

Waddington Parish Council

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Please find below the minutes of the AGM of Waddington Parish Council

Date: Monday 9th May 2016
Venue: The Village Club
Time: 7.00pm

1. Present:

Councillor Doug Parker, Councillor Liz Haworth, Councillor Michael Colley, Councillor John Hilton, Councillor Gil Fisher, Councillor Paul Elms (RVBC)

Apologies: Councillor Roy Edmondson

Members of the public: Mr Foley, Mrs Foley, Mr Backhouse, Mr Heywood.

In attendance: Natalie Cox, Clerk

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last AGM in 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Doug Parker, as a true record of events.

3. Matter's arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last AGM that were not covered in the two following reports.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's Report was given by Chairman, Councillor Doug Parker (see Appendix 1)

5. Financial Report

5.1 The Financial Report was given by the Clerk Natalie Cox for the year ending 31st March 2015 (see Appendix 2).

5.2 The unaudited profit/loss accounts were presented to the meeting.

5.3 The accounts as presented were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Doug Parker.

6. Question and Answer Session

6.1 Mr Foley Question: Best Kept Village Competition.

In reference to the Best Kept Village Competition, Mr Foley said he and James Pickard had been paid to "blitz" the village in 2015 and by coincidence that had happened to be on the day before the judges had visited.

He asked who the alleyway between Queensway and the main road belonged to and who has responsibility for it as the surface is unsafe.

Mr Foley also asked who had responsibility for the fence/hedge behind the lay-by at the Clitheroe entrance to the village.

He added that all these issues he mentioned get penalised by the judges of the Best Kept Village Competition.

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Action: LH mentioned the parish clean-up which was to take place on Tuesday, May 10th which would, as a result of the comments made, look at the gravel on the pavements following the recent resurfacing work; trimming the vegetation round road signs to make them more visible etc.

6.2 Mr Foley Question: St Helen's Churchyard

Mr Foley asked whether St Helen's church had considered instating a wild flower area in the churchyard which would need strimming, spraying and then sowing with British native flowers.

Action: Mr Foley to contact St Helen's Church with his suggestion.

6.3 Councillor Paul Elms Question: Waddington Duck Race

Councillor Paul Elms asked what had happened to the money raised at the 2015 Waddington Duck Race as nothing has been posted on their website. He also added that the website does not contain any information about this year's event.

Action: NC to make inquiries via the Duck Race website.

6.4 Mr Backhouse Question: Planning for the Outbarn

Mr Backhouse asked that his prepared statement (which follows) be recorded in the minutes of the meeting:

"As a Parish Council you know that we currently have a planning application being considered by RVBC.

We would like you to know that we will readily accept the decision of the relevant planning authorities as our planning application progresses.

However, there are a group of people in the area who are determined to use any means, lawful or otherwise, to frustrate and compromise our business and hinder our planning application. We have been the subject of criminal damage and theft. Yesterday afternoon, Jane and I spent some time at the police station in Clitheroe to sort this matter out with one of the perpetrators, we are not talking about children here but mature, seemingly well-educated middle aged people. This person, who will remain nameless, disclosed to us that there was a "campaign group" against us, and he no longer wanted to be part of it.

Chairman, I do know the names of the other members of this group and it saddens me to think that these people will stoop to such low levels in order to compromise our planning application, and I would like you as Parish Council to disassociate yourselves from this kind of activity – to help send a message to the community.

On a more general theme, I would like the Parish Councillors to reassure themselves that all declarations of interest have been made at the appropriate times and none of you are biased or un-objective towards me, my family or our application."

DP responded by saying that parish council's objection was based on the condition of the access road to the venue and that that position had not changed. He also referred to the letter sent to RVBC by Bashall Eaves and Great Mitton Parish Council.

Mr Backhouse said the same access road had always been used by his business and that as part of the current application a Road Traffic Management survey had been carried out over a period of three to four weeks. He added that his plans to create a short vehicular circuit had created a "raft of complaints" and that Waddington Parish Council had never commented previously on applications. Mr Backhouse then made a personal comment about a member of the parish council.

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GF said that JH had joined Waddington Parish Council after the decision had been made and that the parish council had behaved correctly.

LH said the decision that had been presented to RVBC had been one that all councillors had agreed on and it was the noise and traffic that the parish council had taken into consideration and that it had been honest and fair in the process.

She added that the parish council's objection was based on the route to the business and not the venue itself as members believed the lane is not suitable for the traffic it is expected to sustain. She noted that the parish council had taken residents' comments on board and the views put forward to RVBC represented those of the community.

Mr Backhouse said a one-way system is in place for traffic, but historically vehicles have always come via Waddington. He hoped holding up to 40 weddings per year at his site would bring business back to where it had been some eight years ago.

Decision: It was noted that Waddington Parish Council dissociates itself from any criminal or unlawful activity and at all times its decisions have been made appropriately.

6.5 Mr Foley Question: New housing plans

Mr Foley referred to plans to build near Waddow Hall he is concerned that this would lead to Waddington becoming a "rat run". He has previously asked LCC to reduce the speed limit on the main road into Waddington to 40mph.

The meeting closed at 7.42pm