

## **Minutes of the Preston under Scar Annual Village Meeting held via Zoom on 5 May 2021 at 6.00pm**

Nine residents attended the meeting, which was chaired by David Brooks, Chairman of the Parish Council.

### **1. Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting on 19 June 2019**

These were confirmed as a true record subject to the correction of Ben Knights' name in minute no 4.

### **2. Review of actions taken since the 2019 Village Meeting**

**Village Emergency Plan** – the preparation of the plan had been driven by the flooding events in 2019 but the proposed plan was designed to cover all types of emergencies. The Parish Council had met the Flood Resilience Team from North Yorkshire County Council, who had provided a template document for the Council to use. Although work had commenced, progress had been interrupted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

**Stanney Lease** – the Parish Council had met with Bolton Estates and had relinquished the Lease.

**Mill Hill/Moor Road verges** – the Mill Hill verges had been cut back by the Council this year without the Parish Council having to push for the work to be done. The Parish Council had held a site meeting with relevant County Council Officers as part of which they had walked the length of Moor Road. The County Officers had been surprised at the number of structures along the road and had agreed to talk to the Bolton Estate to determine who owned what. Extensive stretches of tarmac had also been discovered underneath vegetation which had encroached onto the road and which raised concerns about potential liability for any accidents which might occur as a result of the narrowing of the road surface. The Parish Council had recently drawn attention to the lack of progress in dealing with this and other issues raised at the meeting. As a result of this, the vegetation had now been scraped back and the road effectively widened which should result in the road being better able to deal with flood water. The Chairman also commented that he had also discovered a blocked culvert which the County Council had inspected earlier in the day, hopefully with a view to removing the blockage.

**RDC Consultation on Green Spaces** – Hillary Grisewood, Wendy McLachlan, John Green, Ben Knights and the Chairman had collated information about a number of areas which it was considered should be retained as formal Green Spaces. This had been submitted to Richmondshire District Council but, as yet, there appeared to have been no further progress on this initiative. The Chairman thanked the group for their work on the project.

**Cemetery** – the Parish Council had reviewed and updated the Cemetery Regulations. Councillors were aware of the poor condition of the bench and would consider at their next meeting a proposal use the bench from the west end of the village (currently being refurbished) to replace the cemetery bench.

### **3. Preston under Scar Village Trust**

David Ashforth updated the meeting on the Village Trust's current financial position. The fund currently stood at £2,563 and no grants had been awarded since the last village meeting. The Trust was in the process of changing its banking arrangements and once this had been completed it would be able to consider applications again.

### **4. Quarry Dust**

The meeting discussed ways of tackling the current level of dust emanating from the quarry. This problem had become increasingly worse over the last two years and had recently become very bad, with large particles of dust being deposited on cars and other outside items and which residents were also breathing in. The dust was not just being caused by blasting but was also visible when vehicles were moving around within the quarry and when crushing was taking place. This was attributed to piles of stone being higher than the bund around the quarry perimeter.

The Quarry Manager had acknowledged that there was a problem and had been endeavouring to address the issue but progress was slow and the current monitoring arrangements were considered inadequate. There was general agreement that the Parish Council should facilitate a face to face or Zoom meeting between residents and the Quarry Management to discuss these issues with a view to their amelioration and the introduction of more robust and reliable continuous monitoring arrangements.

### **5. Open Forum**

**Village Flagpole** – a question was raised about the village flagpole. The Chairman explained that the old wooden flagpole had to be removed as it had virtually rotted away at the base and was therefore unsafe. Subject to cost, the Parish Council would source and install a new one, but it would first be necessary to remove the Christmas tree stump which had been left in the hole for the flagpole and had so far proved impossible to remove. Ways of achieving its removal were currently being considered. The possibility of digging a new hole for the flagpole was raised and the installation of a new flagpole was supported. There was support for making permanent provision for both the flagpole and a village Christmas tree but further discussion of the potential locations would be required.

**Dead Tree Branches in The Stanney** – it was reported that there were a number of dead tree branches overhanging the footpaths through The Stanney. The Parish Council was asked if it would contact the Bolton Estate to request that the branches be removed in the interests of public safety once the trees were in leaf and it was easier to identify the dead branches.

The Chairman referred to his current efforts to secure the removal of a dead tree stump from Condenser Wood – it being in the Estate's own interests to remove such items for health and safety reasons.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those attending and closed the meeting at 18.45hrs.



