

Shirland and Higham Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held at Stonebroom Pavilion, Monday 18th March 2019 at 7pm.

Councillors Present: Mr B Barnes (Chair), Mrs H Liggett, Mr A Lomax,
Ms S Smith and Mr D Williamson.

In Attendance: Helen Dowson (Clerk & RFO), District Cllr C Cupit and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies For Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Davies, Cllr Epton, Cllr Lewis and Cllr Williams.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2018

The minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Chairman's Report

Cllr Barry Barnes reported that the year March 2018 to March 2019 has been another busy year for Shirland & Higham Parish Council.

Parishioners have showed an interest in Parish matters, particularly those of planning, by attending the regular meetings.

In April 2018 Helen Dowson joined the Council as part-time Clerk and Financial Officer and in November Helen was successful in gaining her CiLCA qualification.

During the summer the Parish Council purchased four noticeboards which are located in prominent positions in the four villages of the parish, Council agendas and minutes along with other information is displayed in the boards.

During late October over 200 poppies were obtained from the British Legion in return for a donation by the Parish Council and displayed on lamp columns throughout the parish to commemorate the end of the World War 100 years ago. Many compliments were received from Parishioners regarding the poppies and some residents provided donations towards the cost of the poppies.

On the morning of the 11th November 2018 Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk attended centenary remembrance services at St Peters Church Stonebroom and St Leonards Church Shirland. Wreaths were laid to remember the fallen and the animals that lost their lives. On the evening of the 11th November 2018 the Parish Council held Battles Over events at the two Churches, Battles Over was the international commemoration of the centenary of the end of the 1st World War. The events were very successful and well attended and at 7pm beacons were lit in both Churchyards which looked very impressive.

Work on the cemetery extension field to the rear of St Leonard's Church is due to begin shortly.

Shirland Village Hall is well attended and a wide range of activities take place there on a regular basis. Several groups have used the Hall for some years now.

The Youth Club in Stonebroom continues to be popular with various activities being well-attended, keeping young people occupied.

The BMX track at Mickley continues to be very well used. Mickley Hall has a new committee which is looking forward to encouraging groups to use the facility.

Cllr Barnes gave thanks to Santos Higham Farm for their hospitality throughout 2018 and also to Cllr Peter Allsop who stood down from the Parish Council last year.

4. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Cupit spoke about a year in which planning issues had continued to dominate, with residents coming together to express their views. Cllr Cupit mentioned that the Hallfield Gate development is now well underway and that progress is being made with a view to the vacant plots in the parish being brought back into use.

5. County Councillor's Report

No report received.

6. Fidler & Laverack Charities report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018.

The opening balance at 1st January 2018 was £1004,82 this was taking into account a cheque for £325 which was presented to Stonebroom School which has never been cashed.

Rents received during 2018 totalled £670 with 57 pence being paid in interest, the reserves at year end stood at £2000.39.

New and updated tenancy agreements are complete for two of the areas of land and one is currently being finalised. The charity returns for 2018 have all been submitted.

7. To consider any other Parish matter

No issues reported.