

## **Menston Neighbourhood Forum and Menston Parish Council and Menston Community Association Meeting**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Peter Finlay, Steve Ellams, Alan Elsegood, Glyn Martill, Philip Moore, Sue Rix, Lillas McCulloch, Cllr Dale Smith, Cllr Jackie Whiteley, Paula Truman (Shipley Area Office), PC Martin Brearley and PCSO Darrin Thompson (Police), Kate Smallwood (Bradford Council Recycling), Chris Slaven (Bradford Council Emergency Planning) and Nigel Gillatt (Bradford Council Estates Management) and approximately 50 members of the public

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Paula Truman welcomed everyone to the joint Menston Neighbourhood Forum meeting and introduced the new police ward officer PC Martin Brearley.

#### **2. Neighbourhood Police Team**

PC Martin Brearley from the police explained his role as a ward officer and gave an update about local crime and safety issues.

He is part of the Neighbourhood Police Teams based at Shipley and has been covering Baildon and Burley in Wharfedale as well as Menston since October 2016. He has a wide experience of covering different areas of Bradford. Since taking over Wharfedale PC Brearley has been involved in a number of cases including tackling the importation of drugs for distribution to North Leeds.

Since February reported crimes for Menston comprise: two thefts (non-specific), one case of domestic assault, one case of drunk driving and one burglary other.

PC Brearley commented on some recent correspondence about speeding traffic in Menston and several Menston residents raised their concerns:

- Speeding on Bingley Road and failure to stop at the mini roundabout
- The severity of the traffic calming measures on Moor Road from Burley Woodhead to Ilkley
- Safety concerns due to speeding traffic, cyclists and walkers on Burley Lane and Menston Old Lane

It was agreed that Simon D'Vali from Bradford Council's Highways Department would be invited to a future Parish Council meeting to discuss these concerns. PC Brearley suggested that he could carry out an inspection of the village's roads with Mr D'Vali to identify the problems raised at the meeting.

In the meantime, PC Brearley requested that local residents inform the police of any crimes or road safety issues in addition to posting them on social media. He advised local residents to sign up for OWL.

Steve Ellams commented on a spate of road traffic accidents at the mini roundabouts at the junction of Main Street and Bingley Road. The Headteacher at Menston

Primary School has expressed concerns about children living in High Royds crossing Bingley Road on their way to school. Mr Ellams has been in touch with the Menston-based representative at the Chartford Homes development on Bingley Road who had been concerned about traffic speeding down Bingley Road and it had been suggested at the Parish Council meeting that Chartford Homes may be allowed to borrow the Parish Council's Speed Indicator Device.

Paula Truman agreed to contact Simon D'Vali about his availability and to liaise with Peter Finlay about future meeting dates.

Paula Truman thanked PC Brearley and PCSO Thompson.

### **3. Changes to recycling and refuse collections**

Paula Truman gave apologies from Edith Grooby from Bradford Council's Waste Management Team and introduced Kate Smallwood from Bradford Council's Recycling Team to talk about changes to recycling and refuse collections.

Bradford Council has added to materials that can be recycled and stopped asking people to separate out specific types. Residents can now include plastic yogurt pots and butter or margarine tubs, aerosol cans, tin-foil, drinks cartons, tetra paks, plastic food trays, non-aerosol pump bottles and cardboard boxes in addition to the existing recycled material. All recycled waste can be collected in one bin and the blue glass bottles liner no longer needs to be used – residents can either keep these for alternate uses or put them out for collection with the next recycle collection.

From May, Bradford Council will move to alternate week collections – recycling one week and household waste bins the next. Bradford Council have changed the rules for household waste collection – no side bins and the lid should be capable of being closed.

Bradford Council will continue to collect garden waste at an annual fee of £35 (there is a discounted fee of £30 for people who sign up early). Any additional bins will cost £17.50 each.

Information about the changes to waste collection will be sent out with the Council Tax letter. This will include permits for the Household Waste Recycling Centres. Ms Smallwood advised the meeting that an informal arrangement still exists with Leeds Council which allows Menston residents to take their household waste to Ellar Ghyll.

A local resident thanked Ms Smallwood for her presentation and commented that Bradford Council make it easy for resident to recycle.

Ms Smallwood advised the meeting that Bradford Council has an app which can be downloaded from Google Play or the Apple Store. This app provides details of bin-collection dates. Bradford Council's website [www.bradford.gov.uk](http://www.bradford.gov.uk) has a newsletter which can be downloaded.

Paula Truman commented on the benefits of recycling – 10% more recycling would save £1million from rubbish being landfilled. She thanked Kate Smallwood for her presentation.

#### **4. Bradford Council budgets**

Paula Truman gave a brief update about Bradford Council's budget reductions. The Council now receives significantly less funds from the central government. In 2010 the annual Council budget was £571million – by 2020 this will be almost halved to £296million. From 2020 onwards the Council will not receive any money from the government, but will be dependent on council tax, business rates and income from fees and charges. This means that Bradford Council has had to make some very difficult decisions about which services they can continue to provide, which services can be provided by other means and which services need to be cut.

#### **5. Emergency and flood plan**

Chris Slaven from Bradford Council's Emergency Planning Team gave a presentation about emergency planning.

The Emergency Planning Team have a dual role – dealing with emergencies and events management. Mr Slaven then spoke about a new Emergency Planning initiative – communities helping themselves. He quoted the example of local residents in Bingley using social media to both ask for help and to publicise what help was available during the Boxing Day floods of 2015. This initiative was run by a member of the new Bingley Town Council and so Mr Slaven is now working with the District's Town and Parish Councils to help them take control of emergency planning in their areas. This will involve writing a structured plan with a list of useful telephone numbers and named contacts.

Paula Truman suggested that there may be other Menston residents who have previous experience of producing similar documents. Peter Finlay agreed that Menston Parish Council would take the lead on this initiative.

#### **6. Kirklands Community Centre: options for the future**

Nigel Gillatt from Bradford Council's Estates Management Team gave an update about community asset transfers.

Bradford Council has now agreed to the community asset transfer of Kirklands Community Centre, Menston Children's Centre, Menston Bowling Green and Pavilion (Menston Parish Council has already agreed to take over the running of Kirklands toilet and Menston Library).

Kirklands Community Centre will be transferred on a leasehold basis with a 50 year lease. The lease will be provided on a peppercorn rent – subject to the type of activities provided at Kirklands and the income generated. The building will be transferred in its current condition together with any running costs.

Bradford Council recommends that Menston Parish Council sets up a Charitable Unincorporated Association to run all the transferred assets – Kirklands, Menston Children's Centre, Menston Library, Menston Bowling Green and Pavilion and Menston Toilet.

Mr Gillatt answered a number of questions from the audience:

Q. Will the rent for Kirklands remain the same?

A. Yes, as long as money is made on a non-commercial community basis

Q. At a previous meeting on this topic it was stated that all buildings would be brought back to A1 standard before being transferred

A. This was an inaccurate statement

Q. Will a condition survey be carried out for Kirklands?

A. A survey has now been carried out. It identified the need for repairs at a cost of £500,000. These can be graded as priority 1,2,3 etc according to the scale of the problem e.g. boiler repair. Mr Gillatt handed a paper copy of the survey to Cllr Finlay and Cllr Smith asked Mr Gillatt to forward an electronic copy to the Parish Clerk.

Q. Would Bradford Council consider transferring the freehold – since the Parish Council could spend a considerable sum of money bringing Kirklands back up to standard only for Bradford Council to insist of taking the property back when the lease expires?

A. Bradford Council will not agree to a freehold tenancy as it wants Kirklands to remain within the community. The leasehold will take the form of a protected business tenancy which can be extended at the end of the term.

Q. Will Bradford Council carry out an refurbishment to Kirklands before the transfer can take place?

A. In other parts of the District, eg Silsden – money from the sale of the library has been used to refurbish the town hall. Perhaps Menston Parish Council should consider sub-leasing part of Menston Library and using the income generated to refurbish other parts of the building.

Mr Gillatt also mentioned a proposal from Burley in Wharfedale Parish Council – to sell the current library and use the money to refurbish Queen's Hall. Cllr Whiteley advised the meeting that this is still in discussion.

Cllr Finlay commented on the lack of information provided by Bradford Council about the cost of running Kirklands, particularly the utility costs. Mr Gillatt was able to provide the utility costs for 2015/16, supplied by Bradford Council's Energy Conservation Service:

- £4,422 – electricity
- £9,672 – gas
- £1,262 – water

In 2015/16, income for Kirklands shows a profit of £487, but taking the utility costs into account shows a total deficit of £14,669

Cllr Whiteley advised the meeting that the Parish Council would be able to take advantage of the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation's scheme to purchase public utilities at a cheaper price.

Paula Truman thanked Mr Gillatt for his presentation.

### **Parish Council and Community Association items**

Steve Ellams thanked the Bradford Council officers, the two representatives from the Police, the Parish Councillors and the Menston residents – who are all members of the Community Association for attending the meeting.

#### **7. Update on Menston Library**

Following the comprehensive update about the community asset transfer for Kirklands Peter Finlay agreed to provide an update about Menston Library.

33 Menston residents have now completed the necessary paperwork for their DBS checks in order to work as volunteers at the library. The Parish Council has agreed to employ a paid co-ordinator in association with Burley and Addingham Parish Councils. This individual will organise the volunteer rota and be responsible for the management of the library. The opening hours have yet to be agreed, but it is unlikely that Menston Library will be open for the same number of hours as at present. Following the transfer of the library service there may be a short period when the library is closed for cleaning, carpet-replacement and training before re-opening. Details of the new opening hours will be disseminated through various platforms.

Mr Finlay gave a brief explanation for the recent increase in the parish precept. The precept has increased by 90% in the last year. This increase reflects the need to invest in the repairs at Kirklands. Cllr Finlay asked Menston residents to support the Parish Council and members of the community in maintaining this valuable asset.

#### **8. Any other business**

Steve Ellams thanked all deliverers of the Menston News and issued a request for more volunteers to deliver the newsletter. The latest edition contains a leaflet from Menston Cares and they have expressed their thanks for this delivery. The newsletter now contains a new section for Menston businesses to advertise their services.

Volunteers are also needed to take part in the Echoes of War project which aims to knit, crochet and felt a large number of poppies in order to echo the ceramic poppy installation from the Tower of London at the Parish Church. Any volunteers are asked to speak to Judith Knaggs.

There is no update for Derry Hill and Bingley Road as the supreme court judgement has not yet been ruled upon.

Bradford Council will continue to provide two neighbourhood forum meetings in Menston each year.

Q: The bowling green and pavilion will be transferred to the Parish Council in 2018. Will the Parish Council work with the Bowling Club to bring about a smooth transfer?

A: Peter Finlay explained that the news about most of the community asset transfers had only reached the Parish Council on 7<sup>th</sup> March. The Parish Council will need to find out the costs of maintaining the bowling green and identify a suitable company to carry out the work. Mr Finlay considers the Bowling Club to be a very worthwhile village organisation which the Parish Council will be keen to support and this matter will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Q. Some pointers about highways issues for the meeting with Simon D'Vali were suggested:

Parking on the road:

- \* Junction of Main Street and Cleasby Road
- \* Junction of Park Road and Newfield Road
- \* Junction of Park Road and Fairfax Road

A. These issues will be raised with Mr D'Vali, the new Community Warden is very keen on enforcing no parking on double yellow lines.

Q. Can the location of defibrillators in Menston be more widely publicised in the newsletter and could more training courses be run?

A. Yes, this will be organised

Q. Stephen Wilkinson from Wharfedale Action for School Places (WASP) spoke about the concerns of parents about the lack of secondary school places in Wharfedale and this initiative to build a free school in the Wharfe Valley. He invited anyone interested in the initiative or anyone able to suggest a possible location for the school to contact him at [sjwilk@outlook.com](mailto:sjwilk@outlook.com). The group is also available on facebook: Wharfedale-Action-For-School-Places.

Steve Ellams spoke about the possibility of setting up a new website to fill the gap with news and information between newsletters. He concluded the meeting by thanking Paula Truman and the team from Bradford Council for their input and Peter Finlay for his presentation. He commented that Kirklands is a valuable asset and the village needs people with local knowledge and skills who could set up and run Kirklands as a going concern. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved is urged to contact either the Parish Council or through one of the various websites.

There was no further business and the meeting concluded at 9.00