

# TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting held in Todwick Village Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2022.

## **Present**

Councillor Davis  
 Councillor Dixon – Chairman  
 Councillor Jeffrey  
 Councillor Newbold – from 7.25 p.m.  
 Councillor Wright  
 J R Walker – Clerk & Financial Officer

## **21/217 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.

## **21/218 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Carter, Morley and O’Sullivan and their reason for absence approved. No apologies were received from parishioners.

## **21/219 REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF TODWICK PARISH COUNCIL ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OVER THE PAST YEAR**

The Chairman reported:-

“The last two years have been a very strange and trying period for us all and I suspect that there is no one here present who hasn’t been affected in some way as a result of the pandemic.

Many of us will have suffered this dreadful disease and many will have lost loved ones or close friends on top of all the restrictions that we have all had to bear.

Still, we now seem to be being getting clear of this terrible period and hopefully we have seen the last of its major effects on us all.

During this time Todwick Parish Council has continued to function and has held its regular meetings, initially when face to face meetings were restricted, they were held remotely and then face to face as soon as that was permitted.

We have continued to work for the benefit of our community and have had some notable achievements during the last twelve months.

Unfortunately, having prepared our annual Village Fun Day to be held in June last year, despite all the effort we had no option but to cancel it with very short notice owing to the pandemic. Not to give in we continued with our preparations for the village bonfire in November and I am pleased to say that it was able to go ahead. The attendance on the night was well in excess of previous years and from comments received it was a very successful event.

We should also offer sincere thanks to Councillor Lucy Morley for taking personal responsibility for the two playgrounds in the village. She has negotiated a contract with RMBC for monthly inspections of both playgrounds. These have resulted in some inconvenience with repairs being carried out on some of the equipment. This is ongoing and we ask that you bear with us if some of the play equipment is unavailable for short periods whilst work is carried out. Lucy’s resounding success is the grant that she obtained on behalf of the TPC for £56,000 for improvements and repairs to the Mary Gregory Playground on Lindley’s Croft. Contracts will be issued shortly with additional works to be carried out. We will also be looking to seek grants and make improvements to the playground on the recreation ground.

Due to a marked increase in the incidence of vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the recreation ground, a contract has recently been awarded for the installation of CCTV on the ground. Work on the installation will commence within the next few weeks. The vandalism has been very costly during the past year and I’m sad to say that there have been several incidents where a Parish Councillor and his wife who looks after the pavilion have been physically threatened and on one occasion seriously assaulted.

There is a court case pending in respect of the latter incident.

Unfortunately, there is a cost to the vandalism which has to be borne by the Parish Council and ultimately by yourselves as council taxpayers. It is hoped that the installation of the CCTV system will have a positive effect on this type of behaviour and make the recreation ground and its facilities a safer place for its users.

TPC also participated in and supported a joint initiative with other parish councils in respect of flood resilience on the southern side of the borough. As a result we obtained a grant of just over £10,000 for the provision of storage facilities for sandbags and other equipment to be used/deployed in the event of receiving flood warnings. Flooding in Todwick mainly has an effect of a small number of properties on the Pastures adjacent to the recreation ground. Up until now, residents of these properties have had to wait for sandbags to be delivered by RMBC who of course have to prioritise the areas at more serious and substantial risk and danger risk. The sandbags and equipment will now be available to the residents immediately flood warnings are received and are stored within a few hundred metres of their properties. Now that we are hopefully out of the pandemic we should now be looking to the future. Unfortunately, we are heading towards a cost-of-living crisis which will have some impact on us all but more so on those who are less well off.

TPC members were obviously concerned and bore that in mind when we recently set our Parish precept on the Council Tax bills. It was unanimously decided that we should in effect set a standstill budget for this new financial year. The precept was set accordingly and the average household in Todwick will pay approximately £3.00 per year more. This will mean that we will continue to look for additional sources of funding for any additional activities that we undertake.

We have decided that we will have an event to celebrate the Queens Jubilee in June, our Fun Day and Bonfire will go ahead as planned as will our Remembrance Day poppies. We will do our best to seek grants to continue with improvements and maintenance to our recreational facilities.

Unfortunately, last Christmas Eve saw our only village newsagents shop close. As far as we are aware there are no current plans for it to be re-opened by the current tenant or any other person.

TPC have therefore been tentatively looking at the possibility of opening a community shop and what that would entail. If members thought it feasible, we would need to set up a small working group to look at and consider it in more detail. Government grants may be available and there is a possibility that a Community Post Office could be established as part of it. If we were to proceed, we would need to recruit those with appropriate experience in running a shop to the working group to assist and advise on the project.

Finally may I thank you for your attendance this evening and we will be happy to receive your comments and any questions you may have.”

**21/220 ITEMS RAISED BY PARISHIONERS**

No items were raised by parishioners.

Discussion on the Chairman’s Report took place.

Councillor Wright raised the problems experienced with vandalism at the recreation ground and in particular the damage that had been occasioned to the teqball table. He would provide the Clerk with the necessary information for an insurance claim to be submitted.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date