

MENSTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 25th March 2021 at 7.00pm

MINUTES

Present: Councillors Peter Finlay (Chairman), Gordon Metcalfe, Philip Moore, Jamie Needle, Dale Smith, Goodith White and Jo White

Clerk: Catriona Hanson

2021/043 Introduction and welcome from the Chairman

Councillor Finlay welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2021/044 To receive any apologies for absence

None.

2021/045 To receive any disclosures of interest and requests for dispensation

The following disclosures of interest were noted:

Councillors Finlay and Smith – Governors at Menston Primary School and Trustees at the Kirklands (Menston) Trust

Councillors Needle, Smith and Goodith White – members of Climate Action Menston

Councillors Metcalfe and Smith – members of Menston Cricket Club

Councillor Smith – owner of a plot of land to be discussed during the meeting and also a District Councillor

2021/046 Public participation

Three members of the public were present at the meeting.

2021/047 Minutes of the previous meeting and update on matters arising

RESOLVED: to accept the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 25th February 2021 as a true and accurate record. It was agreed that a copy of the minutes would be signed at a subsequent meeting.

Proposed: Councillor Goodith White

Seconded: Councillor Metcalfe

Following the last Parish Council meeting Councillor Finlay had organised a meeting for anyone interested in becoming involved in the development of Menston Park. He had sent out an open invitation to all attendees at the last Parish Council meeting and received a very limited number of responses. A meeting has now been arranged for 20th March and the attendees will be Councillor Finlay, Mick Priestley and Gill Bennison (BMDC), Mark Aldred (MCA) and John Flinn.

Councillor Finlay had also contacted Menston Primary School to ask the children for their ideas about play equipment in the park and had received some responses from Year Three.

Bradford Council's Parks Department had contacted Councillor Finlay to ask about the safety of the zipwire. Councillor Finlay had contacted Streetscape who carried out an inspection and declared the zipwire safe to use. This information was forwarded to Bradford Council's Parks Department who have not responded.

2021/048 Variation to the agenda

RESOLVED: to consider the item from Menston Cricket Club next

Proposed: Councillor Finlay

2021/049 Menston Cricket Club presentation

Two representatives from Menston Cricket Club gave a presentation about the club's activities. The Cricket Club has carried out a lot of work with people in Menston, especially with children and young people. The club now has 12 junior teams, including two full girls' teams and they had started a women's section at the start of the last season. This means that the club needs larger facilities and their main plan is to increase the pavilion and club house and to provide two changing rooms for the girls' teams.

It was suggested that the Parish Council should consider making a contribution from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to Menston Cricket Club as this would enable the facility to stay open throughout more of the year.

It was agreed that the Cricket Club would maintain contact with the Parish Clerk, who would seek advice about the eligibility criteria from the YLCA.

Councillor Finlay advised the meeting that the Parish Council had received £113,000 in CIL funds from local housing developments in the last 12 months. The housing development at the Bingley Road site will be providing their CIL contributions over the next five years. There is a time-limit for CIL fund expenditure and the 2020/21 funds must be spent by 2026.

Councillor Moore asked for clarification about the possible expenditure of CIL funds and the Clerk was asked to forward a briefing note.

2021/050 Finance

RESOLVED: to pay the 2021/22 annual subscription fee of £862 to the YLCA and to agree to Councillor Finlay attending a training course being run by the YLCA for the preparation of end of year accounts.

Proposed: Councillor Finlay

2021/051 Consideration of key CCTV coverage in the village to better identify criminality

Following the last meeting, Councillor Goodith White had added an item to the Neighbourhood Watch website and a number of suggested locations had been received from local residents.

Councillor Finlay had been in conversation with Phil Holmes from Bradford Council's CCTV team and Nigel Cawthorne. The only location in Menston which could be connected to the control centre in Bradford is the junction of Main Street and Cleasby Road. Data from any other locations in Menston would need to be saved to a private IT system.

2021/052 Land for sale

Councillor Finlay has been in discussion with the landowner who is still considering the various options available. He is now waiting for some firm proposals.

Councillor Smith advised the meeting that local residents might like to suggest other end-uses for the land.

It was agreed to retain this item on the agenda.

2021/053 Concerns about using the A65 crossing

Concerns had been raised by a local resident about the problems encountered by Menston residents when trying to cross the A65 safely. The local resident already has a meeting arranged with Manjit Singh from Bradford Highways to discuss the issue and it was agreed to dismiss this item from the agenda as it is not a Parish Council matter.

2021/054 Assets of Community Value

Councillors Needle advised the meeting that there has been a delay due to an unexpected issue.

2021/055 Fitness trail

Councillor Finlay had met with Mick Priestley from Bradford Parks, Matthew from Streetscape and Menston resident John Flinn to discuss a suitable location for the fitness trail.

2021/056 Safe pedestrian crossing

Councillor Metcalfe informed the meeting that the proposal to install a priority one-way system on Main Street outside Menston Primary School had been incorrectly drawn up as a one-way system by Bradford Council's Highways. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact Simon D'Vali and ask him to provide a correct set of plans (showing a priority one-way system). Mr D'Vali is also waiting for feedback from the Menston Main Street group.

It was suggested that details of the proposed road closures should be added to the Menston Facebook page.

2021/057 Butterfield Park gates

Councillor Jo White advised the meeting that the contractor has sourced the materials and is now constructing the gates.

The Parish Council had received an email from the sister of a former Menston resident who wished to fund the installation of a bench in Butterfield Park. Councillor Finlay agreed to talk to Gill Bennison at Bradford Council about the possibility of replacing one of the existing benches.

2021/058 To consider appointing a village caretaker

Councillor Finlay provided an update. Nigel Cawthorne has been in discussion with Damian Fisher about Bradford Council appointing a village caretaker who would be funded and directed by the Parish Council. Mr Fisher raised concerns about supervision of the post-holder and suggested that the Parish Council should consider appointing a self-employed contractor.

Nigel Cawthorne had identified the need for regular gully-clearance and gained approval for the Parish Council to clear the village's gullies as and when required. It was agreed to obtain some prices from appropriate contractors.

The Clerk was asked to contact the Clerk at Burley Parish Council to ask about a recent snow clearance initiative in Burley in Wharfedale and whether this had been commissioned by the Parish Council.

2021/059 To receive an update about the replacement website

The Clerk advised the meeting that the Website working party had met with Cheryl Thornton who has been asked to procure the new website for the Kirklands (Menston) Trust and has placed an order with Hydra Marketing of Guiseley to carry out the development work.

Councillor Goodith White has agreed to have a preliminary conversation with Hydra Marketing and an additional two website developers. It was agreed that the Parish Council would look into the termination of the contract with the current website developer and that Councillor Finlay would have a conversation with the current owner of the domain name. It was noted that any website developer would need to be fully conversant of the current legislative requirements for Parish Council websites.

2021/060 Chairman's remarks and correspondence

Councillor Finlay has been copied into some correspondence from a local resident about inconsiderate parking in the vicinity of Menston Primary School. The matter is being addressed by the school's headteacher.

The Parish Council noted that Councillor Jackie Whiteley has decided not to seek re-election as a ward councillor for Wharfedale Ward and it was agreed that the Parish Council would write and thank Councillor Whiteley for her help and assistance during her term of office.

2021/061 Agenda items for the next meeting

Councillor Jo White suggested adding an item about a village day centre and agreed to speak to Councillor Smith and to prepare a paper for the next meeting with some recommendations

2021/062 Items to be considered in closed session

It was agreed to adjourn the Parish Council meeting to allow the Planning Committee meeting to take place.

The meeting continued after the Planning Committee meeting with a discussion about an email received from Bradford Council's City Solicitor. It was agreed to receive and accept the report written by the City Solicitor. Councillor Finlay agreed to investigate the costs involved in the purchase of some of the items suggested in the report.

2021/063 Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 29th April 2021 at 7.00pm. There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.20pm