

Shirland and Higham Parish Council
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in Stonebroom Pavilion
Monday 20th March 2017, 19:00

Councillors Present: Mr B Barnes, Mr D Williamson, Ms Sue Smith, Mr P Allsop, Mr S Davies

Plus the Revd John Epton in his capacity of Trustee for the Fiddler and Laverack Charities.

In Attendance: Tom Tait (Assistant Clerk), Sally Plummer (Clerk/RFO) D Skinner (District Councillor) and eight members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr A Wild, District Cllr Cupit and County Cllr Lewis, Mr R Walker – Fiddler and Laverack

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2016.

Cllr Peter Allsop proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record, seconded by Cllr S Davies.

3. *Chairman's report*

The year March 2016 to March 2017 has been a busy time in Shirland & Higham Parish. Sally Plummer and Dr Tom Tait continued in their respective posts of part-time Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and part-time assistant Clerk. They share all aspects of the role.

Parish Councillors and District Councillors recently were privileged to be joined by Dennis Skinner MP in dedicating the mining memorial on the green at Shirland, opposite St Leonard's Church. They took the opportunity of presenting awards to members of the Shirland training band after listening to them play music to the people in attendance. It must be remembered what an important contribution the mining industry made to the Parish and the Council plans to further mark this.

Both Shirland Village Hall and Stonebroom Pavilion have undergone a maintenance programme and this will continue with an aim of attracting further activities.

Shirland Village Hall hosts a weekly children's dancing class, with additional school holiday activities offered by the dance teacher. A book swap club with coffee morning and craft workshop runs at the village hall on Mondays between 11 am and 1 pm. Several other groups continue as they have for some years now.

Following requests from a local group of First Responders a defibrillator has been purchased and donated to the Miner's Welfare.

In celebration of HM Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday year a seat was erected on the green at Shirland for the use of parishioners. The BMX track at Mickley continues to remain popular and was a good investment. The agency 'Extreme

Wheels' is working with Stonebroom Youth Club which runs on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. The various activities have been well-attended, and kept young people occupied over several months. The Parish Council is grateful to County Councillor Barry Lewis for his support through the Community Leadership Fund.

PCSO Garry Green, who worked within our Parish for approximately ten years, recently retired from the role. He worked tirelessly to tackle anti-social behaviour on our behalf. I would like to extend our good wishes to PCSO Green. It is important that parishioners are proactive in reporting all incidents to the police via the 101 helpline, which has recently been improved, or by dialling 999 in an emergency.

Looking to the next twelve months the Council will be planning for the Cemetery extension in field at to the rear of the existing site. It will take the opportunity to assess the provision of further facilities including a garden of remembrance.

Quotations are currently being sought to upgrade the current children's play area at Stonebroom. An additional defibrillator has been purchased to be sited at Stonebroom Methodist church and will be installed as soon as possible.

4. County Councillor's Report

No report was available

5. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Skinner presented his report in the Parish Meeting

6 Fiddler Laverack Charities

Reverend Margaret Jacques, Parish Rector, retired from her duties in May last year. A replacement Rector has not yet been appointed. Her retirement left a Trustee vacancy for the Fidler and Laverack Charities' managed by Parish Council. I am pleased to report that Reverend John Epton has agreed to take Reverend Jacques' place as a Trustee and he was welcomed by the Chairman.

The position with the Charities for the year ended 31 December 2016 is: Tenants have been contacted and notified of proposed increases in rent to take effect January 2017. Income for the year was £190. Parish Council chose to support the Higham & Shirland Women's Institute and to make a donation to St Leonard's Church in Shirland rather than erode limited funds.