

Holmesfield Parish

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly
17 May 2023 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors Mr J B Wheat (Chairman of the Parish Council), Mr B Hoare, Mrs C Huckerby, Mr Wynford Rosser
Mrs E Boswell – Clerk

1 Apologies

Councillors Mr P Reaney, Mrs S Reaney, Mrs H Stuart-Bamford
Also, Mrs Wheat and Mrs Hoare

2 Minutes of the meeting 11 May 2022

The Minutes of the last meeting were received.

3 Chairman's Report

Introduction

I would like to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting. I take this opportunity to thank the eight Parish Councillors for their work and support over the past year. After the retirement of David Ward, we are pleased to welcome Holly Stuart-Bamford as our newly co-opted Councillor. I would also like to thank our Clerk Liz Boswell; she is appreciated for her excellent service and guidance throughout the year.

This is my 43rd report on the Council's activities during the year. Our meetings take place on a monthly basis on the second Wednesday of the month. All meetings take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and parishioners are reminded that time is allocated at the start of each meeting for members of the public to raise any issues within the Parish.

Police and Neighbourhood Watch

We are pleased that Sally Marples Shaw continues as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. The Police liaison remains much improved and we thank PCSO Jonathan Flowers for his more active role in providing support and monthly reports. Our main crimes continue to be thefts from houses, vehicles and out buildings and the occasional domestic disturbance. All crimes are reported in the Parish Magazine to assist in crime prevention. Our own speed gun is again being used to monitor the speed of vehicles travelling through the Parish in association with the Police and the Community Speed Watch team and we thank all those involved in this project, but more volunteers are needed for this important work.

Village Society, Holmesfield Support Group and Other Community Groups

I thank the Holmesfield Support Group started by Aoife Kenny and all the volunteers who have undertaken work and help throughout the village during the last year.

The Village Society is now thriving under the Chairmanship of Helen Geary.

We take this opportunity to thank all that are involved in events in the village including the Children's Well Dressing and the Christmas Events.

We are pleased to report on the Coronation Events in the village and the successful party held in the Village Hall.

The Reverend Ian Webb continues to minister at St Swithin's Church and we are appreciative of the work of Sarah Webb with the Youth Club at the Church Hall.

The telephone box at Millthorpe is being well used as a book swap and we thank the volunteer that administers this. The defibrillator outside the Village Hall is up and running, the access code is on the front of the storage box, the ambulance service has been made aware of all the details and there are pictorial instructions for use. Thank you to Doctors Blagden and Shaw for providing training sessions for the defibrillator. The Millennium Garden and Playground continue to be well used. Works on the play area are ongoing.

Road Safety

We continue to report lorries ignoring the 7½ ton weight restriction through the village and find it frustrating that very little action seems to happen when reports are made. We thank Councillor Phil Reaney for his prompt work in reporting pot holes and other matters of concern to the highway authority. We are in the process of applying for funding for a speed indicator device to remind motorists of the areas of 30mph speed limits in the Parish.

Footpaths and Bridleways

Footpaths and Bridleways are maintained by Derbyshire County Council, but the Holmesfield Footpaths and Bridleways Society continues to play an important role in reporting matters of concern, undertaking minor maintenance work and ensuring that the rights of way in the Parish are fit for purpose, and we thank Phil Reaney for his liaison between the organisations. There's an issue with cyclists speeding down Footpaths and they seem unaware of the legislation prohibiting wheeled vehicles on a Footpath.

Newsletter and Website

Pleased to report that we have managed to continue with the publication and distribution of the newsletter. We have received tremendous support from our advertisers old and new. The coloured covers and historical notes continue to be well received and seem to have raised the profile of the newsletter. Nick Wheat has been editor for eleven years, and Whittington Moor Printing Services Ltd are producing a quality product for the Parish. Our thanks go to all the many helpers who continue to deliver the newsletter each month. Ken and Sandra Hunt have decided to retire after many years sterling service; and we are now seeking someone else to distribute the magazines to each of the deliverers.

Planning

We continue to monitor all applications received from North East Derbyshire District Council and the Peak District National Park. Most applications relate to domestic extensions and the stabling of horses which have been generally non-contentious. The Planning Department are understaffed and this has seemingly resulted in a lack of consistency with large developments passed and smaller refused. The proposed scout hut was won on appeal with the Planning Inspectorate, and the details are being finalised with the Chapel Lands Trust. We are very pleased to report that the Holmesfield Scouts are already back in the village and currently meeting in the Church Hall.

During the year there have been three major outstanding planning issues, the first being the caravan/s at Pewitt. This has been an issue for a number of years, we have been regularly contacting the Peak District National Park Authority with little success. We now understand that the matter is in the hands of their legal team. We hope to meet with the Chief Executive following this meeting.

The construction of new buildings and change of use of existing without permission at Brindwood House has been refused.

And an application for a controversial dog training unit on Millthorpe Lane was strongly opposed by the Parish Council and this has subsequently been refused.

Village Hall

Lucy Perry who is Caretaker and Letting Officer performs both roles with enthusiasm and efficiency; and is aided by Andrea Kilner as Deputy Caretaker. The Village Hall continues to be well used by hirers old and new. During the last year we have installed a new heating system, and we are now undertaking significant repairs to underfloor pipework and then will be looking at replacement flooring. The maintenance of this building for people in Holmesfield remains of the utmost importance.

Open Spaces

The Council owns the Millennium Garden, the Playground, Football Field and the Memorial Garden at Millthorpe; and wish to thank all the people who give up their time in various capacities to maintain these areas. Mr Steve Hewins currently holds the contract to maintain these spaces. Amy Shaw continues as the Playground Inspector, submitting a weekly report and financial support towards the maintenance of the church yard at St Swithin's continues.

Transport

Under the direction of Councillor Mark Blagden, we continue to provide the timetables in the newsletter.

Peak Park

Councillor Shirley Reaney continues to monitor and report on the activities of the Peak District National Park Authority, and we are still pushing for the investigation into the caravans at Owler Bar.

4 Parish Council Accounts 2022/2023

The Clerk has prepared for audit the annual statements of account for 2022/2023. The accounts for 2021/2022 were passed by external auditors. The income and expenditure are very much in line with our estimates and we are satisfied that our financial position remains sound. My thanks again go to the Clerk for her hard work.

5 District and County Councillors

The out-going District Councillor is Councillor Bentley Stafford-Stephenson he has attended a number of meetings of the Council and given in depth reports on his work and latest developments at the District Council. The new representative on the District Council is Councillor Pamela Jones, she will be invited to attend future meetings of the Council.

6 Charities

There are Charities whose function is to benefit the residents of Holmesfield in different ways. These are The Holmesfield Amenity Trust, The Penny Acres Charity, the Relief in Need Charity and the Holmesfield Educational Foundation. The Council also has representation of the trusteeship of the Dronfield Relief in Need Charity.

The Penny Acres Charity which was created in the 18th century with a donation of land on Cowley Lane, which land is still owned by the Charity Commission on behalf of the Trust. It

is let to a local farmer and the rent payable is divided equally between the Relief in Need Charity and The Holmesfield Educational Foundation.

The Relief in Need Charity. This was created in the early 19th Century. It receives income from the Penny Acres Charity, and from two other charities administered by the Charity Commission. Its objects are to relieve hardship, need or distress suffered by residents of the parish. Such needs are these days intended to be covered by the Welfare State, which did not exist in any recognisable form when the charity was founded. During 2022 grant/s of £500 were issued.

The Holmesfield Educational Foundation. Originally created in its present form in 1820 when land (now the site of Penny Acres School) was enclosed from the Common by the Enclosure Acts and awarded to the School Board. It is let to the Derbyshire County Council. The Charity's funds derive from other investments held by the Charity Commission. The income is to be used for assisting pupil's resident in Holmesfield to further their education. For many years grants were made to assist in the purchase of textbooks but now applications are usually received for computers or related items. During 2022 grants totalled £1548.00

The Dronfield Relief in Need Charity have received lots of requests for help. The aims of the charity are to help people who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress in the ancient Parish of Dronfield – the geographic area covers includes Dronfield, Holmesfield, Unstone, Barlow, Eckington and Totley.

Councillor Wheat reported that the Holmesfield Amenity Trust was created in 1980 by Geoff Willan. Its objects are to promote the preservation of land and buildings of beauty or historic interest or ecological or other scientific importance in the parish. There is a self-administered capital fund of £5443.52. No grants have been made during the year. The income during the year has amounted to £11.83 interest and this has been added to the capital fund.

7 Any Other Business

None.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for all their hard work in the past year.

The meeting closed at 6.51pm.

Chairman.....