

BEDALE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN BEDALE HALL AT 7.00 p.m. ON 5th MAY 2015

PRESENT:

Chairman of the Town Council, Councillor Mrs C Mollard presided.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from: Councillor Capon & Mrs Reynolds

1) WELCOME, NOTICE OF MEETING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised the 'Notice of Meeting' had been posted appropriately.

2) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD 6 MAY 2014

The Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed.

3) CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor, Councillor Mollard, gave her report, a copy of which is attached.

4) COMMUNITY AWARD PRESENTATION

The Chairman referred to the fact that the award presentation was unusual in that two awards were being made rather than the customary one. The awards were to Councillors Megson and Dunning. Councillor Noone read the citation for Councillor Megson. Councillor Young read the citation for Councillor Dunning. Councillor Mollard presented each with a framed certificate and a bouquet. Copies of the citations are attached.

Councillors Megson and Dunning gave their thanks.

5) PRESENTATIONS FROM:

a) Dales-care: Michelle Sands-Mcleod

Ms Sands-Mcleod gave an outline of the work of the Dales-Care Centre. The centre was open for clients of retirement age five days a week and each day they served lunch to around 30 clients. The centre had also recently purchased a car which helped with bringing people to the centre and with the delivery of both hot and frozen 'meals on wheels' to those who benefit from this service.

b) Glebe House Surgery: Martin Baggaley Practice Manager

Mr Baggaley started his presentation by explaining how well Glebe House Surgery was 'coping' with the increased demand for its services. He explained that the population of the area served by the surgery was growing and this provided some challenges.

Glebe House surgery had around 9500 patients on roll. With people moving into the town and surrounding villages the number of patients registered had increased by 286 in the last 4 years. It was predicted that with the new house-building in the area the surgery may face an increase of 1,500 new patients over the next 10 years.

To accommodate the growth of patient numbers the Surgery may need to be extended and to employ more doctors and support staff. Mr Baggaley raised the question as to who might fund the extension.

He spoke of the difficulty in recruiting new GPs and new partners who would be willing to invest in the surgery building. The practice was facing the retirement of two partners in the next two years and there was a national shortage of new GP's. Bedale was an attractive place to live but since there was no dispensary in the surgery, returns to partners were lower than from other practices.

Mr Baggaley also stated that with the election and the potential changes to health policy the surgery may have to open at weekends which would allow the practice to see more patients. He said that the surgery was in a good position to meet future need, but needed help from local people and local town, district and county councillors.

He closed by thanking the Patient Group which acted as 'a critical friend' and had helped with things like the automatic front door to the surgery and improved parking.

- c) **North Yorkshire County Council – County Councillor John Weighell**
Councillor Weighell paid tribute to Mary Megson, who he stated was the only councillor who had come on to the council before him.

He spoke of the Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bar by-pass; its construction and its potential future effects on Bedale. Construction of the road was going well. The contractors appeared very keen to make a good impression and have been very good to deal with. Because of the good weather the initial groundwork was well ahead of schedule however the completion date remained set to be October 2016.

He stated that 90% of people surveyed were in favour of the road's construction and that the reason why the bypass scheme came to be top of North Yorkshire Highways priority list was the fact that its cost:benefit ratio

was very high. Most traffic using the current road passed through Bedale and it was hoped that because of this the new road would have a limited detrimental commercial effect on the retail businesses of Bedale. Councillor Weighell believed that the new road scheme should actually be beneficial to the town as there would be less commercial traffic passing through and this would promote a nicer shopping environment.

He stated that he hoped that the proximity of Bedale to the A1 and the new houses being built would bring new opportunities and he hoped to see new well paid jobs in Bedale. He concluded by re-stating that North Yorkshire County Council still has to make significant savings (£74m 30-35%) over the next 4 years. The County Council's key thrust in this programme was their Stronger Communities initiative where there was a greater dependence on volunteers. The Library service had taken the largest slice of the cuts compared to other services.

Bedale Community Minibus – Malcolm Bloor

Mr Bloor explained that Bedale Community Minibus became an independent charity in November 2014. It was established to serve the elderly, infirm and young people. The charity had a regular contract to take children from Bedale High School to a farm near Masham every Thursday. They had also been in consultation with NYCC to provide some local transport. They were now trialling a service bringing people from local villages into Bedale for the market and also on a Friday taking people to and from the market in Leyburn. The service relied on 30 volunteers. They charge fares and operate as a 'request service'.

6) QUESTIONS

- a) Cllr Pointon questioned Martin B about his statement relating to council engagement in the process of primary health care planning. It was agreed that greater engagement in discussion around healthcare provisions would be beneficial.
- b) Cllr Barningham commented that a part of the Community Infrastructure Levy was earmarked for healthcare facilities. He suggested that Glebe House Surgery might seek to be more involved with Hambleton District Council in the planning process for new developments. Martin Baggaley stated that their greatest challenge was recruitment. He also explained that it was difficult to predict what would happen with the Primary Health Care Trust structure over the next 10 years making it hard to make concrete plans.
John Weighill commented there were very complex politics around primary healthcare provision and that nationally CCGs were pushing for larger surgeries not smaller ones and so any plan for a surgery in Aiskew was unlikely.
- c) Mr William Hare asked Councillor Weighell about the remains of the Roman Villa recently discovered and excavated as a part of the bypass construction work. He wondered why the volunteers required for the dig were drawn only from

Newcastle University and questioned if the discovery of a significant roman villa should not be a boon for local tourism. Councillor Pointon stated that he had photos of when pupils from Bedale High School visited the site which he was to pass on to Bedale Museum. Councillor Weighell stated that the security of the site was important to protect it against future damage. He noted that most Roman sites are excavated, logged and covered for future generations and that by opening them up to tourism their value can be destroyed. Newcastle University were experts in local archaeology and were involved in investigating the Thornborough Henges not far from Bedale. The Bedale villa was not as deep as expected, there were no areas of intact mosaic floors with only a few fragments being discovered. He hoped that there may be a role for Bedale museum. Councillor Noone stated that most of the finds would go to York Museum because Bedale Museum did not have the appropriate accreditation. The finds may form a visiting exhibition and the local archaeological society gave a good presentation about the villa a few months ago and plan to do another once the finds have been processed. Apparently the villa was taken down by locals after the roman period as a source of building materials for other local projects.

The Meeting Closed at 8:10pm