

## Langsett Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting held at The Barn, Langsett on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm

**Present:** : Cllr Peter Horner (Chair), Cllr Susan Barnes, Cllr Linda Taylor, 1 resident, Avril Sturdy (Clerk & RFO)

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Lynn Hammond - Reason for absence accepted.

#### 2. Minutes of the Annual Parishioners' meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and any matters arising

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parishioners meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 3. The Chairmans report for 2021/2022

2021 -2022 has been an interesting year to say the least. We have hopefully come to a point where we are now living with the covid threat. Although it continues to have an effect on general life it is not at the level we experienced in 2020 / 2021. Unfortunately, the issues and concerns we all experienced from the covid epidemic have now been replaced by the war in Ukraine. It is not just the humanitarian disaster that's going on in Ukraine but also the impact this is having on the cost of living across the world including the residents of Langsett. As a parish council we stand in support of all citizens of Ukraine and condemn the illegal and barbaric actions of Russia.

The Parish Council has continued its pattern of bi-monthly meetings over the last 12 months. Ongoing concerns remain regarding parking, litter, high numbers of visitors and the impact this has on residents. The Parish Council is continuing its efforts to achieve constructive engagement with relevant agencies in order to address these issues and to ensure that, in future, it is consulted well in advance about any future developments or plans to improve the current situation. We have seen a significant improvement in the level of communication from Yorkshire Water and National Highways (formally Highways England) over the last few years with regular updates on local projects effecting the parish.

The Council records, with regret, the resignation of Mrs Angela Brailsford from the council and we would like to thank her for her contributions over the last 12 months. We are actively seeking a replacement councillor by advertising the vacancy on the parish notice board, speaking to local residents and we will also be advertising the role on the next parish newsletter. I would also like to thank all the councillors for their hard work over the last 12 months and would like to personally thank Avril for all her support, commitment and diligence over the last 12 months to myself and the other councillors.

#### Achievements over the last 12 months

It is thanks to Avril's hard work that the procedures of the Council have again been scrutinised in the annual internal audit by Diane Brown, the Council's Internal Auditor, who concluded that "Langsett Parish Council continues to be a well-run Council", enabling her to sign her Annual Return without qualification. The auditor made a number of recommendations, which have been considered and acted upon where necessary. The precept request for 2021-22 was reviewed in January 2022 and it was agreed to raise this by 3%, after due consideration of the current cost of living issues being experienced across the parish. Although it was acknowledged this may leave a small deficit, which will be covered by the existing parish funds, we felt it was an appropriate increase, having less of an impact on local residents.

After sustained effort by the Clerk, it is a pleasure to be able to record that the parish council have moved our banking from HSBC to a Virgin Money account. This was a necessary change to avoid the need to pay bank charges going forwards

The council has continued its active engagement with National Highways on behalf of local residents. The result of this, has been some short term measures implemented to improved parking in the local areas with

future mid to long term plans under development. The council has been assured they will be updated and consulted on any major changes.

The council has also been actively involved with local agencies in relation to the ongoing issues of litter and dog waste bags in the local area. Although this remains a problem, we have seen an improvement following the fitting of larger bins, however, this could be partially related to a reduction in visitor numbers.

A well received Christmas card was produced by the clerk and sent to all residents in 2021. This provided an opportunity to wish all residents a good Christmas and highlight the parish council as a point of contact for residents. The feedback received from this mailing was very positive and we plan to provide a news letter in the summer of 2022 in order to ensure key messages are communicated as effective as possible to all Langsett residents.

Defibrillator training was organised and provided by a member of Yorkshire Ambulance Service to residents in late 2021. This was an excellent evening attended by over 20 Langsett residents. The defibrillator has been in place for over 2 years now and the battery and pads have now been replaced ensuring we will continue to have access to this equipment going forwards.

The parish council organised 2 litter picks in 2021. One in June and then again in early December 2021 followed by an opportunity to meet councillors and celebrate the festive season with mulled wine, mince pies, coffee, tea and biscuits in Langsett barn. These events have also stimulated further interest in keeping the environment of Langsett clean and tidy with a local young resident organising his own litter pick as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. We would like to congratulate Marko and his friends from Penistone High School for their efforts.

#### Future plans

The National Grid Authority are well under way with the removal of a section of overhead power lines in Dunford Bridge. The Langsett parish council have actively participated in the consultation work undertaken by the National Grid Authority and as such have the opportunity to bid for community funds. We are currently evaluating ideas and will put forward a bid in the next few months.

The council will continue to look to improve engagement with Langsett 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.

#### **4. Audited Accounts for 2020/2021**

The Audited Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 were circulated. No comments were received.

#### **5. Observations by members of the Parish**

A resident raised the issue of litter at the far side of the reservoir, which would be raised to the Ranger team.

Signed:

Chair \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_