



Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 10th May 2022 at Alwoodley Community Association

Commenced: 7.30pm

Concluded: 8.55pm

Present: Cllr L. Buckley (Chairman), Cllr N. Buckley, Cllr Williams, Cllr Illingworth, Cllr Hainsworth, Cllr Black

Clerk: Rebecca Crabtree

Eleven members of public were present.

1. Welcome and introduction from the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr L. Buckley welcomed all to the meeting.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2021

Resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 29th April 2021.

3. A report from the Chairman on Alwoodley Parish Council activities for the year 2021-2022

Cllr L. Buckley gave the following report:

Welcome to the Annual meeting of the Parish. It is nice to be here in person once again. The last time we held an actual face to face Annual meeting was in 2019, with no meeting in 2020 and one on zoom last year.

Over the past two years the Parish Council has not been able to function as usual – not because we were unwilling to but because of all the rules and regulations - but now things are slowly getting back to normal and our usual projects are coming back to life – along with new ones.

As usual individual Parish Councillors will be telling you about their particular projects.

I would like to welcome to the meeting the following speakers:

Roger Gilbert will be giving an update on Friends of Adel Woods

Roderic Parker to talk about the local poppy appeal

Joanne Watson from the Yorkshire Ambulance Service to talk about defibrillators and give a brief demonstration.

Both band concerts are making a welcoming return this year – the first one on Sunday, 26th June and the second one on Sunday 21st August. Both start at 2.30 p.m. In previous years these have been well supported and we look forward to a good turnout this year – weather permitting.

You will have read that next year there is Parish Council election and if anyone is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, fresh faces and ideas are always welcome. However, we do have a vacancy at the moment as Cllr Paul Fryer has resigned. At present the list of candidates has not been published but if more than one person puts their name forward an election will be held on 23rd June.

The other thing I must briefly mention is the fact that Alwoodley in Bloom are always looking for new members – if you are interested in becoming involved just contact our clerk -who will be happy to pass on your details to the small band of volunteers – more hands are needed to carry on with their good work.

Finally, I must mention our lengthsman, Mike, a valued member of the team. I would just like to thank him for all his hard work over the year in helping to keep our Parish looking neat and tidy

4. To receive a report from Cllr Towns

Apologies were received from Cllr Towns for the meeting.

5. To receive a report from Cllr Illingworth

Cllr Illingworth reported that most of his work is carried out on the Village Green and surrounding area. He has managed to ensure that additional waste bins are installed and the Cllrs, Ward Cllrs and local groups carry out litter picking regularly. He thanked everyone for their time and efforts. The PC is hoping to receive more provision but LCC has limited resources at present.

The Little Free Library suffered from vandalism last year but there has only been one incident this year and it has been repainted.

Last year, the PC agreed to purchase dog waste bags to refill the dispensers which are situated at Grange Court/Primley Park Road, Alwoodley Lane, Wentworth Avenue and the Village Green. There was a positive outcome and therefore, further dog waste bags have been purchased this year.

6. To receive a report from Cllr Smith and Cllr Williams

Apologies were received from Cllr Smith for the meeting.

Cllr Williams gave the following report:

Those of you who use it will have noticed the colourful markings on the tarmac and also the new toddler section at the far end, both of which have been funded by the Parish Council.

We have always wanted to improve the playground, not just with new equipment, but also refurbishing some of the original items, removing rust and repainting. Although Leeds City Council will carry out essential repairs they have been reluctant to do this work themselves despite the Parish Council's willingness to fund it. Happily, last month it was agreed that we will share the cost of the work with them and we are now waiting for their approved contractors to make a start.

Although the Parish Council has made many improvements to the Village Green, Cllrs have always wanted to do something significant for the east side of the Parish. Heath Nursery Woodland is a piece of land which is situated between Grange Court and St Andrews Walk.

In November 2020, my colleague Sue Smith had an idea to make a small part of this area a Platinum Jubilee Garden. This would include some natural planting, herb beds, a couple of rustic benches, insect hotels and perhaps a wooden balancing trail for children. The intention was to keep the natural, unspoilt look but enhance the area. This was very well received by other Parish Cllrs but

most of the ideas were firmly squashed by LCC. As all the public land is owned by LCC anything we want to accomplish has to be approved by them.

Although the Parish Council realises the garden can't go ahead at the moment, there is a possibility that with the formation of a Friends of Group, willing to maintain any planting this might be something for the future. Sadly, it has been decided that we weren't left with enough to make the area worthy of being called the Platinum Jubilee Garden.

Adjacent to this area are many mature rhododendron bushes and Sue also put forward plans to do some necessary clearing and footpath improvements to establish a circular rhododendron walk.

This idea was greeted with much more enthusiasm by LCC and we have had several site visits to discuss the possibilities. We have accepted a quote for the initial clearing and cutting back to make the walk more accessible, using chippings from the cuttings to improve the path.

Again, the maintenance is reliant on a Friends of Group being established and after an appeal in our newsletter we now have some volunteers, and, of course, more are always welcome. If you are interested, please leave your contact details with us this evening. We will be arranging a meeting with volunteers shortly to discuss the next steps.

7. To receive a report from Cllr Hainsworth

Cllr Hainsworth reported that the finger post sign located at the junction of Five Lane Ends on King Lane, Leeds (junction of Adel Lane, Eccup Lane, Eccup Moor Road) was damaged in an accident. The sign was unusable and had to be removed. The PC is now claiming on the insurance and agreed to order a new one as soon as possible.

During lockdown, the PC was unable to carry out projects and therefore, had some funds in reserves. The PC investigated providing a public convenience on the Village Green. He had a meeting with LCC about the project but it didn't have a great outcome and the PC decided not to pursue the idea. The PC is now looking into other potential projects and asks if anyone has any ideas, please email the Clerk.

8. To receive a report from Cllr White

Apologies were received from Cllr White for the meeting.

Cllr Illingworth read out the Planning Committee report in Cllr White's absence which was as follows:

Over the last 12 months the planning committee has met monthly to review planning applications within the Parish and those with a strategic impact on the parish. These have ranged from individual dwellings and extensions, and those proposing to develop larger sites. Most applications have been relatively straightforward but some have been controversial. In all cases we have tried to both listen to the views of residents, both objectors and applicants, and consider how the applications fit within the intentions and objectives of the Alwoodley Neighbourhood Plan. The Alwoodley Neighbourhood Plan is and should be the benchmark of good development for the parish.

We are always pleased when residents attend the committee to provide their views for and against a proposal as an informed dialogue adds to the quality of the considerations.

It should be remembered that the Parish Council's role in planning is one of informed comment as the determination and decision to grant or refuse planning permission is the role of Leeds City Council as the Planning Authority. Alwoodley Parish Council in carrying out its role as a consultee in

the planning process and doing so within the scope of the Alwoodley Neighbourhood plan is in a position to add to the views of residents in an informed way where planning applications are controversial or may create unhelpful precedents for the future, or where applications that do not immediately seem to breach planning policy for Leeds may have a detrimental impact on the quality of Alwoodley and an informed local comment from the Parish Council can assist the decision making of the City Council.

This is the role we have attempted to fulfil over the last 12 months, and on some quite sensitive applications I would like to think we have done so with a positive impact.

Whilst it might be inappropriate in this short statement to single out individual planning applications as a planning committee we are always available at our monthly meeting to discuss specific applications with residents and listen to their views.

9. To receive a report from Cllr Black

Cllr Black reported that he feels the area is improving including speeding, litter and dog fouling and asked everyone to work together to look after the area.

The telephone kiosk on The Avenue which was refurbished last year and now used as book exchange was well received and used regularly.

10. To receive an update from West Yorkshire Police

Not present.

11. To receive an update from J. Blackburn from Leeds City Council, Cleaner Neighbourhood Team

Not present.

12. To receive an update from R. Gilbert, Friends of Adel Woods

Roger Gilbert from Friends of Adel Woods gave an update. He has been the Chairman of the group for 13 years. The group meets once a month on a Saturday or Sunday to carry out work in the woods such as picking litter, clearing paths, working on the moorland, removing bracken, sapling and brambles. The invasive species would kill the moorland so it needs to be kept clear. The area is the last bit of heathland in Leeds and lizards have been spotted there.

The group has put up 40 nest boxes over the years and they are surveyed every January. You can check out the blog on the website for updates.

The Friends of Adel woods hold educational events such as the Bird Song Walk. They have just held the 11th annual walk and 24 people took part and they saw 19 species of bird.

Roger welcomed everyone to join the friendly group. The group's details can be found on the Parish Council website.

13. To receive an update from R. Parker from the local Poppy Appeal

Roderic Parker gave an update about the Poppy Appeal. The Poppy Appeal is the main public fundraising for the Royal British Legion. The aims are to organise remembrance services and parades each year and support ex-military and their families with social and financial problems.

The Poppy Appeal happens every year. There are a number of volunteers at each local branch and there is one organiser. Roderic has been the organiser for 3 years.

The volunteers distribute the flat pack trays and money collection boxes across their local area. In total, the volunteers visit each place three times during the appeal.

There are different types of merchandise including wristbands, crosses, and wreaths can be supplied.

Volunteers hold stalls at large places such as Homebase and they have contactless devices for payments.

£10,500.00 was raised in 2021.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Clerk who will forward your details.

14. To receive defibrillator training by J. Watson

Joanne Watson carried out brief defibrillator training to all that attended.

The main points she raised was the following:

- There are 3000 defibrillators across Yorkshire in a cabinet and 3000 in shops. These are available for community use when needed.
- When a call is made to the ambulance service and your location is given, they are able to tell you where the nearest defibrillator is and will give you a code to open the cabinet. An App called what3words can be downloaded to your phone which converts GPS coordinates into 3 word addresses and gives you your exact location.
- The call handler will ask a number of questions but she will not be delaying anything as the response team will already have been dispatched.
- If there is more than one person with the patient, one person will be told to get the defibrillator. If there is only person, they will tell you to continue CPR. The call handler will tell you how to do it over the phone.
- The defibrillator will instruct you what to do and there are instructions printed on the pieces of equipment including where to place the defibrillator pads on the body.
- Always remember to place the defibrillator back in the cabinet after use. The Ambulance Service will contact the guardian and make them aware it has been used and request that they order more pads and make it ready for use again.
- It was noted that the defibrillator should be continued to be used, until it tells you not to as it analyses the heart rhythm. When a shockable rhythm is detected, the defibrillator tells you that a shock is advised.
- You can find useful videos on the British Heart Foundation website and the Yorkshire Ambulance Service YouTube channel.
- A resident asked about Community First Responders. CRF's are trained in basic life support and are based within the communities. Their role is to provide support until the ambulance arrives such as performing CPR and providing a defibrillator. As they are based in the community, they are able to attend the emergencies quicker.
- The National Defibrillator Network is a centralised network that shows the nearer defibrillator to you.

15. Public participation

Members of the public enquired about the following:

- One member of public asked about Verity's Copse and who owns the land, the long-term plan and who is leading it. Cllr N. Buckley confirmed that he has been trying to establish who owns the land for 3-4 years but has not been able to confirm the land owner. Yorkshire Water own the shaft. At present, one of the houses bordering the land has extended the property to the boundary of the wood and has been using some of the land for building supplies. He has

confirmed that the building work will be completed in the summer and would like a small path to the rear of the property.

Cllr N. Buckley is going to invite Buckstone residents to a meeting and the objective will be to establish a 'Friends of' group who are willing to look after the wood on a voluntary basis.

The PC is unable to purchase the land as the landowner is unknown and it will be a liability and insurance risk.

- A member of public enquired about the Parish Councils financial information and the Clerk confirmed the end of year accounts will be published shortly.