

MICKLEFIELD PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 MAY 2023

PRESENT: Public (3)

In Attendance: Cllr J A Crossley, Chairman of Micklefield Parish Council, J L Hebden, Clerk to Micklefield Parish Council

The meeting opened at 7.35pm and was chaired by Cllr J A Crossley, chairman of Micklefield Parish Council.

23/01 – MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2023

Copies of the draft minutes were available on the Parish Council website in advance of the meeting and hard copies were available at the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr J A Crossley

Seconded by P Meir

RESOLVED by unanimous vote that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 28 April 2023 are an accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes for verification.

23/02 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2023

22/02 (previously 21/03) – The school's admission to another academy system did not seem to have had a negative effect on the pupils' admissions to Garforth Academy Secondary school.

22/03 – The Parish Council has planted a tree for the jubilee with funding from Taylor Wimpey.

22/04 – The 164 Saturday bus service had resumed, although an elector reported that the Garforth school bus service was hit and miss.

23/03 – ELECTORS' QUESTION TIME

ELECTOR – There is no bin in the play and picnic area on the double bend.

ELECTOR - The pub is still closed, perhaps Quirky Ales at Garforth could provide the services that the pub did?

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – The Blands Arms is registered as an asset of community value, but if the owner will neither open nor sell, is there anywhere else that alcohol can be sold?

ELECTOR – A pop-up pub? An event would need to be licensed.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – Could the school caretaker's house be used as a pop-up venue, by a licensed seller?

ELECTOR – The CIL Consultation showed the importance of a pub to residents.

ELECTOR – As a neighbouring resident [of the caretaker's house] I would object [to it being used as a pop-up pub] due to the parking problems it would create.

ELECTOR – People shouldn't be drinking and driving. There are mobile pubs.

ELECTOR – Reported that Leeds City Council planning department will stop publishing objections to applications on the public access portal and comments would no longer be taken on works involving trees with TPOs.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – Explained the current system for public engagement in the planning system i.e. that comments (objections and support) are uploaded to the public access portal for public view, including responses from Leeds City Council departments, like highways . Before the internet portal, hard copies of comments were available to view in the planning offices, although Leeds City Council department responses weren't made available.

ELECTOR – [The new system] isn't democratic. There's no accountability or transparency.

23/04 – HOUSING ALLOCATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – The Strata development seems to be finished.

ELECTOR – There are no signs on footpath no. 3 or road markings or signs on the junction at Davy Avenue; the street still has a Cul-de-Sac sign. The Persimmon development seems to be all Cul-de-Sacs, even though we were supposed to be moving away from using them in developments. The Barratt development is now finished.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY - The Barratt development can't have handed over the road network for adoption [if the road markings and signage are incorrect]. The Parish Council may need to flag this up with Leeds City Council. The Persimmon development isn't finished yet.

ELECTOR - Reported that there were work vans parked on the green space between the Barratt and Persimmon developments and work materials were also being stored there.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY - That area was originally the works compound, so it was just being given that use again. The Avant Homes development had delivered about 52 homes and had permission for 150.

ELECTOR – Most of the homes run on a generator, not the grid, as they're not connected to the mains yet.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – The Pit Lane development looks close to finishing.

23/05 – HIGHWAYS WORKS: GREAT NORTH ROAD-PIT LANE

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – Explained the changes to the junction of Pit Lane with Great North Road, including the installation of bollards south of the bus stop and the narrowing of the carriageway to increase sight lines from Pit Lane. The changes were associated with the housing development off Pit Lane.

ELECTOR – Bus drivers can't leave [the bus stop area] without reversing or avoiding it altogether [because of the bollards].

ELECTOR – the road is really narrow and the double yellow lines haven't been extended far enough.

Proposed by Cllr J A Crossley

Seconded by E Todd

RESOLVED by unanimous vote that the Parish Meeting recommends to the Parish Council that it assesses the improvements to the junction at Pit Lane, with a view as to whether it is satisfactory.

ELECTOR – Drivers exiting Pit Lane seem to think that they have the right of way; perhaps due to the bollards and the narrowing of Great North Road.

ELECTOR – Surely the junction road markings indicate that vehicles have to stop?

Proposed by C Boothroyd

Seconded by P Meir

RESOLVED by unanimous vote that the Parish Meeting recommends to the Parish Council that it assesses the signage and road markings on the Barratt development.

ELECTOR – Commented that there was no point narrowing Great North Road to create a footpath on the west side around the double bend, when the New Path suffices to connect new developments to existing footways.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY - It will allow Leeds City Council to create a 20mph limit zone around the school.

ELECTOR – Other roads near schools already have 20mph limits without narrowing the road.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY –The Great North Road is a distributor road and there are different rules about speed limits.

ELECTOR - Aberford Road near the Aagrah is a distributor road but it has a 20mph speed limit during school times.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – The Parish Council asked [Leeds City Council] for a 20mph speed limit around the school during school opening times.

ELECTOR – The road markings outside the school are designed to help keep people safe, but parents' park on them.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – Anticipated that this time next year [May 2024] the new footpath would be under construction.

23/06 – COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

CLLR J A CROSSLEY - Informed the meeting that the Parish Council had so far received £393,927.60 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and had spent £4,395.27 on the height restriction barrier and CIL consultation costs. The Parish Council was now in the process of putting some of the money into two bonds, so it would earn interest. After the consultation analysis, the Parish Council had discounted proposed five schemes as they had more opposition than support from consultees.

There were around 20 projects which had roughly double the amount support as opposition. Whilst some of these could not be delivered quickly, about five of them could be delivered relatively quickly. Others required more planning e.g. cycleways and traffic calming. There was little support for building a new community hall instead of using an existing building, like the Old Fire Station. The V.A.S.E project had generated a large number of 'no opinion' responses, but it wasn't known if this represented true indifference or a lack of information to make an opinion. The meeting discussed the possibility of having CCTV, including the cost, location, reasons, legal requirements.

23/07 – COUNTRYSIDE FOOTPATHS: SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – The Parish Council had been given one suggestion of a countryside footpath [a path that was neither a highways footway nor a public right of way] that could be improved, but were there others that those present thought should be improved?

ELECTOR – If you improve one you open yourself up to having to improve others

ELECTOR - Footpaths through the woods are also used by motorbikes, which is unsafe. There is little you can do to restrict their access, as anything that helps disabled access will allow bikes through. Countryside paths are mud paths – that is the nature of them.

ELECTOR - The Parish Council shouldn't be improving these paths

ELECTOR - The area around the culvert [on the footpath that follows the line of the old A1 from footpath no. 11 towards footpath no. 2] can be a safety problem in winter

ELECTOR – People have been led to believe by social media posts that there is an obligation for certain parties to keep the paths better surfaced.

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – Is [the belief that some footpaths should be surfaced] because they're located near housing and therefore associated with a better quality, 'proper' path rather than an informal country walk?

ELECTORS – Agreed that this could be the case.

ELECTOR - That length of the old carriageway shouldn't have been opened up as it's too closed to the re-aligned motorway.

ELECTOR – The other part of the old carriageway to the south of the village doesn't get a surface refurbishment.

23/08 – LEVEL CROSSING CLOSURES

CLLR J A CROSSLEY – Explained that the closures of Peckfield level crossing and Highroyd Woods level crossing had been added to Network Rail's Transport Works Act Order as part of the same scheme within the Transpennine Route Upgrade.

23/09 - PECKFIELD LANDFILL SITE

ELECTOR – Reported that the site was still tipping materials that were supposed to be inert. The stuff used for cover is odorous – it's still waste but it's been processed into very small pieces. The lorries entering the site look like they contain more than soil. The site should have shut three years ago (in 2020 with the remediation completed by 2022). There was no evidence of an extension to the planning approval. The eastern neb won't be completed in accordance with the plan. It's not known when the site will eventually close.

23/10 – NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Proposed by J A Crossley

Seconded by P Meir

RESOLVED by unanimous vote to hold the next annual parish meeting between the last Thursday in April and the last Thursday in May.

The meeting closed at 9.47pm.

Signed

(chairman)

Date:

Joanne Hebden, Clerk and RFO
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(Sole Trustee of Micklefield Recreation Ground Charity)

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