

## KIRKBY MALZEARD, LAVERTON AND DALLOWGILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Annex Room of the Mechanics Institute on Monday April 24 at 7.15pm

Present: Parish Councillors Howard Mountain (Chair), Mike Hurford (Vice-Chair), Gwyneth Jackson, John Peacock, Geoff Lobley, Ruth Broadley, Linda Johns (Clerk), Clive Robson (Mechanics Institute), Richard Lockey, Peter Cooper and Annabel Andrew (Highside Playfields Assoc), Pippa Manson (Kirkby in Bloom), Claire Walker (WI), PCSO Sharon Wilson and colleague (Police) and 4 members of the public.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the apologies for Cllr Gerry Mass, Cllr Margaret Atkinson, John Collins, Rachel Mountain and Paul Burgess.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2016 were confirmed as an accurate account of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising: There were no matters arising

4. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report: The chairman gave his report to the meeting highlighting the changes in the personnel of the Parish council since the last meeting, the change in Chair and the introduction of the new Clerk. He reported that the Council were now taking greater responsibility for the Children's Play Area and also explained alterations in the way support grants from the precept are to be allocated and that the number of groups receiving funding will widen. The chair stated that it is one of the main roles of the Parish Council to help sustain local amenities and businesses in the parish and that one way to do this was to encourage housing growth. The council would therefore try to support applications for smaller developments with elements of affordable housing designed for younger people within the community, and he explained that Cllr Hurford was also leading a community led housing initiative. The chair went on to say that the Parish Council was considering creating a Neighbourhood plan which would give the council greater control over the nature and location of housing developments within the parish (full report is available from the clerk).

5. Mechanics Institute Annual Report: The report for the Mechanics was given by Clive Robson (Joint Chair of MIVH). The Mechanics has had a busy year but needed to keep the public aware of the cost and effort of keeping the Mechanics a welcoming and pleasant place to use. The Trustees thanked the Parish Council for their financial support during the year. The cost of improving the entrance, reading room and bar area were outlined and that due to the cost, this would be a medium-term goal. Funds are being raised and grants were being pursued, as well as looking at other funding methods (full report and accounts available from the clerk).

6. Highside Playing Fields Association Annual Report: A report was given by Richard Lockey (Chair of HPFA) highlighting the success of the Junior Football initiative with 60 children involved and up to 100 when visiting teams play. He went on to say that there would be two senior football teams this year which included players from the villages. Bowls continued to go well with 3 new members but that they were still looking for more. There would be a cricket team this year but that it was in need of young blood. There are 40 children joining the Junior Tennis which starts on 26 April. The main concerns for the Highside Playing Fields are financial, as the grant for grass cutting will be lost shortly at a cost of £1600 per year. They have arranged a meeting with Head of Parks at Harrogate council to discuss the situation and have approached the Parish Council about raising the precept and taking on the full cost and legal responsibility of the children's play area.

7. Kirkby in Bloom Annual Report: A report was given by Pippa Mason who explained that the competition was not just about flowers but incorporated the whole environment of the village including green areas and that last year Kirkby Malzeard won gold and best in category. Pippa went on to explain that being involved in the competition makes the village a nice place to live. Judging for this year's competition took place earlier in the month and judges will be visiting again in July, and that Harrogate council kindly swept the street and volunteers went around and cleaned up. Thanks, were given to the school children, volunteers and the Parish Council for their support. The Kirkby in Bloom group also hope to erect a heritage board describing the history of the village in the near future.

8. Flower and Produce Show Annual Report: The Chair read out a report from Rachel Mountain (Secretary of KMF&P) highlighting that while last year's May Day plant stall had been affected by rain and had to be moved indoors at the last moment, it went well and raised funds to support the running of the Show. The Show itself was very successful with people entering after a period of absence and also a number of new entrants, together with an increase in the number of children entering the competition. A thank you for all the supporters was given without whom the show would not be possible. The date for the next show is September 2nd 2017.

9. Kirkby Malzeard W.I. Annual Report: A report was given by Claire Walker (President of WI) highlighting that the group currently had 38 members having sadly lost a few last year and also having gained some new ones. They continue to hold monthly meetings with various activities including hosting the Skelldale walk and a fashion show. The WI hosted a party for the Queens 90th birthday which was attended by 60 people and also celebrated their own birthday. Claire went on to explain that the WI is financially sound.

10. Harrogate Borough Council Annual Report: A written report was submitted by District Cllr Margaret Atkinson and read out by Linda Johns. The report explained the role of Cllr Atkinson within Harrogate council and highlighted campaigns like "Scores on Doors", anti-fly tipping and dog fouling campaigns and free cycle security events. The council are on track to move into new offices which should have a saving of £1m per year. The 'Sites and Policies Plan' was rejected by the Inspectorate so the council are working on a new one. New housing is being built on Council owned land within the District and improvements to the existing housing stock are also going ahead. Finally following a review of the district wards the Kirkby Malzeard Ward will no longer exist, with this parish becoming part of the Masham and Kirkby Malzeard Ward. (full report available from the clerk).

11. North Yorkshire County Council Annual Report: A written report was submitted by County Cllr Atkinson and read out by Cllr Hurford. NYCC is having a difficult time financially and as well as making savings there had been a rise in Council tax with an extra 2% ring fenced for 'Extra Social Care Services' There was also a need for service cuts resulting in staff reductions in libraries. The council has taken over the running of 20 Household Waste recycling centres. The Council has been successful in gaining more funding from government for road repairs. North Yorkshire schools are among the best in the country and extra money has been given to create more school places and to carry out more school repairs. North Yorkshire also has one of the best Social Care systems in the UK. (full report is available from the clerk)

12. Police Liaison Officer Report: PCSO Sharon Wilson submitted a written report and spoke to the meeting. She highlighted that we live in a very safe, relatively crime free area with only 9 crimes reported in the last month within the area for which she is responsible, which includes the areas of Galphay and North Stainley, as well as our Parish. While no burglaries had been reported she advised that people make sure windows and doors are locked during the coming summer months as there is generally an increase in opportunist burglaries during this time. The police have recently launched a North Yorkshire Community Message App via the app store to keep people updated on police related matters. PCSO Wilson informed the meeting that the police are looking for community volunteers and those interested should get in touch. (full report available from the clerk)

13. Highside Singers Annual Report: A written report was submitted by Ruth Verity and read out by the Chairman. The group now has 35 singers who meet every Tuesday in the Methodist chapel. They have performed several concerts and entered the Wensleydale Tournament of Song. They have 3 more concerts booked including one at the Mechanics Institute of 9th June 2017. The current Musical director Keith Dale is leaving but they are in the process of recruiting a new one. (full report available from the clerk)

14. Community Website – Kirkby Malzeard Area Guide: A report was provided and read out by the Chairman. The community website has been running for just over a year and has had 5900 visits. The overall response to the site has been favourable but contributions from residents has been limited. Unfortunately, an old Kirkby Malzeard website is still available on line, giving out incorrect and out-of-date information and action to have this removed is needed.

15. Nidderdale AONB Annual Report A written report was submitted by Paul Burgess (the AONB area officer) and highlights were read out by the Chairman. Information was given about new signs and information points erected in the Nidderdale Area and about a 3 year Wild Watch project. AONB staff have joined forces with the National Trust on a programme of work in the Skell catchment area to reduce flooding in conjunction with local farmers and landowners. The AONB was awarded a grant from DEFRA to work with farmers to produce combined business and environmental plans and further funding has now been received from the Prince's Countryside Fund. (full report from the clerk or their website)

16. AOB, Public comment and Questions: Cllr Mike Hurford gave a vote of thanks to Chairman Howard Mountain for covering the role of both Chairman and Clerk for the Parish Council over the last few months. No questions or comments were received from the public.

The meeting closed at 8.06pm.