

WHALEY BRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Mechanics Institute, Market Street, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, SK23 7AA
Town Clerk: Mrs S Raybould Tel: 01663 733068
e-mail: towncouncil@whaleybridge.com

Meeting: Annual Town Meeting
Date: Monday, 19th May 2014
Time: 7.30pm
Venue: Mechanics Institute – Meeting Room
Present: See attached Attendance Register (19 attendees)

MINUTES

The Annual Community Award for 2013/14 was presented to Barry Rudd for his voluntary contribution to Whaley Water Weekend.

T/2014/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Bowles, PC Ellen Barlow, Mr M Brunt, Jean Horsfall, Cllrs Taylor. N.B. There were no members of the press present.

T2014/02 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 26th April 2013 were a true and correct record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

T/2014/03 Matters Arising

T2013/07 – Cllr Pritchard reported the current situation with grass cutting on HPBC owned land.

T/2014/04 Town Council Annual Report by Cllr Thomas (Chair for 2013/14)

The Annual Report 2013/14 was received. (Copy attached). A copy will be available on the Community Website.

Documents available:

- a) Annual Report for 2013/14
- b) Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on 26th April 2013
- c) Receipts and Payments Accounts Summary for 2013/14
- d) List of Town Council Members Attendance at meetings 2013/14
- e) List of Town Councillors Contact details

T/2014/05

Report from Derbyshire County Councillor – Cllr David Lomax

Cllr Lomax submitted the following written report, read by Cllr Pritchard.

“As I’m sure you will know, Derbyshire County Council needs to make savings of £157M. This is a challenging exercise which some within the County see as a threat rather than an opportunity to modernise. There is scope to make these savings across a range of services and to get rid of surplus buildings across the county, which cost money to manage and could be used for different purposes or generate funding. We are also looking at how energy costs could be cut for Derbyshire residents by the use of renewable energy at sites in the county.

Various consultations have and will be made as to how you would like your council tax spent. We need to ensure that the voice of Whaley Bridge residents continues to be heard so that we receive a fair share of services and funding.

The fear that we would be left without any DCC youth provision has, at least for the time being been averted. It is somewhat hard to hear that savings need to be made whilst other areas of the county receive extra funding.

There has also been a consultation on the mobile library service. It faced closure but the more sensible approach of having a monthly service seems to have been listened to. A further period of consultation starts today.

If you have specific problems or need to contact DCC then the Call Derbyshire number will try ensure that it is dealt with quickly. It is open between 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and 9.30am to 4pm Saturdays to provide a speedy and direct response to many of the enquiries most commonly receive. If you notice a pothole or blocked drain etc. please let county know.

If the customer care assistant needs to take professional or specialist advice in order to help you, they will arrange to call you back at a time convenient to you. If any follow-up action to your enquiry is needed, your customer care assistant will pass on the information on your behalf.”

T/2014/06

High Peak Borough Council Reports

Cllr John Pritchard

Cllr Pritchard gave his report. (Copy attached)

Questions and Resolutions

1. Charlesworth Crescent, Furness Vale

Vera Mellor expressed concern that the lawns outside the resident's flats at Charlesworth Crescent were not being properly mowed and maintained by High Peak Borough Council.

2. Recreation Field at Furness Vale

Vera Mellor expressed concern that a grant had been received from Sport England to address the poor drainage of the recreation field at Furness Vale but the dyke in the middle remained and is full of litter and debris. The dyke was originally used as a soakaway.

Cllr Susanne Lomas explained that the dyke would feature as part of the wider refurbishment plans for the field.

3. Fencing to the Rear of Residents Flats at Charlesworth Crescent

Vera Mellor expressed concern about the fence to the rear of the block of flats which divides the building from the adjacent recreation field. The fence needs maintaining with wood preservative on the side facing the field and has started to deteriorate. Ownership of this fence is mainly by HPBC tenants.

It was agreed to email Maxine Collinson (HPBC) and ask that HPBC investigate and carry out any necessary repair and maintenance work.

4. Inadequate Car Parking

Neil Ashton asked when there would be a solution to the problem of inadequate parking provision in Whaley Bridge, particularly as additional proposed housing development would exacerbate this problem. He asked why parking provision could not be linked to housing development and stated that it should be a condition of providing more housing development to provide additional local parking facilities.

Cllr Pritchard responded that he had asked if HPBC had any plans to improve car parking in Whaley Bridge.

Cllr Thomas responded that if HPBC put in place a Community Infrastructure Levy (on future developers), and the Neighbourhood Plan is approved, then Whaley Bridge would receive 25% of that levy which could be put towards funding more parking but no immediate solutions were available.

5. Housing Requirement Calculations

Neil Ashton read out an article from the Buxton Advertiser and asked how the housing requirement for Whaley Bridge was calculated? He stated that local people are confused by the figures. It was noted that the figures had been calculated by consultants employed by HPBC to do this work and based on Housing Needs Studies carried out over many years.

Cllr Pritchard will send a written response to Neil Ashton regarding the question above.

6. Canal Basin Car Park

Barbara Pritchard requested that the Canal Basin Car Park be made a pay-and-display car park with limited parking hours to deter all day parking so this would enable residents to visit the doctors' surgery and encourage visitors to the town centre.

7. Inadequate Late Night Public Transport to Whaley Bridge and Furness Vale

Vera Mellor raised concerns about the inadequate late night public transport from Buxton to Whaley Bridge and Furness Vale.

Cllr Pritchard stated that the late evening railway service from Buxton should fit in with evening entertainment finishing times in Buxton.

8. Traffic Along A6 Through Furness Vale

Cllr Susanne Lomas expressed concern about new housing developments in the High Peak generating increased traffic along the A6 through Furness Vale. She stated that Furness Vale Ward Councillors are concerned that the impact on traffic along the A6 should be considered at the planning application stage when new development planning applications are determined from the wider High Peak area which will generate additional traffic along the A6 corridor.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

.....ChairDate