



TANKERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting 2020

Secretary:
Mr G Earnshaw
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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Tankersley held on Monday 2nd March 2020

In attendance were: Cllr C Smart (Parish Council Chair), Cllr R Lodge (Parish Council Vice Chair), Cllr J Hopkinson, Cllr T Jones, Cllr D Laughton, Cllr D Simpson, Cllr R Barnard, Cllr J Wilson, Mr G Earnshaw (Parish Council Clerk), Dr A Billings (South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner), PCSO K McFadzean, Sgt D Needham and Residents (x19)

1. Welcome and introductions.

The Chair of the Parish Council introduced herself and welcomed all to the meeting. The Chair introduced Dr A Billings, the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and PCSO K McFadzean and Sgt D Needham from the Police Smartwater team.

2. Presentation by Dr Alan Billings, Police and Crime Commissioner (South Yorkshire).

Dr Billings thanked the Chair for the invitation to the meeting and said he would talk about his role and then take any questions.

A copy of the Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire was circulated to attendees. The document sets out the Commissioner's priorities for the area which includes:

- Protecting Vulnerable People;
- Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, and
- Treating People Fairly.

A workforce plan was being prepared to deliver on the priorities and to hold police to account.

The Commissioner's role involved supporting the police but also to remain independent and objective.

The funding for the police service is given to the Commissioner. The Commissioner sets the precept for policing which would increase by 2% this

year. The funding is distributed mainly to police services but also to provide some funds to victims of crime.

The Commissioner goes to meetings with the public to hear what people say about crime and to receive feedback about the police service.

Last year the police precept was increased by 14% in order to fund an increase in police officer numbers. There was a strong connection between an increase in officers and reduction in crime. The restoration of the Neighbourhood Police Policy was a priority for the service in South Yorkshire. The Government was committed to increasing police numbers as well.

South Yorkshire was rated 43rd out of 43 police services when Dr Billings arrived in post, it was now 4th in the league, which was an astonishing improvement. The police service in South Yorkshire has been rated 'good' in every category apart from one where it was rated 'outstanding'.

There has been a growth in organised crime and drugs and this type of crime has moved more into rural areas. This has resulted in an increase in violence so a Violence Reduction Unit has been established which has received funding of £1.6 million from Government.

Q: There is a view that minor crimes are not being investigated, is that correct:

A: The police will do more as they get more officers. All crime is investigated and risk assessed. It is important to report crime as it helps the police form a picture of the situation.

Q: What is the police policy regarding on line fraud?

A: Most crime in future will be committed on line. There is a need to move more resources into this area. The force will put police staff in this area rather than police officers. The Fraud Unit is based in Sheffield. Everyone who reports fraud will get a visit from the police.

Q: Thank you for what the police do. What can we do to educate people regarding crime?

A: The police do try to educate people; they visit people's houses, particularly new housing estates.

Q: It is difficult to get through on the 101-phone number.

A: This is a national problem as the public sector has been squeezed. A lot of calls to the 101 services are not to do with crime and police. The 101 services are the only services that are available all the time. There is a new IT system in South Yorkshire that provides more functionality and an improved service. Call Handlers do need to be trained better.

Q: How confident are you that you can find the right people to join the police force?

A: The police are not having any difficulty with recruiting people in South Yorkshire. A new scheme has been introduced to recruit mainly young people. It helps because the police service is rated 'good'.

Q: Do you recruit people with experience in specialist areas?

A: The force recruits people with specialist skills to the police staff e.g. IT staff, analysts etc.

Q: How are the ratings measured?

A: It is a combination of lots of areas.

Q: How do you retain experienced officers and re-incentivise them when dealing with social issues?

A: Children's homes, for example, put huge demands on police time. Also, older people with dementia who go missing place huge demands on the service. There is a need to educate these areas so that it reduces the demand on the police. The modern police do have to think about these kind of social issues.

Q: Can you track missing persons via the mobile phone networks?

A: If people go missing, they often turn off their phones or the tracker.

Cllr Smart thanked Dr Billing for his presentation.

3. To take as read the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 11th March 2019, as circulated and if approved, to authorise the Chairman to sign them.

Copies of the minutes were circulated to attendees and also displayed on the screen. Cllr Smart talked through the minutes and residents proposed and seconded the minutes as being an accurate recorded of the 2019 meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

A resident asked if the parking situation at the school was any better? It was reported that there had been an improvement but there was an issue with the zig zag lines. Some people are parking illegally and inconsiderately at the school. The enforcement of illegal parking is an issue for BMBC, not the police.

A resident asked if the Council had a policy regarding people sitting in their cars with the engines running? BMBC do not have a policy on this matter and cannot enforce the issue, as it does not have sufficient resources to police the situation. Cllr Wilson suggested the Parish Council could put an article in its newsletter about this matter. Cllr Smart also suggested the school could do something about the matter as well. Cllr Hopkinson agreed to speak to the school.

A resident suggested that a mini roundabout could be established on the road near the school. Cllr Wilson explained that Highways had done a lot of work in the area and had looked at the mini roundabout solution but it had been rejected on the grounds of cost as well as for other reasons. There was more traffic on the roads and the Parish Council would continue to work with the school on the parking issue.

A resident asked if there had been a discussion regarding the use of the old Bowling Green? Cllr Hopkinson reported that the bowling green had now closed. The Community Association had been in discussion with the Parks Department from BMBC about how the area could be used and a plan would be discussed at a meeting of the Community Association that was taking place tomorrow. Cllrs Barnard and Wilson advised that the land couldn't be built on. Cllr Smart commented that the miners had bought the land so it could be used for recreational purposes.

Cllrs Barnard and Wilson offered their support for any work that is being done on the bowling green. Jo Birch from the Parks Department had said there was some Section 106 money available to develop the area. The Parish Council had also agreed to underwrite the initial costs of any development.

A resident asked about putting a café on the old bowling green. Cllr Wilson said a café couldn't be put on that land but could be built elsewhere in the village.

5. To receive a report from the Parish Council

Cllr Smart gave a presentation based on the work done to implement the Village Plan.

Housing and Development

The infrastructure in the village was discussed on a regular basis in the Parish Council meetings.

Crime and Policing

A resident asked about fly tipping in the village. The police advised that this issue should be raised with BMBC.

A resident asked if residents had taken up the Smartwater offer? The police who were present at the meeting outlined the scheme and encouraged residents to contact the police if they wanted to take up the offer. Further details were included in the Parish Council newsletter. The scheme was free up to the end of March.

Public Services

There was nothing to report on this issue.

Road Safety

This issue had been covered already. A resident mentioned that the potholes on New Road were dangerous at the moment. Cllr Smart encouraged residents to report issues direct to BMBC or it to pass on the information to the Parish Clerk to report.

The Environment

Cllr Barnard reported that people who have been caught fly tipping had been prosecuted and vehicles had been crushed.

Recreation and Leisure

Work on Broad Ings has been carried out but one part of the circuit is still to be completed.

Annual Events

Bonfire – was well received by residents. Cllr Smart emphasised that volunteers are needed to help with these kinds of activities.

Children’s Christmas Party – Again this was a successful event but volunteers are needed to help.

Community Christmas Trees – the Parish Council provided these as usual.

Broad Ings Woodland – the footpaths are not completed but the Parish Council would take this matter forward.

Allotments – the Parish Council continue to provide and manage the allotments.

Parish Council Responsibilities

Cllr Smart provided information about the Council’s responsibilities.

6. Local Elected Members – BMBC.

Cllr Wilson gave a presentation, which covered the following topics:

Environment - the Council was looking to plant as many trees in the area as possible.

Recycling of plastic – there was money available to help do this.

Traffic and roads – the Council had plans to allocate money to traffic regulation and also to repair roads including repairing potholes.

Blitz scheme – the scheme had cleared litter and rubbish on New Road. If residents have an area they want cleaned, Cllr Wilson was happy to look into this as part of this scheme.

Cllr Barnard gave a presentation, which covered the following topics:

Trees – trees have to be managed. The Council has a scheme to plant more trees as does the Government. All the wood from trees is converted into bio mass pellets but this needs to be done in a more joined up way.

Isolation of old people – the Council had set up a commission with Age UK to reduce the isolation of old people.

Benefit Advice Service – a service had been set up to provide advice on benefits.

Ward Alliance – the Council had given grants to local groups and Parish Councils.

Total funding of £43,700 had been awarded this year to 30 projects. Projects were welcome to apply to the scheme for funding.

Q: What plans do the Council have to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day?

A: The councillors asked resident to let them know of any plans to commemorate this occasion.

Q: Was the Council aware of the impact the new housing development was having on Lidgett Lane?

A: Permission had been granted by the Council to remove trees in order to facilitate drainage work. Replacement trees would be planted in the autumn. The Parish Council should have been informed about this.

Cllr Laughton explained that when the last planning application had been received, the Parish Council did write to the Planning department to ask that as many trees as possible should be saved. The Parish Council had not received a response from the Planning Department to their comments. A communication had been received from the Council this morning advising trees would be removed to make an entrance to the site and also trees would be removed that were close to the road.

Q: What is the Council's policy on light pollution?

A: The councillors were not aware of a specific policy on this issue. New LED lamps were being installed which directed light downwards.

7. To answer questions and deal with issues raised by the electors of Tankersley Parish.

There were no further questions from residents.

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. Keenan', with a long horizontal stroke underneath.