**Langsett Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting Held**

**Wednesday 10th May 2017**

Present: Cllr Adrian James (Chair), Cllr John Key, Cllr Lynn Hammond, Cllr Linda Taylor, Mrs Stephanie Tolson (Clerk & RFO), Karen Dennis (Age UK).

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1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sally Howe.

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

***Resolved that the minutes be approved.***

There were no matters arising.

1. **To receive the Chairman’s report for 2016/17**

The Chair gave the following report:

Continuing the pattern of meetings established in recent years, the Parish Council years met 6 times during the course of the year. As part of its work, guests are occasionally invited to address the Council on topics of interest and relevance. Guests this year have included Sarah Fowler, recently appointed Chief Executive of the Peak District National Park Authority, who spoke of her plans for the Park and aspects of the Authority’s relationship with Parish Councils.

The Council was also addressed by Irene Ofei and Wynn Davies from Highways England (HE) about the developing Trans-Pennine Upgrade Programme. This also provided the opportunity for the Council to explore with them possible measures to ameliorate the problems of the Air Quality Management Area in Langsett and the apparent communication problems between HE and BMBC Highways Department, which has resulted in a lack of progress in dealing with this issue. The Parish Council continues to be concerned about the lack of action and will continue to press BMBC Highways and HE during the course of the year to try to find a satisfactory solution.

The work and procedures of the Council have again been carefully scrutinised in the annual internal audit. These now meet all of the Council’s statutory requirements, since it has published an Internal Financial Controls Document in accordance with the recommendation of the previous audit report, as well as a Reserves Policy. Once again, the Parish Council is pleased to acknowledge the Auditor’s positive comments and wishes to record, once again, its appreciation of the continued hard work and diligence of our Clerk. The precept for 2017-18 was reviewed and the Council decided that there should be no increase.

A number of routine planning applications were dealt with during the course of the year and the clearing of trees and shrubbery on Gilbert Hill, agreed last year in order to enhance the view from the picnic site eastwards down the valley, was completed, along with the installation of a further bench for use by those wishing to enjoy the views.

Following a regrettable incident in which a lamb was savaged and killed by a dog during last year’s lambing season, a meeting was held with Yorkshire Water and other relevant stakeholders in the Parish, as a result of which new signs have been erected reminding the public to keep dogs on the lead in order to avoid the risks associated with sheep worrying. It is a matter of regret and concern that some dog walkers continue to ignore this request.

There have been continued problems with litter being left in the area, particularly on the lay-bys on the A628(T) and the A616 and the Council has designed and erected signs encouraging visitors to respect the area and take their litter home. It is hoped that there might be some reduction in littering as a result.

The Council notes, with regret, the continued lack of public participation and interest in its work, in spite of continued efforts to communicate with Parishioners by email and via the web site.

1. **To receive the Audited Accounts for 2015/16**

The Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 16 were circulated. No comments were received.

**5 To receive observations by members of the Parish**

**Karen Dennis – Age UK** attended the meeting, and this was prioritised and taken at the beginning of the meeting as follows:

Karen explained in detail the Age UK Social Inclusion project to the Council. This is a project that tackles loneliness and isolation and is being funded by Penistone Council for a year.

She explained that the project, based at Penistone library, will help introduce people to groups or find activities for them to attend. They will go out and meet people in their homes and find out their social needs. There is also a drop in session on Tuesday afternoons at the library.

She explained in detail how the dial-a-ride service worked including the shopper bus, individual and group hire. She also explained how the community volunteer driver scheme worked.

Age UK are also working with U3A Barnsley with a view to setting up a number of groups in the Penistone area. There will be another public meeting about this on 16th June at 10.30am at St John’s Community Centre.

There is also a dementia awareness course on Friday 9th June at 10am to 12pm in Penistone Library. This is free.

The Council thanked Karen for attending and took her contact details and leaflets to distribute.

**6. The meeting closed at 7.40pm.**

Signed:

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