



TANKERSLEY

Parish Meeting

Secretary: Catherine Mullen

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Minutes of the Parish Meeting of Tankersley Held on Thursday 10th November 2022 at 7.00pm in the Hub, Tankersley

Present: Helen Reckless – (Chair)
Ten Members of the public

In Attendance Catherine Mullen – Proper Officer Tankersley Parish Council

Before the Meeting started the Secretary 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.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

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

2. **Additional Agenda Items**

No items were added to the Agenda.

- 3. To proceed with the Childrens' Christmas Party planned for 11 December 2022 which was cancelled by the Parish Council at its meeting of 17 October 2022. The reinstated Childrens' Christmas Party would be organised and run by volunteers and seek funding from the Parish Council.**

It was agreed that Cllr Sowersby who had led the project for the Parish Council had done an excellent job.

The Secretary explained that in reaching its decision the Parish Council had been concerned on the effect the fire regulations would have on the number of children able to attend the party. It was possible that because of the fire regulations only 50 children might benefit. This brought into question whether this was the best use of public monies as it would work out at £36.00 per child. This was not good value when compared to the Picnic in the Park Event for the Platinum Jubilee or the Bonfire.

The Secretary highlighted that the Parish Council was conscious of the fact that although it had traditionally provided a Childrens Christmas Party it did very little for older people in the Parish and wanted to address this concern.

The Secretary stressed that the Parish Council was not simply cancelling the Children's Christmas Party but wanted to replace it with a Summer Even for the whole Parish. This would be held outdoors and would be more inclusive. As a Summer Event would benefit more residents it would be a much better use of public monies. In addition, the Parish Council had resolved to provide all 208 children in St Peter's School with a Christmas Selection Box so that children who could not attend the Childrens' Christmas Party did not miss out.

The majority view of those present was that the Childrens Christmas Party had been run since 1947 and was part of the social fabric of the parish. The feeling was that it was short sighted of the Parish Council to cancel the event and that there were many volunteers to take on the responsibility of organising and running the Party, but that they would require financial support from the Parish Council

The Parish Meeting recommended that

- the Parish Council look at ways of reinstating the Childrens Christmas Party so that the volunteers present at the Parish Meeting and others not present could run the traditional Childrens Christmas Party
- the Parish Council consider ways in which it can provide financial support for the reinstated Children's Christmas Party in view of the fact that the group of volunteers is not a formally constituted organisation.

- 4. For the Parish Council to issue the apology agreed with the wider community regarding a Councillor using multiple email aliases to respond to a survey run on behalf of residents and for the agreed apology to be published on the Parish Council Website and on social media.**

Not everyone present at the Parish Meeting was familiar with the background to this agenda item. The background was therefore explained.

Those present at the Parish Meeting asked why no action had been taken to remove the Councillor concerned. It was explained the Parish Council and the Monitoring Officer did not have such powers. It was also asked if the matter amounted to a breach of the Code of Conduct. The Secretary informed the Parish Meeting that the issue had been referred to the former Monitoring Officer in March 2022 who on the evidence available at that time

held that the Councillor had behaved wrongly but the Code of Conduct had not been breached,

At its meeting in May 2022 the Parish Council had authorised the Clerk to work with a representative from the wider community who had been affected by the Councillor's email aliases on the wording of an apology to the wider community. The wording of the public apology to the wider community had been finalised on 10 October 2022 and placed on the Parish Council notice boards. It was pointed out that the apology had not been published on the Parish Council website or on social media as the wider community expected and as has become usual practice.

The consensus of the Parish Meeting was that the conduct of the Councillor concerned was unacceptable and reflected poorly on the Parish Council as a body.

The Parish Meeting recommended that

- the Parish Council stand by the agreed public apology and publish the apology on the Parish Council website and social media

5. For the Parish Council to place the Speed Indicator Device on Pilley Lane in accordance with its earlier minuted decision.

It was acknowledged that although there is a concern about traffic on Pilley Lane the Speed Indicator Device (SID) has never been located there.

It was acknowledged that an earlier Parish Council administration had responded to requests from members of the public and had agreed and minuted the order of where the SID would be located,

The background to purchasing the SID was discussed. It was recognised that the SID had been originally purchased with the intention of moving it around traffic hot-spots in the parish. When the Parish Council had first moved the SID it had contacted the company who had sold it and incurred a bill for £800. This led to the Parish Council making its own arrangements to move the SID. The difficulties in moving the SID had meant the SID was not moved around the parish as had originally been hoped. The Secretary pointed out that there were costs involved in moving the SID around the Parish which inevitably impacted on the precept.

It was agreed that there are few suitable posts on Pilley Lane to place a SID. The Secretary informed the meeting that because of this problem the Parish Council had contacted Highways to investigate the possibility of a pole being placed on Pilley Lane for this purpose. This was in hand. The Secretary also pointed out that the Parish Council had decided to buy a second SID which it was hoped would be easier to move around. This led to a general discussion about the safety of the roads throughout the parish.

The Parish Meeting recommended that

- the SID should be placed on Pilley Lane

6. For the Parish Council to publicise the possibility of creating a Neighbourhood Plan and to take action to form a working group made up of Parish Councillors and residents which will seek the views of and consult with parish residents about the amenities and facilities residents feel are needed in the parish and to enable residents to give their views about how they want the parish to develop

**and
how residents want any future developments within the parish to look.**

The Secretary informed the Parish Meeting that the Parish Council had agreed to form a working group consisting of 2 Parish Councillors and residents to scope the Neighbourhood Plan and take the actions set out in this agenda item.

6 of the members of the public present volunteered to join the Working Group but made the point that the Neighbourhood Plan Project needed to be publicised to so make more members of the community aware that it was taking place and to give them the opportunity to be involved in the project.

The Parish Meeting recommended that

- At its next meeting the Parish Council appoint two or more Parish Councillors to be part of the Working Group so that the working Group can meet
- The Parish Council arrange for a meeting to be held for all those interested in being involved in the neighbourhood Plan to attend and contribute
- The Parish Council to publicise that meeting to the parish and also the fact that they are looking at developing a Neighbourhood Plan

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm