



Bishop Middleham
& Mainsforth

Conserving our Past Building on our Future

Minutes of the PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY of Bishop Middleham and Mainsforth Parish Council held Wednesday 8th May 2019 at 6.00 p.m. in the Village Hall Bishop Middleham.

Present: -

Chairman	Cllr. Harvey Neve also
Cllrs.	Nicola Dexter, Vic Cooke, David Hardy;
Durham County Council	Cllr. Pauline Crathorne (DCC)
Acting Clerk	Mrs. Maxine Robinson – see below

Also in attendance: - The Chairman, having awaited arrival of any members of the public, opened the meeting at 6.20 p.m. No members of the public present. The Chairman asked that Mrs. Maxine Robinson stand in in for the acting clerk who wished to be recorded with an apology for lateness? All agreed with this temporary arrangement. He went on to welcome Cllr Pauline Crathorne, local member of Durham County Councillor.

- 1. Apologies:** - Came from - Cllrs. Jane. Brownlee, Michelle MacCallam, Geoff Turner and Durham Constabulary. Also, Acting Clerk John Robinson for lateness.
- 2. Notice of meeting:** - It was moved Cllr. H. Neve that the meeting be opened.
- 3. Declaration of Interest:** - None declared.
- 4. Annual Report** – The Chairman, Cllr Harvey Neve, reflected on the past year.
 - The beginning of the year saw the resignation of Rachel ?????, whose position to date had not been filled. He thanked her on behalf of the council for her contributions, especially towards the village fireworks.
 - As well as the usual village events, a wedding event at the church, ran as a result of Prince Harry & Megan's wedding had been both interesting and well supported. Children had written to the happy couple and received a reply.
 - Cllr Dexter, along with others had worked hard at planting up areas and this had been paid off with lovely displays. (Rachael was noted to be happy to do more to assist in the project over the next couple of years.)
 - The youth club had almost folded, but 1 session still remained.
 - Cllr. Vic Cooke had overseen the football sessions and the pitches are now well used, increasing from 1 to 3 teams, well supported.
 - Past and present event calendar had been well received and had become an important part of village life.
 - A recent Brightwater event demonstrated their desire to invest in the built and natural environment to benefit the community – to look upon with pride.
 - The council had supported village clubs through the village hall. There had been good engagement and the hall had done well. There were arts, crafts supported and money invested widely in the village hall without an increase in residents' council tax.

- i. Cllr. Pauline Crathorne had been supported the parish well. He thanked her for her contributions.
 - j. Cllr Neve expressed wishes of support to the clerk, Mr. Paul Gray and hoped that his treatment would be successful. He also thanked Mr. John Robinson for standing in for Paul, but also for his help and support to the council and himself as chairmen.
 - k. Cllr Neve reflected on the privilege it has been to be part of the successful (council) team who are committed to the serve the community. Cllr Neve had been happy to 'do his bit' and to support the community.
 - l. Thanks were made to Thompson's and the accessibility to grants from the quarry. He advised that he will write to pass on these thanks, as well as to make known how monies had been spent.
 - m. The Chairman reminded members that the council had taken a decision some time ago, when the LCTC Grant was advised to be decreasing, that a calculation had been made on the anticipated requirements for the community in coming years. From this an increase had been made in the Precept. No further precept increases had occurred and the council had managed to support the community on allocated budget, for which they should be proud. He also noted that the building of new houses had assisted in this, but, that there may come a time when an increase would be required to continue to support the community in the same way.
- 5. Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Assembly** – Cllr Dexter had taken the minutes due to the clerk's illness and these had been previously circulated. Minutes were therefore taken as read.
- 6. Audited Parish Council Accounts for 2017/18** – had been circulated and the appropriate details made public on the parish noticeboard during the specified periods. Council had accepted these and there were no further comments. Accounts received.
- 7. Annual Report from Cllr Crathorne (DCC) –**
Cllr Crathorne advised on the continued austerity which DCC had faced, savings of over £240m with more still to follow. She went on to advise on the County Durham Plan; County Records Office, the DLI and Registry Office; The new county council offices which will free up the current site for development and the creation of 6,000 new jobs; the continuation of front line services, despite the council savings; the commitment for DCC to address climate change with a report coming back to council to work towards it being carbon neutral by 2050.
Cllr Crathorne advised o her community work and support through her Neighbourhood Budget, including youth clubs going to a Christmas ice rink event; Bishop Middleham Village Hall heating improvements; St. Michael's Church project which benefitted the whole community; The Parish Council's Skateboard Park. Cllr Crathorne had been pleased that groups in the village had come forward with good projects which she was able to support and thanked members for their continued support too. A copy of the report was placed on record.
It was noted that the lighting project needed to be applied for.
Cllr Neve thanked Cllr Crathorne for her support and was appreciative of her division of finances between the two communities she represents.
- 8. Durham Constabulary Report** – apologies had been sent, but the Chairman wished it be recorded the Council's appreciation to PCSO Mary and the policing team.
- 9. Members of the Public opportunity to raise questions :-** There had been no questions received and no members of the public present.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

Signed

Date