Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

**24 May 2016, 7.30pm, WI Hut, Loversall**

**In Attendance:** Councillors Pat Barbour, Spencer Morris, Nigel Tomlinson, Keith Wilson (Chair), Colin Wright, Sophie Wright (Young people’s representative)

**Members of the public:** Three parishioners attended

**Clerk to the Council:** Lindsay Wilson

**Apologies:** None received

1. **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Wilson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the annual report on Loversall Parish Council’s activities in the preceding year:

Meetings and Attendance

Keith Wilson was elected Chairman. During the year Councillors were summoned to attend 5 ordinary meetings and the annual meeting of the council. Attendance: P.Barbour (5/6), S.Morris (4/5), N.Tomlinson (6/6), K.Wilson (6/6), C Wright (4/6). In addition there were 3 public/ parish meetings.

 Clerk

Lindsay Wilson was appointed Parish Clerk in August 2015

Communication with parishioners

In addition to the statutory Parish Notice Board and Facebook we:

* Developed a Parish Council website (September)
* Created an evolving list of email addresses of parishioners who asked to be on the list
* Provided a parish council post-box on the WI Hut – particularly intended for parishioners who do not use electronic communication
* Distributed a Summer Newsletter to every household
* Introduced a system to allow all parishioners to identify with an individual councillor
* Held three parish/public meetings – parish planning issue (May, attendance 34) , general ideas for improving the village (June - attendance 18), DMBC local plan ( August - attendance 25)

Planning Applications The parish council was consulted on 4 planning applications:

* Loversall Farm change of use of office to events venue – a detailed report was made to DMBC indicating the nature of concerns /opposition/support from parishioners who attended the parish meeting. Because of the opposition, the application was determined by DMBC councillors rather than officers and was approved for two years
* Extension to Bailiffs Cottage– Representations were made to councillors regarding traffic issues, which were investigated and passed on to DMBC. The application was approved by DMBC
* Pear Tree Farm – replacement of single glazed, wooden, sliding sash windows with wooden, double glazed of identical style .LPC supported, DMBC approved.
* Yorkshire Wildlife Trust – Change of use of agricultural land to nature reserve at Loversall Carr and Beaston Plantation. LPC supported, DMBC approved

DMBC Local Plan

* Councillors met with the relevant DMBC Principal Planner on two occasions and with the relevant DMBC Councillor and representatives of Wadworth and Tickhill Councils.
* A public meeting was held in August for parishioners to discuss the issues. Some parishioners subsequently responded individually to the plan.

 A detailed report was sent by the Parish Council to DMBC as part of the consultation providing a response to the plan overall but focussing on, and totally opposing, the ‘call for sites’ (landowner) proposed housing/mixed development in Loversall and the commercial/housing developments in Wadworth. The outcome of the consultation is currently unknown.

1. **Financial Reports 2015/2016**
* The Annual Financial return 2014/15 was unconditionally approved by the external auditors.
* The Annual Financial Return for 2015/16 will be available for inspection 3 June - 14 July 2016
* The Loversall parish precept for 2016/17 has been increased by £116; making a total increase of £186 over the past 12 years. Without this increase, the parish council will not be viable.

The budget for 2016/17 has a reserve of £653 resulting from residual savings on the Clerk post in previous three years

1. **Matters of Interest or Concern Raised by Local Residents**
* **Issues generally outside the scope of a parish council –** parish councils are limited by law as to the scope of their responsibilities but nonetheless the councillors and the Clerk endeavour to help parishioners where they can. The number of issues dealt with by the Clerk has increased.
* **Speed of traffic through the village – this continues to be a serious concern.**  The Parish council has requested 20 mph limit through the village. DMBC has refused on grounds of criteria/limited resources. We have once again written to the owner of Loversall Farm Day Nursery imploring her to communicate the residents’ annoyance at the driving behaviour of some of the parents.

It was suggested that the Nursery owner may be encouraged to erect signs on Nursery Land encouraging the drivers to slow down.

It was also suggested that the white lines on the road needed repainting to delineate which part of the road had priority of way for road-users

* **Replacement of seat –** the damaged/unsafe seat, adjacent to the Parish notice-board is being repaired and replaced
* **Parish Post box -** a suggestion made by a parishioner at a parish meeting - now fixed to the WI Hut
* **Noise reduction measures –** approaches are in progress with DEFRA and the Highways Agency
* **Safety mirrors at junctions –** yet to be dealt with
* **Broadband speed –** Councillors earlier attempts to develop an independent broadband scheme for the village were abandoned – because of the cost/ lack of interest**.** During the year, the parish council has encouraged parishioners to log their interest in faster broadband with Virgin Media. TheClerk has been in contact with a planning officer at DMBC requesting information on DMBC plan for broadband in rural areas – a response is awaited.
* **Community events –** meetings held to consider such things as a Gala have not yet produced any results. No further suggestions were made
* **Neighbourhood Plan –** has been considered but specific benefits to Loversall are unclear.
* Cllr Barbour, on behalf of a resident unable to attend the meeting, raised concerns about the planning application from Loversall Farm Day Nursery and the possible adverse effect on the subsequent saleability of particular properties within Loversall. Discussion around this topic ensued, the content noted for the Parish Council’s response to the planning application.
* The issue of parking problems within the village area related to events/meetings within the WI Hut was raised. Apart from encouraging the attendees to such events to car share, park carefully and consider residents’ access to their properties, it was felt to be and unresolvable problem.
* Concern was expressed about the general appearance of the village – particularly the grass verges, weeds and general litter blowing about. It was agreed to contact DMBC to enquire about the frequency of grass-cutting and weed-killing. A suggestion was also made to approach the Probation Service, whose Community Order workers are involved with the maintenance of St. Katherine’s Churchyard.

There being no further items raised. The meeting closed at 9.00pm and was followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed ...................................................................... (Chair) Date .................................