

HAMPSTHWAITE PARISH COUNCIL  
Minutes of the Annual Meeting on Monday 16 May 2016  
At 7pm in the Village Room.

1. Election of Chairman. D.Collett, proposed by H.Brown and seconded by M.Wray. D.Collett agreed to remain Chairman.
2. Minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated were approved on 8 June 2015.
3. Chairman's Report.

Firstly may I say thank you to my fellow Parish Councillors for electing me to be Chairman for the ensuing year.

As I review the past 12 months, it does seem to have been a testing time for the Parish Council with concerns over the long term continuity given planned retirements, and of course the time and effort required to object to the Brookfield development and subsequent need to monitor events following its approval. But turning to continuity and membership of the Parish Council, following the retirement of Rachel Binns, Pru Robertson and John McPartlan, we were faced with the possibility of only 4 Councillors, which given potential absences due to holidays or other factors, meant that at times our ability to conduct business at our meetings due to being non quorate, and to progress matters on an ongoing basis given that the demands on so few of us, was a serious concern. We therefore embarked on active recruitment drive which proved to be a great success such that this evening we warmly welcome 4 new Parish Councillors, Jeremy Backhouse, John Fairfoot, Geoff Howard and Malcolm Wray. Geoff of course has previously served on the Parish Council for a number of years but after an absence of 2 years I am pleased that he has agreed to serve again. Jeremy, John and Malcolm are new to Parish Council responsibilities but I and the Clerk will do our best to ensure their induction is as painless as possible.

I thank Rachel Binns, Pru Robertson and John McPartlan for their years of service and wish them well for the future.

So I am delighted that we are now back up to full strength and hope very much that we can maintain some stability and continuity within the Council as we tackle some important issues facing our village.

Perhaps the major one is the Brookfield development and the issues arising from the approval of 56 homes. As we are aware work finally began on site earlier this year but quickly ran into trouble as major problems occurred over drainage and water run off, such that a number of properties experienced serious flooding problems. Work has temporarily ceased until approval has been obtained from Yorkshire Water to measures intended to deal with all aspects of drainage, surface water and sewerage. We are in regular contact with Harrogate Borough Council and Yorkshire Water to ensure that these issues are dealt with in a professional way and with a satisfactory outcome.

The sewerage issue affecting the village are however not confined to Brookfield & are of serious concern given the continual failure of the Hurst Green pumping station and the impact on the pumping station at St. Thomas a Beckett Walk. Increased housing in the village and at Birstwith demand that Yorkshire Water address these problems urgently. Yorkshire Water were due to attend tonight's meeting but have requested a postponement as they seek to answer the many detailed questions we have raised with them.

Another concern arising from the Brookfield development is the exit onto Hollins Lane and the Council's view that the proposed solution put forward by

the developer given the speed of vehicles down Hollins Lane is inadequate. We are seeking an urgent meeting with a senior Highways Engineer to discuss our concerns and also the many other traffic issues facing the village. Previous attempts to gain some acceptable solutions to speeding, parking congestion and the state of the roads, have failed.

This all sounds very gloomy but in conclusion I would like to pay tribute to the many volunteers and organisations who work very hard to make Hampsthwaite, despite its problems still a wonderful place to live

4. Annual Accounts. Copies of the accounts were circulated and copies posted on the Notice Boards. The accounts were approved by G.Howard and J.Backhouse.
5. Election of Officers
  - Vice Chairman. H.Brown proposed by D.Collett and seconded by M.Wray.
  - Memorial Hall. J.Carney, proposed by H.Brown and seconded by G.Howard.
  - Y.L.C.A. M.Wray proposed by H.Brown and seconded by G.Howard
  - Safer Neighbourhood Group/Community Resilience. J.Fairfoot proposed by H.Brown and seconded by J.Backhouse.
  - Recreational & Sporting Facilities. M.Wray proposed by G.Howard and seconded by J.Backhouse.
  - Feast Group. H.Brown proposed by D.Collett and seconded by J.Backhouse.
  - Footpaths. J.Carney and J.Fairfoot, proposed by J.Backhouse and seconded by M.Wray.
  - Village Society. S.Jennings suggested that the Society amended its constitution to remove the requirement for a representative
  - Village Plan group. D.Collett suggested that the group be reformed.
6. Parishioners observations. *Saddlers Cottage* :S.Jennings advised that the Planning Department was asking for the roof covering to be changed, but he was disappointed that action had not been taken earlier to encompass the Hampsthwaite Conservation Area conditions.
7. Date for next meeting tba.

Signed.

Dated.