Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 30 November 2016
Village Hall – 7.00 pm

Present

Peter Hubbard (chair), Richard Steel (Vice Chair), David Wing, Richard Robson and Ian Stones

Clerk - Emma Taylor

Five members of the public

Public Session

Concerns were raised by the public about the following items:-

- Whether the dog bin that had been damaged by a suspected firework at the top of Reservoir Road had been reported and removed. It was noted that it had been reported and that it had been removed within the last day or so. There was also a concern raised about the dog bin that had been moved by the villagers, as it hadn’t been emptied again. The Chair confirmed this had already been noted and reported.

- A member of the public asked if Turnshaw Road was being resurfaced in the road works that were due to start shortly. The Chair confirmed that the current roadworks appeared to relate to the cross roads only at the end of penny Hill Lane. An update about the roads in the village would be provided in the meeting.

- A member of public confirmed that a delivery van had been stolen from outside the farm in the village. The driver had left the engine on and the keys in. Chair confirmed this was not an issue for the PC.

- Issues were raised about the problem of cars speeding in the village. Nothing had happened since the PCSO and villagers did speed checks in the village. The Chair confirmed that more information about speeding would be provided in the meeting but he was aware that Alan who had been dealing with it had been off sick for two months so a different PCSO was now dealing. Chair is due to chase them up next week.

120/16 Apologies – None

121/16 Minutes of the PC meeting 28th September 2016

Resolved: The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

122/16 Declarations of Interest – None declared

123/16 On-going issues

1. Former Clerk, Andy Pashley – Chair confirmed that he has been charged with Fraud and will appear in the Magistrates Court. 
   Resolved: No further action for the PC to take.

2. Recreation Ground Lease – Update was provided in short report attached to the agenda. PC objected to paying the costs of RMBC and RMBC have agreed to remove clause 18. On that basis, PC has to decide whether to approve the Heads of Terms. If approved, RMBC legal team will then produce the contract.

[Signature]
Resolved: PC approve the Heads of Terms. They will be signed and returned to RMBC

3. Permissive footpath – Update provided to confirm that both estates have approved the plans. The contract is now with both estate offices for consideration.
Resolved: Chair will chase the estate offices.

124/16 Communications received by the Chairman

The Chair had received a letter from the Millennium Trust (MT) regarding the issue of there being no heating or frost protection in the toilet area of the village hall. This had resulted in a burst pipe previously when the pipes froze. MT had obtained prices to install two heaters. They wanted to know a) whether the PC would allow the work to be undertaken and b) whether the PC would pay the cost of approximately £60. There was debate between the councillors as to whether this was the duty of the PC. Clerk confirmed that PC own the village hall. Decision councillors had to make was, was the work structural? If so, then it followed that PC should pay.

Resolved: PC agreed work was structural. PC will agree to the work being done and will agree to pay. MT are to be informed.

125/16 Lease to the village hall

The Chair had provided a short report and the copy lease. Lease is due for renewal to MT. PC have to agree, for the lease to the MT to be renewed. There was debate between the councillors about this. Question was raised as to whether the lease should be renewed or whether PC should run the village hall due to VAT advantages. Chair questioned whether sub-committee would have to be set up. If so, Chair understood that it would have to have a Clerk and PC would have to pay the caretaker. There was no clarity as to whether it was financially better or not for PC to run the Hall. Clerk confirmed she would not act on a sub-committee due to other commitments. An amendment to the recommendation was therefore made.

Resolved: Issuing of the Lease would be deferred until PC has full information about financial advantages and disadvantages to the PC of running the Village Hall. MT are also to be asked whether anyone on the MT would sit in a subcommittee. Clerk is to send the request.

126/16 Christmas Lights

Chair confirmed that due to the late time of year, MT would put up the Christmas lights as usual for this year. For future years MT and PC are to work together.

Resolved: Any information about Christmas lights to be used in future years, should be done with a co-ordinated approach. All information and cost that any councillor or MT member want considering should be available by 25th January 2016. PC will consider the issue further at the next PC meeting. It was resolved that a time limited committee was not necessary as PC and MT can work together on this.

127/16 HS2

Chair provided an update, correspondence and plans attached to agenda. The preferred route is via Sheffield. PC are concerned by this. One turbine from Penny Hill Windfarm will go for definite. This will reduce the funds available to the PC in Ulley, Whiston, Thurocroft, Aston and Treeton by 30% from the Halifax fund and 1/6 from the Banks fund.

[Signature]
Resolved:
1) PC will respond to the consultation process with additional comments about the loss of community funding.
2) PC are to consider the compensation offered generally under the HS2 scheme. Decision will be made at the next meeting whether the PC wish to comment.
3) Clerk will make all PC affected by the reduction in community funding aware.
4) PC amended the recommendation made in the agenda to add that a draft response to the proposed HS2 route would be made available in the village so that each villager can send if they wish to. Chair pointed out that PC response only equate to one response.

128/16 Road repairs

Chair provided an update to PC that RMBC had confirmed that Main Street and the roads in the village would be included in resurfacing schemes in 2017. A map will be produced closer to the time which will identify which roads.

Resolved: The Chair is to send PC thanks to the ward members for their efforts.

129/16 Playground Equipment

Once the lease to the recreation ground is obtained the PC need to bring the grounds up to scratch and consider what equipment should be put in it. PC will have to have a clear plan of monthly and annual inspections. RMBC will include the ground in their schedule of inspections so PC benefits from the reduced rate. PC needs to consult with villagers.

Resolved:

1) Village mail drop will be organised to ask for ideas/improvements to the rec ground.
2) Church to be approached to ask if the church can be used as a drop off point for the suggestions.
3) RMBC be approached to obtain information regarding specification of the equipment, site inspection and equipment status report.

130/16 Planning appeals

Chair provided an update. Planning permission is being sought to turn a small-scale warehouse into a larger unit just outside the village. No change of use has been sought.

Resolved: PC is to respond with concerns that if it doubles in size, will lead to more HGV traffic in the village

131/16 Planning Workshop

Chair provided an update. No action needed by PC

132/16 Financial report on PC

Clerk provided an update about the balances of the PC accounts. No current payments to approve.

Resolved: Clerk is to update the current spreadsheet on OneDrive, to ensure that all payments are on. Clerk is to complete VAT return.
133/16 Halifax Fund

Chair provided an update on the Halifax fund. Spent more on tables and chairs that budgeted for. Question as to whether this is right as it was thought the spend had been only for the total allowed.

**Resolved:** Clerk to double check the figures.

134/16 Update on fund bids approved by Halifax

The Chair provided an update to confirm that the flagpole had been installed, the retrospective application for funding for the sleepers had been granted only due to the concerns raised by residents, the money has been paid into PC accounts. In relation to the bid for speed signs, Halifax have raised several questions, one of which has to be put to RMBC.

Resolved: The Chair will continue to liaise with Halifax and RMBC to answer those questions.

135/16 Area Assembly

The Chair provided an update. No action for PC to take.

136/16 Precept

The Clerk went through the proposed budget that had been set out for the application for the precept for 2017/2018. Discussion was had by all councillors about the figures. The PC agreed them in principle. It was agreed that the PC would absorb the loss of the council tax fund reduction so that the council tax for the villagers did not rise. The Clerk confirmed that following the difficulties with Andy Pashley’s accounting, the PC did not have a surplus fund. The consultant had advised that there should be a years precept in the reserves. Clerk confirmed that there would be approximately £3,000 left at the end of the year 2016/2017 which would provide a good start to achieve this reserve over the next few years.

**Resolved:** The application for the precept would be set at £6,213 plus the Council tax £257, which would give the PC an overall figure of £6470 for the year 2017/2018.

137/16 Dates for meetings 2017

The dates had been proposed as the last Wednesday of each alternate month. Some councillors confirmed they could not make some of the dates.

**Resolved:** Councillors are to send to the Clerk details of which meetings they can attend and which they cannot. For the ones they cannot attend they are to suggest different dates. The Clerk will then send a new list of dates to councillors.