

Laughton-en-le-Morthen Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting – 6th May 2014

Present: Councillors Mr T. Stanway (Chairman), Mr P. Lilleker (Vice Chairman), Mr K. Evason, Mrs J. Leaning, Mr P. Shackley, Mr S. Johnson, and Mr. Gourley (Clerk to the Council). In attendance: Four parishioners from Laughton-en-le-Morthen; P. Kenny, R. Thrower, H. Wright, A. Wright and Slade Hooton resident Simon McDonald. Apologies: Councillor Mrs. J. Robinson, PC Shaun Rhodes (Dinnington SNT) and Brookhouse resident, Mrs Sam Brooks.



The meeting was preceded by a presentation by Matt Finn, Community Protection Manager RMBC on the new Summary of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The law simplifies existing laws and gives Police and Borough Councils powers to deal with a range of antisocial issues (fly tipping, dog fouling, noise etc.), and gives powers to create and enforce Public Spaces Protection Orders and issue Community Protection Notices. Public spaces are defined by who has access to the land/property, not who owns the land/property therefore, a public nuisance issue on private land/property is within the scope of the new law. Mr. Finn made the point that the Borough Council need people to report issues via the “StreetPride” telephone number 01709 336003 or website <http://www3.rotherham.gov.uk/HighwaysReport/> in order to direct resources efficiently, according to the size or frequency of the problem.

Further details about the new law can be found at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted/data.htm>

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2013

Resolved: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Prop. Councillor Y Sec. Councillor X.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not already included on the agenda.

3. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed local residents to the meeting and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the members of the Parish Council for the voluntary work undertaken by them on behalf of the parish. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the Parish Council towards the team of volunteers who recently barrowed and spread 70 cubic metres of CushionFall in the playground and to those people that have tended the local planters during the past year. The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council had now been in existence for 19 years. After 10 years unstinting service Sam Brooks, Clerk to the PC, stepped down and Martin Gourley was appointed into the role in December 2013. Specific reference was made to several matters relating to the work of the Parish Council: For the 4th year the PC has set a budget that involved no increase in the precept it receives from parishioners via the Council Tax bill. The PC has entered into a 3 year contract with RMBC to maintain the football pitch to ensure best value for money. The PC maintains regular contact with the Police and receives regular updates from Community Constable Shaun Rhodes. Last month no crimes were reported within the parish. The PC reviews planning applications within the parish. The outcomes are recorded in minutes which appear on the website: laughtonparishcouncil.org.uk Until a new walk committee is formed

Councillor Z is still involved in the organising of the Roche Abbey Christmas Walk and the PC act as bankers. Walk funds are ring-fenced from PC finances. Projects receiving PC funding include: (a) new fencing around the perimeter of the Village Hall recreational ground and stopped people gaining access via private properties; (b) security CCTV and floodlighting; (c) community defibrillator; (d) new cooker and central heating boiler in the village hall (e) grants to worthy causes including All Saints' Church graveyards and (f) St. John's Road Allotments. (g) The PC is actively working with the Church School and Police to reduce the dangerous parking outside the school. (h) The PC is monitoring the fees paid for football matches to ensure that the right contribution is being received towards the maintenance of the grounds.

Finally the Chairman thanked: fellow Councillors; members of the Laughton Village Hall Management Committee; caretaker and Police for their unstinting work during the past year and thanked the parishioners for attending the meeting.

Next year's meeting will be held after the Government General Election scheduled for 7th May 2015 when all members of Laughton Parish Council are due for re-election.

4. Questions from parishioners present

a) Mr McDonald extended a vote of thanks to members of the parish council for the work undertaken during the last year. His gratitude was gratefully accepted. The Chairman reciprocated thanking Mr. Mac Donald for his work in support of the village hall.

b) Councillor X thanked Councillor Trevor Stanway for his dedication in carrying out his role as Chair of the PC.

5. Any Other Business

Mr & Mrs Wright expressed concern about the poor quality/frequency of grass cutting on the land at the junction of Firbeck Lane and Firbeck Avenue. They were advised that RMBC were responsible for the area advised of the RMBC's contact details.

Resolved: Mr & Mrs Wright will take the matter up with RMBC.

Councillor Stanway thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date