

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
COWLING PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON :-3rd April 2017
At 6.30pm at Saint Andrews Church**

Present Councillors P Boocock, M Benson, A Denning and A Lynch

In Attendance: 5 members of the public, S Mason (Lengthsman), Cllr P Mulligan and A Mallinson clerk

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Boocock welcomed all those attending the meeting

2. Apologies

None

3. Reports from invited guests

Cllr Mulligan reported that a survey had been carried out at Crosshills Railway Station to see if it was viable to have it reopened, but as yet it isn't financially viable. Kildwick railway crossing is been looked at to see if there can be a reduction in the time that the barrier is closed, which holds up traffic. NYCC has had a further £14 million budget cuts to deal with. Cllr Mulligan was pleased to support local groups by using his locality budget, which Cowling had benefited from.

4. Chairman's Report

Cllr Boocock read out his report:-

2016 has seen a number of changes within the Council and continued challenges in maintaining the fabric of the village and improving facilities for residents.

This year we welcomed the return of Bill Mercer to the Parish Council, as well as being our representative on Craven District Council. There are still a number of vacancies on the Council.

2016 also saw the retirement of Dave Hitchcocks as the village Lengthsman- we wish him a long and happy retirement in his new home in Scotland.

The Parish Council successfully appointed Scott Mason as the new Lengthsman from a long list of candidates.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Parish Clerk, Andrew Malinson, for his continued service to the village and hard work. Much of the day to day administration falls on Andrew and as our Responsible Financial Officer the burden of ensuring financial probity.

Throughout the year CPC has continued to govern responsibly for the benefit of all residents of the village. All Parish expenditure is listed on the agenda and minutes and the accounts are available for inspection. The Parish finances remain healthy and this has enabled us to implement capital projects.

During the year we have continued to maintain Parish assets, which include recreation grounds, benches, street lights and shelters. Much of this work is on-going repairs to village assets as a result of wear and tear and vandalism. An on-going job of the Clerk is to establish the nominal value of these assets. We continue to thank villages for reporting faults, especially in street lighting, enabling us to maintain this provision.

Other than council meetings, Councillors work on a number of Working Groups, including finance and staffing (budgets and staff) and planning (commenting on planning applications). During this year the

Signed.....

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Planning group have commented against a number of unsympathetic developments within the village and contributed towards CDC Local Plan. Parish Councillors are also involved in other groups, including the Recreation Ground group and speeding group.

Parish Councillors continue to receive the concerns of residents regarding a number of issues within the remit of Craven District Council and North Yorkshire, which are ultimately reported by the Clerk.

The Parish Council has continued to contribute to village life. We have made donations to a number of village organisations, including Cowling Companions for their Christmas meal and Cowling Fun Day.

We started to implement improvement of the main recreation ground with replacement of out-dated play equipment and new play equipment in the toddlers area. A new recreation Group working group has been established and they have already held the first public meeting to discuss proposals. I would like to thank Grant Devine for his work so far. One of the main areas of concern has been the drainage in the recreation ground- we have sought specialist advice on how to improve the drainage prior to any further development. Initial survey has highlighted a number of issues , which will require further investigation.

North Yorkshire council have been paid to adapt street lights to allow the fitting of Christmas lights. We have purchased lights for the 2017 display.

The council is also aware of potential future challenges, including budget restraint which may limit the ability of Parish Councils to raise extra funds for capital projects.

5. Public Forum

Members of the public raised the following issues-

- a) The Parish Council should not pay anything towards last years very poor quality Christmas lights
- b) Could a Christmas tree be erected at the memorial in the centre of the village?

Meeting closed at 7.00 pm