**Langsett Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting Held**

**Wednesday 14th May 2014**

Present: Cllr Adrian James (Chair), Cllr Lynn Hammond, Cllr Sally Howe, Cllr Linda Taylor, Cllr John Key (Vice Chair), Mrs Stephanie Tolson (Clerk & RFO).

In attendance: Andy Tickle (CPRE)

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1. **Apologies**

No apologies were received.

**2. Minutes and Matters arising from the previous Annual Parishioners Meeting**

Minutes from the 2013 meeting were not available.

***It was resolved to minute this years meeting.***

1. **To receive a presentation from CPRE**

The Chair welcomed Andy Tickle to the meeting.

Andy gave a presentation to the Council on the works that CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) and FOPD (Friends of the Peak District) do.

He explained the background to the organisations. CPRE is a charitable organisation that was set up in the 1920’s out of concern for the growth of towns spilling over into rural areas. Their main objective was to lobby for planning laws and regulations in order to protect the public and rural areas. The FOPD was set up initially to lobby for the setting up of National Parks and the Peak District National Park was the first to be set up. FOPD has looked after the CPRE South Yorkshire Office since the 1980’s. The area covered by this office spans the boundary of both Barnsley and the Peak Park, this has been important as the planning policies in Barnsley are not as strict as those in the Peak Park. The organisation gets involved by offering advice to members and commenting/objecting to planning applications. There are specialists within the organisation that have expertise on differing planning issues.

In this area the CPRE have been involved in lobbying for many recent issues, including the pylons line across Woodhead, the Mottram Tintwhistle bypass, Wind farms and Turbines and off-roading.

Andy explained that there is a separate member rate to Parish Councils of £29 per year and left a number of newsletters and reports for the Councillors to view. He also spoke about the website and benefits of becoming a member.

The Chair and Councillors thanked Andy for attending.

1. **To receive the Chairman’s’ report for 2013/14**

The Chair gave the following report:

This has been a busy and eventful year. As far as the running of the Parish Council is concerned, there have been two main events. The first was the departure of our Clerk, Jayne Venables, who reluctantly resigned when she and her family moved out of the area, and the appointment of Steph Tolson as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to replace her. Steph, who is also Clerk to Oxspring Parish Council, fitted in quickly to enable a smooth transition. Thanks to both Jayne and Steph, a major review of the governance of the Parish Council has now been completed and we received a clean bill of health in our most recent audit.

The second main event has been the launch of our new website at [www.langsettparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.langsettparishcouncil.org.uk). After a lot of hard work, in particular by Steph Tolson, and some early setbacks because of the failure of the first provider we approached, the site went live in early March 2014 and has already received positive feedback from a number of quarters. The website will enable those living in the Parish (and beyond) to have quick and easy access to our agendas, minutes and so on, and will enable us to keep residents speedily informed of important developments and/or services that are likely to affect the Parish. It will also provide an easy means for people to contact the Parish Council about any concerns they might have or issues that they want to raise.

The Parish precept was raised at the beginning of 2013. This was a substantial increase in percentage terms but was relatively modest in terms of the weekly increase per household. The decision to increase the precept was made necessary because it had remained unaltered for the 10 previous years and it was necessary to place the business of the Council on a proper footing by employing a qualified Clerk paid according to nationally recognised rates. It has also enabled us to set up the website, which required the Council to match the grant funding that had been obtained from BMBC. It is hoped that future increases will be much more modest.

As part of its routine business, the Council has dealt with a number of planning applications during the year, some of which were more contentious than others. One of the positive outcomes of this was to see the attendance of local residents at Council meetings to participate in our deliberations about various issues. The proposal for the erection of a wind turbine at Sheephouse Heights generated strong opposition among local residents and the Parish Council also lodged an objection with the BMBC Planning Committee. We are therefore pleased to note that this particular application was refused.

The other main area of activity during the past 12 months was in response to the news that the Tour de France will be coming through Langsett in July 2014. In order to put together a programme of events that would bring the community together in the run-up to race day, a Tour de France Sub-Committee was established, Chaired by Councillor Sally Howe. A number of meetings have already been held and the first two of the planned events have now taken place, thanks to a lot of hard work by local volunteers and businesses. The Council hopes that the willing involvement of so many in the Parish will continue long after the race has passed through our beautiful Parish.

1. **To receive the Audited Accounts for 2012/13**

The Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 13 were circulated. No comments were received.

**6. The meeting closed at 8pm.**

Signed:

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