

TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesday the 30th of April 2024.

Present

Councillor Dixon – Chairman
 Councillor Jeffrey
 Councillor Lambert
 Councillor Molyneux
 J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

24/55 WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN OF TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman of Todwick Parish Council, Jim Dixon, welcomed those present and thanked them for their attendance.

24/56 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Rusling, Matt Baldry and Councillor O’Sullivan.

24/57 REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OVER THE PAST YEAR

The Chairman reported:-

“ The Annual Assembly provides the opportunity for the Parish Council to highlight both the achievements and of course the difficulties of the last 12 months.

Firstly, I would like to thank my colleague members of the council for their support during the past 12 months and look forward to their support during the next year. They are all volunteers and do not receive any remuneration for the work they do. Nothing is done unless they do it. They don’t look for praise or reward for their efforts but, to a person, get reward enough from the satisfaction of having achieved something on behalf of the community. This of course equally applies to our friends and colleagues who manage the Todwick Village Hall on your behalf, and we look forward to working closely with them during the ensuing 12 month.

Unfortunately, during the past year, we have lost a number of councillors. Councillors Morley and Davis resigned because of family and other personal commitments. We would like to thank them for their support and work that they did on behalf of the local community.

It is with deep regret I must report the passing of former councillor Norman Wright who passed away earlier this year following a long illness. Norman had been a member of this council for several years and latterly was the vice chairman. Norman had the responsibility for managing the village recreation ground which was a demanding task. He was ably assisted by his wife Sue. On behalf of the council, I offer our sincere condolences to Sue, and our appreciation of the work undertaken by both Norman and Sue.

Following the loss of Councillor Wright the parish council reviewed the management of the recreation ground which is a registered charity. The parish council are the sole trustees of the recreation ground charity. The buildings, the MUGA and children’s playground do not form part of the charity and are owned, on behalf of the community, by the parish council who are

responsible for their maintenance and management. Following the review, it was decided to restructure the management of the recreation ground and it has now been brought under the total control of the parish council. All user's rents are now decided and received by the council and paid into council funds. The council have always paid for the ground maintenance, marking out of pitches etc.

The last year, in fact the last two years, have had economic difficulties both for the community and the parish council. The last year was particularly difficult with rising costs and an inflation rate which at one point reached 11.5%. As a result, and to keep the parish precept to a reasonable level and affordable level, we had to take some difficult decisions to reduce our expenditure. We have ongoing commitments for the maintenance of the village assets e.g. recreation ground, bowls club etc. This meant that we could not afford to have hanging baskets in the village in the summer and had to cancel the village bonfire, reduce spending in other areas and only carry out essential maintenance.

However, the work of the council did not stop, and despite the economic climate we did have some significant achievements. The bowls club felt roof which was in a poor state of repair and in danger of causing damage to the structure of the building, was replaced with a traditional slate roof and should last for a good number of years. Our thanks go to Todwick Property Services who carried out the work.

The two shower rooms in the pavilion on the recreation ground which are well used by the three football and Todwick cricket teams who use the ground, have been totally refurbished.

Grants were applied for and obtained by the parish council for improvements and additional equipment on our two children's playgrounds at Lindley's Croft and the recreation ground.

For this year we have a number of new projects to complete and have reinstated some of those we were unable to carry out last year.

We have ordered hanging baskets for the village this summer, arranged for the village bonfire to be held on Friday 8th November. We are working with the village hall committee to arrange for the erection of a Christmas tree on the recreation ground with the intention of holding a carol singing event around the tree to which all villagers will be invited.

Work is currently being undertaken to replace the main entrance doors to the village hall. A new security shutter has already been installed.

We have arranged for lighting to be installed at the multi-use game's area (MUGA) at the recreation ground. This is intended to extend and increase the use of the facility by making it available in the evenings for activities such as tennis, football training, netball/basketball etc etc.

These are just some of the projects undertaken and planned by the council on the community's behalf. No doubt there will be others of which we will keep you informed.

One of our main difficulties throughout the last year has been the lack of parish councillors. We have an authorised number of 9 councillors. Unfortunately, we currently only have 5. We require a minimum of 3 councillors to be present at each of our meetings to be quorate to conduct the business of the council.

We desperately need additional members to ensure that we can continue to represent the village

and carry on the business of the council. The main commitment is one evening per month to attend our meetings although we do get involved in carrying out jobs in the village but there is no obligation to do that, it is purely voluntary. If you are interested, please get in touch with Rod Walker our clerk or any member of the council who will be pleased to discuss it with you.

I would like to take the opportunity to give an especial vote of thanks to the members of the bowls club for their financial contribution to the cost of replacement of the roof and to the village hall management committee for their contribution to the replacement of the main entrance door and installation of the security shutter at the village hall.

Finally, thank you all for attending this parish assembly and we would be pleased to see you at our monthly meetings.”

24/58 ITEMS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS

No items were raised.

The meeting closed at 6.50 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date