**Langsett Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting Held**

**Wednesday 9th May 2018**

Present: Cllr Adrian James (Chair), Cllr John Key, Cllr Lynn Hammond, Cllr Linda Taylor, Mrs Stephanie Tolson (Clerk & RFO), Nick Baker (PDNPA).

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1. **Apologies**

None.

**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 2017/18**

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. The work and procedures of the Council have again been carefully scrutinised in the annual internal audit by Diane Brown, the Council’s Internal Auditor. The Council has responded to the auditor’s previous recommendations, who concluded that the Council has a good system of financial control in operation. 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 Parish Council remains concerned about the lack of action by BMBC in relation to the Langsett Air Quality Management Area and will continue to press BMBC Highways and HE during the course of the year to try to find a satisfactory solution. As a result of these efforts, a scheme to monitor traffic using Gilbert Hill and air quality was implemented by BMBC/HE in March. In addition, the Council made representations to the PDNPA strongly opposing outline proposals from HE as part of the Traffic for the North strategy to convert the A628 and A616 through Langsett into a dual carriageway. The PDNPA received a number of other objections to these proposals and also decided to oppose them at its meeting in early March.

The precept for 2018-19 was reviewed and the Council decided that there should be a small increase as a result of the uncertainty of costs associated with the General Data Protection Regulation coming into effect in May2018 and the costs that may be required for a Data Protection Officer service. A provision of £200 was incorporated into the budget for this. 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 was repeated. The installation of litter signs on lay-bys in the Council’s area was completed and the Council has requested BMBC Highways to install improved road safety signage on Hartcliffe Hill in the light of recent increases in traffic following recent housing developments in Penistone.

The Council notes again, with regret, the continued lack of public routine participation and interest in its work, in spite of continued efforts to communicate with Parishioners by email and via the web site. The exception to this was a strong local response in opposition to a proposal from Yorkshire Water and Go Ape to establish a tree-top high rope climbing course in Langsett Woods, as part of a drive by Yorkshire Water to improve the leisure use of the area by the general public. These plans have since been put on hold.

The Council records with regret the resignation of Councillor Sally Howe and wishes to thank her for her contribution while she was a member of the Council. There was no call for an election for a replacement and as a result the Council sought expressions of interest from those who would be willing to be co-opted. A gratifyingly high number of individuals expressed interest and after the selection process, the Council decided to co-opt Mr Stephen Sedgewick, a resident in Langsett Village.

The Council also wishes to record with considerable regret the decision of its Clerk and RFO to resign for personal reasons with effect from May 2018. The Council wishes to record its gratitude for all of her work and support for the Council during a period in which there have been a number of significant changes in the demands on Parish Councils.

1. **To receive the Audited Accounts for 2016/17**

The Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 17 were circulated. No comments were received.

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

Resident Stephen Sedgwick suggested that litter bins were needed in the Langsett Reservoir car park as there aren’t any. This was a problem over the busy bank holiday weekend. Nick Baker from the PDNPA explained that it was Yorkshire Waters policy to not have litter bins, and that the issue was not due to cost. He did not know the exact reason why this is the policy. It was also noted that more dog bins would be a good idea.

***Resolved that the Clerk contact Yorkshire Water re concerns over their litter bin policy and ask if they would consider new bins.***

**6. The meeting closed at 7.30pm.**

Signed:

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