Chairman welcomed those present and thanked all the Parish Councillors for their hard work, support and commitment to the business of the Parish Council. He was delighted by the way in which the community has pulled together over the past year, and it was a credit to all involved. There was no Annual meeting last year, but the Chairman felt there had not been significant changes. He welcomed Mr. J. Brown and Mrs. J. Walker as a new Councillors, and bid farewell to Mrs. Gaunt. All meetings during the year were held remotely although this should be ending shortly. The Chairman reported on the Vice Chairman’s closely involvement with the CANS project run by joint parish councils throughout the Dales which is achieving some success in combating noise pollution by motorcyclists. The Chairman was also pleased to report that the new village signs were finally finished and paid for. He also reported that due to work with police the future of the local police station is secured for the moment. The Parish Council had successfully lobbied North Yorkshire Education Services in terms of the catchment area after the closure of Clapham school, as there is a firm indication it will be adjusted in future years to include Ingleton. The Parish Council objected to the development lorry park which it has now been decided remains as parking. The riverside park project is well in hand in partnership with Yorkshire Dales Millenium Trust and now that lockdown is easing further meetings are planned to progress this project. The Chairman reported that although the Council had not been successful in reducing the speed limit on the A65, it was intended to install a vehicle activated sign which would signal to motorists when exceeding the speed limit. The Parish Council had commissioned a new village map and were in the process of confirming early drafts. The Chairman felt the Parish had remained fairly active over the previous year despite the problems with pandemic, and the precept has remained at pre 2021 levels. With future savings for the public toilets expected next year, the funds saved can hopefully be allocated to winter gritting. The Chairman closed his report by commending the efforts and commitment of all involved, and in particular the Parish Clerk.

4.***. County Councillor’s Report – No report***

***5. District Councillor’s Report -*** Cllr. Lis made the following report:

* Essential services continued running throughout numerous lockdowns despite some staff shortages during the pandemic the waste collection teams continued to collect around 1.4 million bins a year across the District.
* The Revenues and Benefits team distributed grants of over £40 million to over 2,500 local businesses which has proven to be a lifeline through the crisis.
* Bereavement Services worked incredibly hard to keep funeral services running for families.
* The Environmental Health officers became Covid-19 experts, advising businesses on how to be Covid-secure.
* Staff from Customer Services, Comms and Partnerships, & Skipton Information & Visitor Centre made thousands of calls to help shielding residents. During the year the department took over 48000 calls.

During the year the Council signed up to the Climate Emergency pledge and during the year:

* The Council planted over 9,000 trees on its own land.
* A programme for the installation of electric vehicle charging points District wide was started with the installation in the Skipton Town Hall car park.
* A Policy was created to include aspects concerning Climate Change on every report that comes to the Council.
* The Council was successful in securing match funding towards a £1.2 million project to decarbonise its properties.

The project includes over 1,800m2 solar panels, large ground source heat pumps, heat recovery, online energy monitoring, insulation, and public displays of carbon emissions in Council buildings.

Despite it being an extremely difficult year for Planning there have been a few positives.

* The Council got the go-ahead to build six more affordable homes on two sites in Bentham. Eleven more shared-ownership homes are set to be built to be built on council land in other parts of Craven.
* Plans were approved to transform Langcliffe Quarry into a purpose-built rural enterprise centre. The new development will create over 26,000 square feet of new business space, combining the refurbishment of the old traditional stone buildings together with new buildings to provide modern light industrial and office space.

There have been some successful funding bids by the Council.

* Successful in securing funding of £1,278,480 from Historic England for improvements to Skipton High Street. The High Street Heritage Action Zone, led by Craven District Council, will find new uses for historic buildings in and around the High Street, and aims to attract younger people to the town centre through the creation of public spaces for cultural activities, and the development of youth markets and festivals.
* Craven received £50,000 from the Reopening High Streets Safely fund to help local businesses in Settle, Skipton, Bentham, Grassington, Ingleton and Cross Hills to reopen safely.

Other events during the year included:

* The Government announcement that local government reorganisation would take place in North Yorkshire - Craven joined five other district and borough councils to put forward the East & West model.
* The Skipton Town Hall redevelopment was almost completed, with the building due to reopen in June 2021. The £4.7 million transformation of the Town Hall into a cultural hub for the whole of Craven includes the complete redesign of Craven Museum, restoration of the Concert Hall and an extension to house an education room, research office, museum store and an accessible ‘Changing Places’ toilet. Along with some other Members I visited the development last week it certainly a very impressive development that will be of value to all of the residents of the District.
* The Council took action against a small number of hospitality businesses for Covid breaches.
* Preparations began for elections in May 2021; the Council is working with the Government, the Electoral Commission, the wider electoral community and public health authorities to ensure voters and staff stay safe during the elections, with measures including social distancing, hand sanitizer, floor markings and face coverings.
* A full and balanced budget was approved for 2021/22.

6. ***Financial report for the current year***

The Clerk reported that the precept for 2020/21 had been set at £94,000, remaining unchanged for the third year running. £59,000 of this was put into the general fund which covers grass cutting of verges and the park, flowerbeds at Laundry Lane and Central gardens, tree works and grass cutting on the Brow, general maintenance and administration costs including the Clerk’s part time salary. It also covers the costs of cleaning and maintenance of the two sets of public toilets in Ingleton. £10,000 went into the lighting fund to cover new lights as well as maintenance of 98 existing streetlights and their electricity supply. £25,000 went into the community fund, for community-based projects in Ingleton as well as providing an annual contribution to the Community Centre. Public donations toward the cost of running both sets of public WCs were unsurprisingly down during the year by £831 at £1520, which is not that bad considering they were closed for a significant period. The total cost of keeping the WCs up and running fell by approximately £4000, mostly due to savings in cleaning costs. The Parish Council expenditure generally fell by £30k on the previous year, due to a drop in repair work, streetlight works and general maintenance. The Parish Council continues to fund the floodlighting for St. Mary’s Church.

Bank balances at the year-end stood were £63785 for the Parish Council and £47074 for the Community Centre Accounts.

Final accounts for the last two financial years are available from the Clerk. The current year’s accounts have not yet been passed by the internal auditor but are scheduled to be done in early June, after which the Annual Return will be forwarded to the external auditor together with the copies of relevant documents. The Clerk confirmed that she was satisfied that the statement of accounts presents a true and fair view of the parish council’s financial transactions for the years to which they relate. The notice advertising the exercise of elector’s rights to inspect the accounts will be posted with a copy of the internal auditor’s report on the parish council noticeboard and website on 14 June for the required period ending on 23 July. The Annual Return will also be posted up for this period. All these documents will or have already been posted on the Parish Council’s website.

***7. Accounts from Bull Land***

J. Metcalfe drew members’ notice to the report that had been circulated relating to the Bull Land Committee, a charity which donated to local residents and organisations. The organisation received rental income amounting to £585.48 over the financial year and only had one recipient in 2020 of £350. This amount was applied to the Pop-up pantry organized by the Church to relieve hardship to low-income families during the pandemic. The balance for the charity stood at £1267 at the end of March 2021.

***8. Any Questions/Items for Discussion - None***

9. There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.