

Shirland and Higham Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Stonebroom
Pavilion Monday 21 March 2016

Present: Cllrs: B Barnes (Chair) Mr D Williamson, Mrs A Brown, Mrs Sue Smith, Mr S Jones.

In Attendance: Sally Plummer (Clerk/RFO), County Councillor B Lewis, 3 members of the public, 2 community support officers and one representative from DCC MultiAgency Team (MAT)

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies received and accepted from District Councillor C Cupitt and Assistant Clerk Tom Tait.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2015

The minutes were approved, proposed by Cllr S Davis, seconded by Cllr S Jones.

3. Police Items

PCSO Green read report for February 2016. A total of 15 crimes and 9 Nuisance incidents had taken place.

4. Chairman's Report

The year March 2015 to March 2016 has been a time of planning for change.

In 2015 Sally Plummer was appointed as Clerk to Parish Council with Dr Tom Tait relinquishing some of his working hours to her. Tom supports Sally in every aspect of the Clerk's role.

Parish Councillors are currently planning the new mining memorial, taking into consideration parishioners wishes. The memorial will be erected at Shirland, opposite the church, in the coming months.

Shirland Village Hall has had necessary repairs and will be further renovated in 2016 with the aim of attracting a wider range of activities there. From January this year children's dancing classes are held during each week, also additional school holiday activities. A new book lending club with coffee morning is up and running on Mondays. The other groups continue as they have for some time.

A new children's play area is currently being planned for Stonebroom.

As 2016 is HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday year volunteers from the Parish, under the initiative 'Clean for the Queen', are working to remove roadside and footpath litter and generally tidy up the worst areas. Councillors will discuss various other possibilities for the 90th birthday celebrations, such as planting a tree, or trees, within the graveyard extension field at Shirland.

The BMX track at Mickley continues to remain popular and was a good investment. The agency 'Extreme Wheels' are to work with Parish Council during

coming months to provide activities that will keep young people interested and occupied.

It is unfortunate that there has been a spate of anti-social behaviour within the parish. We are dealing with all the necessary agencies in an effort to overcome this problem. I would like to encourage parishioners to be proactive and to report such incidents to the police.

5. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Barnes reported that Grant Funding will cease over the next three years'. This will have an impact on the budget and will need to be considered when setting the precept for the next financial year.

6. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Barry Lewis reported that devolution continues to be a major factor at County Council level.

In spite of the recent, well publicised budget cuts a recent survey had shown that overall the public viewed the services provided by District Council to be of high quality.

7. Fiddler and Laverack Charities report and accounts for the year ended December 31st 2015.

A report was made on the three ancient charities and a statement of accounts to 31 December 2015 was presented. Two grants had been made in the year £100 to Shirland and Higham WI to assist with their Over 70's Annual Summer Event, and £200 to Shirland Parochial Church Council.