

Bramham cum Oglethorpe

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at 7 pm on 16 May 2023 at the Bramham Pavilion

In attendance 11 residents and the Parish Council Clerk. Cllr M Corrigan chaired the meeting.

Cllr M Corrigan opened the meeting and welcomed the residents in attendance. He said the council had hoped that the meeting would be held in the new Parish Centre but this had not yet opened. Cllr M Corrigan thanked Cllr H Buck for compiling the annual newsletter and all those who contributed to it. He noted that the newsletter had been published on the council's website.

1. The minutes of the Parish Meeting on 28 May 2022 were received.
2. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr Richards
3. **Annual Crime Report.** It was noted that monthly crime updates are included in the Council minutes. Residents were reminded that they can attend the monthly PACT meeting which is attended by the police and Wetherby Ward councilors. Bramham remains a low crime area and crime across the Wetherby Ward has reduced over the last 3 months. The police have stressed that all incidents should be reported to assist them in allocating resources appropriately.
4. **Bramham Parish Centre** Cllr M Tozer presented an update on the Parish Centre redevelopment. In particular:
 - APT Constructions were appointed as the sole contractors and started work at the site on 5 September 2022.
 - There have been some delays due to the need to remove the concrete slab that the old building was built on, the need to obtain a Licence from the Environment Agency for scaffolding by the Beck, poor weather and issues with the drainage connection.
 - The building, and the hard landscaping, is of a high standard.
 - The initial budget was £111,017. Following some changes to the design, including the hard landscaping, the budget was increased to £126,500. The project is likely to be £2,500 over budget which the council considers is a good outcome in current economic climate, in particular the increase on the cost of building materials.
 - The Parish Centre will be open to all residents from 9 am to 5 pm and can be booked, free of charge, by community groups in the evenings.

A resident raised the following question:

Q Drainage – should the architect have not sorted drainage issue before the building work started

A Initially the drainage connection was going to go via Lavender House. However, it was discovered that there was a covenant relating to the Beck running through this property which was going to cause legal issues which would be costly to resolve. The revised connection is only 1.5 m from the edge of the road so Highways will only need to close one side of carriageway during the connection works.

5. **The Annual Report** from the Chair of the Parish Council, as published in the Annual Newsletter, was received. Cllr M Corrigan highlighted 4 issues:

- To avoid further incursions on to the playing field, the council has placed stones around the field and installed a height restriction barrier at the entrance to the carpark. CCTV monitoring of the carpark is in use. Cllr Prest was thanked for obtaining the stones free of charge. LCC are able to move one of the stones to access the field in order to cut the grass.
- Bramham House development. Just before the previous planning permission expired in early 2023 the developers started tree works and demolition work on the site. The developers are in the process of submitting a revised planning application but the council does not have any further information beyond which was shown at the consultation open day. The application will be considered by the council as soon as it is received from LCC.
- Post Office & Shop. There has been a lot of speculation in the village about the possible closure of the shop and Post Office. The council has kept in contact with owners of the premises and the Post Office. There was a backup plan for an outreach Post Office if the Post Office did close. The shop has re-opened and the Post Office is due to reopen shortly.
- Parish Centre. Councillors plan to hold surgeries in the evening so residents can raise any issues with them.

6. Presentations from community groups

- Village Hall Committee. Stewart Gibson, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, noted that a report from the Village Hall was included in the Annual Newsletter. Hethanked the Bramham residents for their support over the last year. Maintenance work had been undertaken at the Hall, including installing a new cooker. The Village Hall has changed its legal status of the charity to a CIO. The Hall now acts as a Village Hub on Mondays which provides a space for all residents to meet in a warm environment.
- Neil Ferres of the Historic Asset Conservation Group provided an update on the group's work.
 - The group want to tie together the information about the Percy cross and Battle of Bramham Moor. A faculty or Licence will be required to put a display board in the church yard and it is unlikely this will be granted. The group are keen to install the old display board in the village. The British Library have scanned the old display and this can be used to produce a graphic display. An A0 sized display will be installed in the Village Hall and the Parish Centre and the image can be used in other documents. Anne Palmer is producing a publication about the history of the Percy Cross and the Battle of Bramham Moor which can be distributed around the village.
 - Sharon Green, stone mason, Chair Person of National Association of Stone Masons has agreed to produce an information stone to go with Percy's cross.
 - Digitization of the Church Yard. Atlantic Geographics Ltd have surveyed the church yard memorials. This has been funded by the Community Fund to survey the church yard. The aim is to put the details of all gravestones on line. There are 6000 names in the burial records but only a fraction have memorials in the churchyard.

7. Matters to be raised by the Electorate

A resident thanked the council for arranging the coronation event which was enjoyed by many residents.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 pm