

Evenwood & Barony

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON

TUESDAY 8 MAY 2018

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: B. Nicholson

R. Webb

P. Townsend

J. Sewell

M. Clark (Clerk)

B. Maude

R. Spraggon

A. Lyons

M. Prince

Visitors: M. Paul (Teesdale Mercury), County Cllr Heather Smith

1. CHAIR OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO PRESIDE:

Cllr Nicholson took the chair and opened the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were tendered for Cllr Donovan (holiday). No apologies were tendered by Cllr English

3. EVENWOOD & BARONY PARISH CO CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Cllr Nicholson read out her report to the meeting.

Although this seems to have been a quiet year, we have been busy working on planned events that are taking place later this year.

The most important being the Centenary to honour our fallen soldiers of the first world war. We started this journey way back in 2011 with the first Remembrance Service at the memorial at Devonshire Place, and it is with thanks to both schools that this has now become part of their calendar of events for the school year.

Now in 2018 to mark this historic and moving event, the Parish Council have commissioned a piece sculpture, which will embrace the original memorial stone. This will show our respect and eternal gratitude to those in our Barony who never returned to their homes and loved ones.

It has been designed by Joe Said who has already been busy working on what will be a unique piece of sculpture. He will be getting together with some of the children from both schools to produce their own poppy that will form part of the sculpture. So, keep the 9th November in your diary as lots more will be happening on that day. Many thanks to the memorial committee for all their input and ideas.

Having more Christmas lights in the village has always been on our wish list. Following on from having a Christmas Tree for the last two years at the Community Centre, we are planning additional seasonal lighting within the village. Martin has working on this project so look out for updates.

We visited Windmill in December and had our meeting in the lovely chapel. We would love to come again, maybe in the summer months. You made us most welcome and we did

appreciate that. It is nice to make other villages of the Barony part of our meetings. Thank you to all who made it possible. We will be installing two benches shortly.

Our village needs a regular litter picker. We only notice now what a good job David Place did. The amount of litter is getting worse. If it is an offence to drop litter then we need to find out how we can enforce it. Same with the dog fouling. We need to name and shame the culprits.

Anti Social Behaviour is becoming ever more an issue at various hot spots in the village. Police meeting is a priority. In September Ron Hogg came to talk to residents regarding ASB - three residents, two parish councillors and one Member of Parliament attended. If people don't turn up then we won't get the help.

Site visits and walking around the village needs to be put back on the agenda. This where we can identify problems, before they get covered in tarmac.

Myself and the Clerk did this and we were surprised by the number of people who just stopped for a chat or to report a problem. I remember saying at my first meeting as Chair that we are councillors all of the time not just for the first Tuesday of the month.

Very sad to hear of the death of Roy Proud. We are sitting in the Hall where Roy spent many working hours. He was most supportive of the Parish Council and this village will miss him.

Many thanks to all members for your time and commitment to our council over this last year. As I always say we are volunteers doing an excellent job and don't often get the thanks that are deserved.

Our Clerk Martin is appreciated for the work he carries out for us.

4. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT:

Cllr Heather Smith went through her report:

In May last year I was delighted to be re-elected but disappointed that my hard-working colleague Andy Turner was not. Councillor Hugill and I have collaborated on several projects over the year but as we serve on none of the same committees we only meet at full council or TAP meetings.

The year has been difficult after breaking my leg in September and my still-ongoing recovery has been long, painful and has severely cramped my style. Being in hospital I missed the event of the year in Evenwood, the Victorian Fair to celebrate 150 years of St. Paul's Church, but my husband stepped in and ran my honey stall.

The committees I serve on are: -

- Vice-chair of Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Vice-chair of Corporate Parenting Panel
- Adult Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
- The Adoption Panel
- Substitute member of the Police and Crime Panel
- Substitute member of South and West Planning Committee
- Teesdale Action Partnership Board member
- Teesdale Village Hall Consortium Board member
- School Governor at Woodland Primary School and Butterknowle Primary School.

- Chair of Virtual School Sub-Group (overseeing the education of the 800 children in care across the county)

Until February 2018 I was a governor at Ramshaw School but had too many commitments so gave this one up.

Funding

The TAP Neighbourhood Budget and Member's small grants fund have been merged this year for ease of administration.

- Together with Councillor Hugill we paid for 20mph signs on Oaks Bank to try to slow traffic past Ramshaw School.
- We have also donated £4000 to Evenwood School for their new outdoor play equipment
- I have tried to ensure that funding goes to projects in all the communities in the Evenwood Division. In the last year this includes
 - Cockfield Primary School for an outdoor play house,
 - Butterknowle School for a visit by a band in the Durham brass festival
 - Hamsterley Hoppings Committee for new tables
 - St. Helen Auckland Girl Guides for new camping equipment (there is no guide company in Evenwood Division so local girls tend to join the S. Helens group)
 - Toft Hill Village Hall for new kitchen (with Councillor Hugill)
 - St. Cuthbert's Church, Etherley for chairs and audio-visual equipment for the Mother and Toddler Group and the Lunch Club (ditto)

In Evenwood I nominated the Cornerstone Sensory Garden for a County Durham Environment Award, and from a strong field of 6 they were winners.

Local residents have contacted me about various issues including litter, dog-fouling, planning applications and fly-tipping. The pot holes in the unadopted roads in Evenwood are a major concern to residents. The County Council has offered free road planings but cannot offer the labour to spread them.

Anti-social behaviour is also an issue that people have spoken to me about, especially at the Kay's Hall Farm site. I have encouraged residents to report anti-social acts that they witness because the local police say they receive very few reports from Evenwood and unless anti-social behaviour is logged they cannot arrange for extra resources to deal with it. Local people say they see little point in reporting it as police action is inadequate. Some are also scared of reprisals. It's a Catch 22!

In September PCVC Ron Hogg spent a day in Teesdale and I invited him to Evenwood to meet residents and talk about these issues. Unfortunately, I broke my leg 3 days before and couldn't attend.

The PACT meetings which are held with the local police in the Randolph Community Centre are usually in a morning and on the occasions when I have gone I have been the only person not wearing a police uniform. I have therefore requested that a PACT meeting is held on an evening as a trial, so that people who work can attend. The first one is next week on Wednesday 16th May at 6pm. This unfortunately clashes with the TAP Board meeting so I won't be there, but I hope it is better attended than the morning meetings have been! It is only by residents speaking up that police will appreciate the strength of local concerns.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

No members of the public were present.

6. MEETING CLOSED

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