

Langsett Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting held at The Barn, Langsett on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: : Cllr Peter Horner (Chair), Cllr Linda Taylor, Cllr Lynn Hammond, Cllr Dean Furniss, Avril Sturdy (Clerk & RFO)

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Wood and Ward Cllr Kitching.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023 and any matters arising

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parishioners meeting held on 15th May 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. The Chairmans report for 2023/2024:

High levels of inflation, significant cost of living rises have continued to be a concern throughout 2023 /2024 with a continuing impact on parishioners in Langsett and the wider community. Covid 19, although at a much lower level, along with the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Gaza are, and will continue to impact on local and national economics. Langsett Parish Council have no control over these events. However, where we can support the local community, we will endeavour to do so, by ensuring things under our control such as the parish precept reflect the current situation and as such, the 2024 precept will remain unchanged. We also plan to continue with community events to lift community spirits where possible.

We continue to stand with Ukraine in its battle to maintain its people's freedoms against the tyranny of Russia, as well as having the greatest sympathy for the innocent Israeli and Palestinian people effected by the war in Gaza.

The Parish Council has continued with its bi-monthly meetings over the last 12 months with one extraordinary meeting in 2023 / 2024 to consider options regarding a significant increase in local burglaries. This was well attended by parishioners and 4 local police representatives who provided ongoing advice to minimise opportunities for burglars in the area.

Ongoing concerns remain regarding parking, litter and the high numbers of visitors to the area, which has potential impacts on parishioners within Langsett. The Parish Council is continuing its efforts to achieve constructive engagement with relevant agencies in order to address these issues and ensure that, in future, it is consulted well in advance of any future changes or developments. We have seen an improvement in communication with Yorkshire Water, following its breakdown in 2022/23 after its decision to implement parking charges without appropriate / meaningful consultation with the residents of Langsett. We continue to have meaningful discussions with Highways England and BMBC Council highways department regarding issues on the A616, Gilbert Hill and parking issues.

We have also had continuing support from our local ward councillors and MP in regards to parking, broadband and other issues in Langsett and we would like to thank them for this ongoing support.

We would like to take this opportunity to formally Welcome our newest councilor, Kate Wood who has hit the ground running with some great ideas and contribution to council business. I would also like to thank all the councillors for their hard work over the last 12 months and I would like to personally thank Avril (Parish Clark) for all of the support she has provided, going above and beyond the remit of her post, as always in her support to all the councillors and the residents of Langsett.

Achievements over the last 12 months

It is thanks to Avril's hard work that the work and procedures of the Council have again been successfully concluded. We currently await the result of our parish audit and expect them imminently. Our Auditor for 2023 / 24 is again, Martin Robson.

The precept request for 2023-24 was reviewed and has remained unchanged at £3978 to reflect the current economic hardships experienced across the parish.

The Parish notice board continues to provide residents and visitors with relevant information regarding council activities and can be used by residents to promote local events by contacting the parish council.

The council has continued its active engagement with Highways England on behalf of local residents Gilbert Hill and parking on the A616 and the unsightliness of Flouch roundabout.

The Parish council hand delivered a Newsletter to all the residents of Langsett. These appear to have been well received and provide information on the 2024 parish council activities.

In celebration of the Kings coronation the parish council organised an afternoon tea in Langsett barn. Tea, coffee, scones jam and cream were provided by the parish council with residents bringing along home baking and savouries. It was attended by over 40 people and the celebrations lasted well into the afternoon. We were very fortunate with the weather on this occasion and were able to open the main barn doors, flooding the barn with light and making the celebrations even more special. I would like to thank all the residents who attended and supported the event but particularly Marko, Jeff, Kate, Alex and Avril who gave up time to decorate the barn and get it ready. We would also like to acknowledge the work of the barn staff who ensured the building was looking at its best prior to the event, we are fortunate to have such an asset available to the local community.

We also organised 2 litter picks but these had to be cancelled on the day due to inclement weather. However, a few brave residents persisted and undertook a litter pick in waterproofs, (They are far braver than Myself).

We did manage to have a meet and greet with the new Yorkshire water rangers on one of the days the litter pick was due to take place and we had some very positive conversations regarding future projects we could undertake in partnership.

We also allocated funds to replant the stone troughs on the A616. Plants have been purchased and the work will be undertaken in the 1st week in June.

A series of meetings have taken place with the South Yorkshire superfast broadband implementation team. We have now been notified that Langsett is included in the latest successful bid, although we still have no timeline in relation to its implementation.

Future plans

We will continue to engage with Yorkshire water and the new ranger team to move forwards on proposed ideas for enhancing the local area as well as looking to restore areas of importance to their former glory. A meeting has still to be organised.

The parish council plan to organise an event in the barn to display local photographs from the area. This will be a great opportunity for local residents to get together and share memories and refreshments. We would also like to then open the display up to visitors to the area in the afternoon.

We are also looking at an event for children, which we hope will develop into a more permanent child friendly experience for local and visiting children.

The council will continue to look to improved engagement with local residents on the issues important to them as well as identifying ideas that we as a community can take forwards to improve the well-being of Langsett residents and we look forward to another productive year.

4. Audited Accounts for 2022/2023

The Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 were circulated. No comments were received.

5. Observations by members of the Parish

There were no members of the Parish present.

Signed:

Chair _____ Clerk _____ Date _____