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

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Quentin Mackenzie, Liliias McCulloch, Cllr Dale Smith, David Rhodes, Philip Moore, Cllr Jackie Whiteley, Paula Truman (Shipley Area Office), Sgt Khan (Police), Carys Bowes (Bradford Council Youth Service) and approximately 40 members of the public

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Quentin Mackenzie welcomed everyone to the joint Menston Neighbourhood Forum meeting and introduced two of the three Wharfedale Ward Councillors, Cllr Dale Smith and Cllr Jackie Whiteley.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Quentin Mackenzie gave apologies for absence from Peter Finlay, Gordon Metcalfe, Sue Rix, Peter Ward and Cllr Gerry Barker.

**3. Menston Community Association – Trustees Report and Accounts**

Quentin Mackenzie gave a summary of the Community Association's recent activities. The Community Association has been recently chaired by Alan Elsegood, who was succeeded by Steve Ellams. The campaign to oppose the Derry Hill and Bingley Road developments was continued, but following an unsuccessful attempt to be elected as a Ward Councillor for Wharfedale Ward, Steve Ellams decided to stand down and resigned his chairmanship. Alan Elsegood stepped in as chairman on an interim basis.

**4. Acceptance of the Community Association Accounts and the Report to Trustees**

The Community Association Accounts were accepted by vote, and thanks were extended to Keith Bonney for his auditing work. Proposed: Quentin Mackenzie.

Seconded: Chris Hartley

It was proposed to re-appoint Keith Bonney as auditor for 2014-15. This was agreed without opposition.

**5. MCA proposal to proceed with an orderly transition of day to day activities to the Parish Council**

Following a discussion about the two options, it was agreed by an overall majority to proceed with an orderly transition of day to day activities to the Parish Council. The MCA will be condensed and refocused more upon its umbrella functions and charitable status. The following officers were elected:

Quentin Mackenzie (Chair), Liliias McCulloch (Vice Chair), Glyn Martill (Treasurer), Chris Hartley (Secretary).

The following four members of the Committee were re-elected:

John Houlihan, David Manson, Dale Smith and Peter Ward.

New members Roger Livesey and Tony Joint were also elected.

**6. Wharfedale Greenway**

Quentin Mackenzie explained that he and Peter Ward have been representing the Parish Council on this initiative. Four Parish Councils in the Wharfe Valley: Pool, Otley, Burley and Menston are working with Sustrans to develop the safest most cost-

effective and most deliverable route possible as a walking and cycling track. The Parish Council has now resolved to support the proposal to develop the disused rail track between Otley and Burley in Wharfedale. The final project will run from Pool to Burley via Otley with a link to Menston. Eventually it is hoped to extend it to Ilkley.

Chris Hartley informed the meeting that a talk called "By train to Otley" will be given by Professor Mike Dixon at The Sanctuary, Christchurch on The Grove, Ilkley on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

7. **Development update**

Professor David Rhodes gave an update about the proposed developments in Derry Hill and Bingley Road.

During the consultation period for the planning applications, the Environment Agency had recommended that Bradford Council should carry out a simulation of an earlier storm, which took place on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, on Derry Hill and Bingley Road. Bradford Council had denied receiving this communication and stated that they had received no response from the Environment Agency.

Following this, Professor Rhodes carried out a computer simulation and found that the surface water run-off was ten times larger than previously thought.

Planning permission was granted to Chartford Homes on 14<sup>th</sup> August to build 12 houses on the smaller Bingley Road site, despite information presented to the Regulatory and Appeals Committee which showed that the Environment Agency had designed this site as a detention basin for surface water run-off twenty years ago. The Environment Agency are currently checking their records for information about this area being designated as a detention basin.

Planning permission was granted for the Derry Hill site when the development company issued a report claiming that they intended to provide a surface water drainage system for water passing through the site based on sustainable drainage principles. At the same time Bradford Council were still engaged in ongoing discussions with Menston Action Group. As a result of this, legal proceedings were issued against Bradford Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2014. The case will be reviewed by a court of law which will decide whether to grant permission for the decision taken by Bradford Council to be reviewed by a high court judge. This judicial review could take several months and only considers maladministration and not the facts of the case.

The application for the larger Bingley Road site will be considered by Bradford Council's Regulatory and Appeals Committee on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Menston Action Group has written to the City Solicitor about the computer simulation and ground water emergence and Bradford Council's responsibilities. Menston Action Group has also offered to fund the appointment of an independent consultant to carry out an independent survey and report to the Regulatory and Appeals Committee.

Professor Rhodes commented on Bradford Council's duty of care to the prospective home owners on any of the three sites. He explained that the Menston Action Group has now spent £150,000. Chris Schofield has not made any charge for the legal work

carried out and more than £45,000 has already been spent on the documents submitted to court.

Quentin Mackenzie thanked David Rhodes for his presentation and for leading the action on behalf of the village. He also encouraged Menston residents to support the appeal fund.

Quentin Mackenzie welcomed Paula Truman to the meeting to chair the Neighbourhood Forum.

**8. Neighbourhood Police Team**

Sgt Khan from the police gave an update about local crime and safety issues.

He is part of the Neighbourhood Police Teams based at Shipley.

Overall crime in Wharfedale is low and this is largely due to good crime prevention measures put in place by local residents. Sgt Khan recommended using timer switches to switch on lights if a property is empty and reminded residents of the advisability of changing any Europrofile locks on uPVC doors.

There has been a pattern in the Wharfe Valley where sheds and garages are targeted for the theft of gardening equipment and bicycles. Sgt Khan recommended improving locks on sheds and garages and installing alarms.

Both Burley and Menston have been targets of car crime – a number of cases of insecure vehicles which contain electrical items and sat nav systems have been targeted. Sgt Khan recommended checking that all vehicles have been locked.

Sgt Khan also advised the meeting that the police can deal with anti-social behaviour. There has been a recent spate in near the railway station and he asked Menston residents with any concerns to contact the police.

Shipley NPT now has a facebook page.

Q. Can the police stop car drivers from parking on street junctions?

A. Yes, it is an offence to park at the junction of two roads, members of the public are asked to notify the police of any incidents.

Paula Truman thanked Sgt Khan for his presentation.

**9. Youth Service**

Carys Bowes gave an update about the Youth Service in Menston. Both Burley in Wharfedale and Menston have been running very successful Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes. Over 140 young people have achieved either a bronze, silver or gold award. Meetings for the scheme are held on Mondays and Wednesdays in Burley and on alternate Fridays from 6.30pm – 8.30pm at Kirklands in Menston. There are currently 38 young people attending the Menston group and more are welcome. Some members of the Menston group have now progressed to the gold award level – a first for Menston. The Menston group has also recently won the prestigious Lane-Fox Team Challenge.

Paula Truman thanked Carys Bowes for her presentation.

**10. Dementia Friendly Communities**

Paula Truman gave a short presentation about work being carried out by Bradford Council and the Alzheimer's Society to develop Dementia Friendly Communities. This included a short film about the effects of Dementia and how awareness training can improve responses to people with Dementia.

The aim of the programme is to provide the right level of support to enable people to continue to live in the community.

Bradford Council is promoting two initiatives for local people: becoming a Dementia Friend – this involves an hour-long training session to raise awareness, and becoming a Dementia Champion – who will be able to deliver training to Dementia Friends.

Paula Truman also stressed:

- Dementia is not a natural part of growing old
- Dementia is a disease – Alzheimers is the most common example
- Dementia can affect thinking and concentration
- It is possible to live well with dementia
- There is more to people than dementia

Menston residents were encouraged to volunteer by adding their names to the sign-up sheet.

**11. Green Dog Walkers Scheme**

Paula Truman gave a short presentation about the Green Dog Walkers Scheme.

This was devised in Falkirk in Scotland and has been very successful. Dog walkers sign up to an agreement to always clean up after their dogs, to always carry extra doggy bags and make them available to other dog walkers and to approach other dog walkers in a friendly non-confrontational way. People who do not own dogs can also join. Anyone signing up will receive an arm band, or can choose a "sleeve" for their dog lead.

The Neighbourhood Wardens are now able to patrol in plain clothes and check that dog owners are clearing up after their dogs.

Following the start of this campaign, nine Menston residents have now become members of the scheme. Paula Truman urged everyone present to pass the message onto their friends and neighbours.

**12. Open Forum**

Q. Is Bradford Council able to do anything about the gas mains replacement work on Main Street? During the course of the work several water pipes have been severed.

A. Will forward these concerns to Highways.

Q. There are a large number of dead leaves on the A65. In previous years blocked drains at the dip next to God's Acre Cemetery has resulted in the road being closed

due to flooding. Apparently the drain clearing team is on a 24 month rota which means that this trouble spot will not be tackled. Please could Bradford Council provide an assurance that this problem area is recognised?

A. The gully teams are very busy at this time of year, but will contact the Team Manager and ask him to arrange to keep the gullies in this area clear.

Q. The new Litterpicker does a very good job at keeping the A65 clear.

A. I will pass this compliment on. The Parish Council are also very pleased with his work.

Q. The pavements are very uneven and this presents real problems for people with mobility problems. The pavements on East Parade and St Peter's Way are particularly bad.

A. Will report this to Highways.

Q. The footpaths at Brooklands are dangerous.

A. These are already on a list of repairs.

Dale Smith announced that Jack Kell has launched his new book "Menston Remembers" and that copies are available in the village. He also reminded everyone of the party at Menston Primary School on 18<sup>th</sup> October to show the village's appreciation to Peter Finlay and his family for their work in running the Post Office.

Quentin Mackenzie thanked Paula Truman for her presentation and declared the meeting closed.