

# Lothersdale Parish Council

## Minutes of Annual Lothersdale Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7.00pm In the Clubhouse

**Present:** Councillors E Cullen (Chair), N Wilson and C Cowgill

**In Attendance:** 1 member of the public, Cllr P Mulligan and A Mallinson clerk.

### 1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr Cullen welcomed everyone to the meeting

### 2. Reports from invited guests

Cllr Mulligan reported that financial savings are still being made at NYCC across all services with subsidies being reduced for some external contracts. A new services has however been set up called "Stronger Communities", which will support community groups who wish to take on services or assist with their delivery, like grass cutting and library service.

The Tour De France has had a positive economic boost to the region and continues to do so. The Tour De Yorkshire is a legacy of the event and will continue to boost the area. Skipton Town Hall is undergoing further improvements and will benefit the wider community when completed. The "Local Plan" for Craven is not likely to be completed until 2016 when it will undergo an independent inspection. This plan will deliver housing sites for the following 15 years across the Craven District. Cllr Mulligan has raised the issue of winter gritting for Lothersdale at the Area Committee to see if the priority for the village can be raised.

Councillors thanked Cllr Mulligan for his attendance at meetings for the last 12 months and for his assistance on various matters.

### 3. Chairman's report

The new council was elected on May 7th and held its first meeting on June 4th.

The following councillors were elected unopposed; Esther Barrows, Chris Cowgill, Eddie Cullen, Ed Mitchell and Neil Wilson.

Councillor Barrows continued as Volunteer Clerk to the Council until July when we were able to appoint Mr. Andrew Mallinson, who has considerable experience, both as a Parish Council Clerk but also as a local Councillor.

The Council had been requested by some residents to consider returning to the Village Clubhouse for its meetings. The Council undertook a consultation exercise, the outcome of which was that the move took place.

Signed –

Cllr E Cullen

Date – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Works required to improve the War Memorial and the Recreation Ground, agreed by the previous Council, were reviewed and implemented. The area around the Memorial was cleared of the invasive Laurels and the inner and outer walls rebuilt. The gate was replaced and the bench re-furbished. An ongoing project of clearing, maintenance and improvement of the trees, hedges and shrubs has been started. It is anticipated that this will require at least two years, though the bulk of the expenditure should be completed in the next financial year. We have been help in this by grants obtained and free trees from the Woodland Trust.

The children's play equipment has been repaired in line with our most recent safety report.

There is an ongoing problem with flooding near and on the MUGA and also the football pitch.

Environmental Health are now involved after the discovery of heating oil in the flood water.

The re-cycling bins located by the main gate of the Recreation Ground were removed in the autumn.

This was necessary for two reasons; sightings of vermin in the vicinity and the location and weight of the bins contravening Health and Safety requirements in force for Council refuse operatives.

Work is in progress with replacing and refurbishing the village 'fingerpost' signs at the west end of White hill Lane and at Four Lane ends, which is now within the Lothersdale Parish boundary.

Both the District and County Council are withdrawing some services as a result of Central Government's austerity measures, examples of which are refilling grit bins and road sweeping. The Parish Council has been able to obtain grants to support the purchase of an additional bin. A sum for the purchase of additional grit has also included in next year's budget.

We have also contracted with a private provider to clear the village gutters at least three times a year at times to suit us.

The precept for 2015/2016 was set at £18162, the bulk of the increase being for improvements needed to the Recreation Ground, the Millennium Walk and the maintenance of the Village. It is anticipated that this will be a one off cost and that this will be reflected in decreases in subsequent years.

High speed fibre-optic broadband is now available, the cable having been laid to the box opposite the Village Hall, with existing copper wire completing the distribution.

The wireless broadband service which has been a little unreliable has had improvements made to its infrastructure which seem to have eradicated the problems. There has still been no expansion because of access problems to suitable high locations for the transmitters.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors and Andrew Mallinson, the clerk to the Council, for all of their hard work, as well as Pat Fairbanks and Patrick Mulligan, District and County Councillors for their help and support over the year.

#### **4. Public Forum**

No issues were raised

Meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed –

Cllr E Cullen

Date – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015