



# TANKERSLEY

## Parish Meeting

Secretary: Siani Allan

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### **Draft Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Tankersley Held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm in the Hub, Tankersley**

**Present:** Helen Reckless – (Chair), Cllr Andrew Cocking  
Eight Members of the public

**In Attendance** Siani Allan – Proper Officer Tankersley Parish Council

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Before the Meeting started the Clerk explained that

- this Parish Meeting had been called by electors of the Parish to discuss concerns. It was a meeting called by the Parish for the Parish
- under Local Government Act 1972 the Parish Council has a duty to organise and pay for Parish Meetings
- Parish Meetings, unlike Parish Council Meetings, are public meetings
- Under the legislation where the Chair of the Parish Council is a Parish resident and present then they **MUST** chair the Parish Meeting. The Chair of the Parish Council was not present and therefore the electors present had to select someone to chair the meeting from amongst themselves

The electors selected Helen Reckless to chair the meeting and the Parish Meeting began.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

**1. To receive a report by the Chairperson of the Parish Council (Councillor H Reckless) on the work of Tankersley Parish Council during 2023/24.**

Cllr Reckless read the following report from Tankersley Parish Council:

**1. Council and Committees**

- 1.1 The Parish Council comprises 9 seats with 4 being elected Councillors across 2 Council Wards and 3 Councillors being co-opted with two vacancies. The Full Council takes overall responsibility for all decisions but can choose to delegate authority to a committee or to a Council Officer but can never delegate authority to an individual Councillor.
- 1.2 To be more effective, the Council works with several working groups to spread the workload, review issues in more detail and operate more effectively.
- 1.3 In addition, several Councillors serve as the Parish Council's representatives on various Outside Bodies, Partnerships, Liaison Groups and regularly attend associated meetings. These include;
  - Parish Council Joint Consultative Committee
  - Yorkshire Local Council Association
  - Rural Parishes Group
- 1.4 The Parish Council owns and manages assets within the Parish;
  - Broad Ings Wood
  - Beacon at Pilley Pocket Park
  - SID
  - Various benches and Grit Bins
- 1.5 In addition, the Parish Council activities include;
  - commenting on planning applications within the parish.
  - production of a Parish Newsletter.
  - liaising with relevant authorities regarding infrastructure /policing/community issues to represent your views and get the best advantage for the local area.
  - engaging with all interested parties regarding current and future shape of life in the local area
- 1.6 The parish council have had a tumultuous start to the year with the full council being replaced and no handover with the existing parish council available due to them no longer being in place. A live recruitment for a new Clerk was another hurdle for the Parish Council with a new Clerk not being in post while June. Sadly the new Clerk was unable to accommodate the extra hours required for the role so again the Clerks position was advertised. Siani Allan is the current Clerk and began working with the Parish Council in January.

**2. Clerk to the Council's report**

- 2.1 This report covers activities from May 2023 to April 2024, which began with the Annual Meeting of Electors in May 2023.

- 2.2 The Parish Council has been involved in several projects/ activities over the past year including;
- Childrens Christmas Party
  - Bonfire – sadly cancelled
  - Neighbourhood Plan for Tankersley
  - Dog waste bins for the Parish
- 2.3 The finances of the parish have been well managed with a thorough internal audit being conducted with no issues being raised. In 2023 – 2024 the precept saw an increase from £20,000 to £22,500 to help support Parish activities. For 2024-25 the Parish council opted to not increase the precept.
- 2.4 The parish council website has now been updated with previous minutes of meetings and can be found by following this link [www.tankersleypc.org](http://www.tankersleypc.org).

## **2. To answer questions or consider any matters relating to Tankersley Parish Council's Annual Report.**

Following this the following questions/observations were raised:

- One resident expressed that they were pleased that the precept had not increased due to funds not being spent on the bonfire event which had been cancelled however another raised concerns due to the Clerk's hours being increased from 8 to 16 hours and asked where the extra income for the Clerk's wages would come from. Cllr Reckless advised that due to the cost of living crisis, the Parish Council had felt that they were unable to increase the precept. The Clerk's wages were accounted for, for the year however the precept would likely be increased in the following year.
- One resident questioned what other projects would be completed during the following financial year. The Clerk explained that since beginning in January, a lot of time had been taken up sorting previous issues such as the audit, budget and banking however the council were looking to hold the Bonfire, children's Christmas party and renovate the armada beacon situated at Pilley Pocket Park.
- One resident wished to thank the Parish Council for the work which they had undertaken throughout the year and to thank the current council and clerk for keeping the parish council going following a rocky period with vacancies and a full council change.
- One resident raised the issues of the previous years minutes not being available. Chair Helen Reckless explained the issues the Parish council had been through over the past 12 months with 3 clerks being in post, a full new Parish council and the Clerk's laptop being replaced. It was agreed that minutes were unavailable due to the factors previously discussed however with a new Clerk in place, this would not be an issue going forward. All in attendance expressed thanks to both the Parish Council and the new Clerk for working through difficult circumstances.

**3. To receive any reports from working groups about their activities during 2023/2024.**

Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan John Thornton provided an update regarding the questionnaires and Objectives being posted out for response. A banner had been ordered and would be placed in Tankersley to encourage response and an article would be placed in the Chronicle and on social media to push responses. TPC chair Helen Reckless expressed concern for how last minute both herself and the Clerk had needed to work to get all documents printed before the final grant spend deadline (31<sup>st</sup> March). John expressed that efforts had been greatly appreciated and that he would contact Kirkwells for the next stage of the plan.

TCA member expressed that the meeting was usually in a different format and was usually on a different day to the ordinary meeting. The Clerk expressed that at their other Parish council, the meeting was usually held before the ordinary meeting and being in place only a couple of months, was not aware of Tankersley's usual arrangement. Chair Helen Reckless thanked the resident for highlighting this and assured the resident that next years meeting would be held separately as per other years.

A member of the TCA provided an update on the TCA's 2023/24 year and expressed that the TCA were struggling for volunteers and. Not much help had been provided by BMBC or their recommended avenues for funding. The TCA did stress that they had been very successful over the past year and had invested just shy of £1000 for community events coming up over the summer period – June, July and September. Helen Reckless expressed thanks to the TCA and commended them for their volunteering hours and the work put into organizing and holding the events.

46 Hanging baskets were confirmed to be lined up by the TCA, the Parish Council expressed concern that their hanging basket had not been ordered but that this must have been missed during the handover period. It was agreed for the Clerk to liaise with the TCA to procure the hanging basket.

**4. An opportunity for residents of Tankersley Parish to raise matters relating to the Parish.**

A resident raised concerns regarding the locations of the Parish Council Grit Bins. Cllr Helen Reckless explained that the locations of the bins were decided by locations of the people who had been on Grit Bin training. It was agreed to review the locations of the grit bins at a later Parish Council meeting.

A member of the public requested an update on the SID device and what the plan was for it. Chair Helen Reckless advised that the SID would remain in position and that the council would look to provide another SID when the budget allowed or grant funding could be made available.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.00 pm

