

SHADWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 19th April 2021 held remotely using the Zoom platform (Subject to confirmation)

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Debbie Potter, presided and opened the meeting at 7:01pm.

Present: Cllrs. Debbie Potter, Denise Trickett, Emma Stapleton, David Ford, Daljit Sehmi, Norman Taylor, Nirmal Tulwa and Geoffrey Wilson, Ward Councillor Matthew Robinson and four members of the public.

Apologies were received from: Cllr Vidya Venkatesh and Rob Smedley.

Introduction by the Chairman

Following a very difficult year for all of us, this year's annual Parish Meeting is held on Zoom, as have all the Parish Council's meetings this year. Ward councillor Matthew Robinson has kindly agreed to give a brief update on current issues but there are no other invited speakers, no police presence, and society reports will be kept as short as possible. Questions have been invited from members of the public prior to the meeting, and questions will be taken from those on Zoom at an appropriate time. As we did not hold this meeting in 2020, the report will try and include the prominent events of the last 2 years.

Chairman's Report

Along with the rest of society, Covid changed the way we operated. Many things were cancelled, meetings were held remotely, no newsletters, no surgeries, Leeds City Council staff were working remotely, council tips were closed, the playgrounds closed, brown bin collections ceased, litter bins were sealed as LCC stopped emptying, LCC waste sites were closed, and shops, hospitality and leisure centres were all closed. I wonder if, in the future, we will remember just how it was in March 2020. It was an unprecedented time, and a time of great uncertainty. The Parish Council did what it could, and we were very grateful to Richard and Kirsty at the Red Lion for immediately setting up a volunteer register, and to those kind people who volunteered to deliver shopping, medicines, etc, to vulnerable and isolating residents. The Parish Council offered its support as required and paid for the delivery of newspapers to protect the workers in the Village Shop. It was an amazing effort and showed our sense of community. This effort still continues as restrictions are gradually eased.

The members of the Parish Council had to learn new ways of operating, bringing some of us into the unknown world of Zoom, Webinars, Rooms!

A new Councillor joined us during this time – Daljit Sehmi. It feels as though she has been on the Council for a very long time now, and we were all delighted to have her co-opted. Our clerk, Mike Woods, completed his CiLCA course in November 2019 which not only means he is a very well qualified clerk, but it also means that the PC gains the General Power of Competence. This broadly means the PC can do anything which will benefit the community, within the powers and legalities governing local councils.

Councillors continue to attend training courses and forums via Zoom (etc) to keep up to date with current topics, and also to represent our community on various Forums.

It has been difficult to keep residents informed of our work without Shadwell News, the surgery and the Parish Council newsletter. However, information is always put on the SPC website and, when appropriate, on social media. Both the newsletter and the surgery will restart as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Over the last two years, we have continued with all our routine work– reporting and chasing the City Council on problems including potholes, fly-tipping, dog fouling, streetlights, faded white lines, leaf debris, damaged verges, missing street name plates and the sign into the village, to name but a few. The new Shadwell sign was eventually erected on Shadwell Lane. We request the street litter bins to be emptied – they seem to be constantly overflowing with dog poo bags.

Planning applications are considered at every meeting with Denise Trickett Chairman of the Planning Committee.

The Parish Council Precept was held at the same level as in 2020/21.

Crime has been very low over the last year, with burglaries at nil most months. We are hoping that our PCSO will attend some of our meetings in the future. The police and ward councillors have recently set up PACT (Police and Community Together) meetings which take place every 5 weeks. You are encouraged to let us have any questions you may wish to put to the police.

Although we were in talks with First Bus to improve our service, these have obviously been unnecessary during Lockdown. We are in discussions with Metro regarding the Wetherby Road/Carr Lane bus stops used for the X99/98 bus, for the provision of bus shelters.

The Parish Council lunch for our older residents over 80 took place in March 2019, but was cancelled in 2020, and again, this year. However, at Christmas, the Parish Council delivered hyacinth bowls to all the over 80s who had previously attended the lunches.

We were lucky to have the Tour de Yorkshire on a cold and wet day in 2019. This was a great day in Shadwell, with the pub, shop, village hall and library all having very successful events. We will continue to lobby for the tour to pass through again.

The new Conservation Area centred around Holywell Lane was finally made. A public meeting was held in June 2019 for local residents and interested parties. Leeds City Council has now designated the area as a Conservation Area.

Shadwell's Neighbourhood Plan has finally been completed. It has been through submission, consultation, been appropriately vetted by the independent examiner, and will go to referendum on 6 May 2021. The Parish Council thanks all those on the Steering Group who have worked on the Plan on our behalf, and strongly urge residents to support it and vote YES. The plan will influence the nature and scale of development in Shadwell and includes policies on housing, heritage, design, landscape, wildlife and the environment, and as such, will affect the parish as a whole. We urge residents to look at the details which are available on the SPC and Shadwell Neighbourhood Plan websites.

Parking Issues around the school remain unresolved. However, we have managed to have 2 'limited waiting time' bays installed at the shops. The 20mph limit through the village has been put on hold, subject to City Council investigations elsewhere. Our speed indicator devices were installed and have provided helpful data to both the Parish and the City Councils.

The Parish Council supplements the work undertaken by Leeds City Council during severe weather by engaging a contractor to clear the side roads. This has been particularly useful during the heavy snow falls early in 2021. Rock salt has been provided by SPC for the numerous grit bins around the village, and our maintenance contractor, along with Shadwell in Bloom volunteers, has spread grit on the pavements in the most used areas of the village. SPC are investigating sites which do not fall within the City Council criteria for the provision of grit bins, but where bins would be beneficial for local residents. We must stress that the provision of grit/salt is for use on the public highways and pavements only, and not on private land, but may be used by local residents to spread as appropriate.

Whilst talking of winter, we have, over the last few years, put up more Christmas decorations, mainly on and around the library. We were asked by residents to increase what we did, particularly to cheer us all up during the dark days of Covid restrictions. For Christmas 2020, we provided 6 trees around the village, with lights, and increased the lights at the library. The Red Lion, fish shop and the other village shops added more lights and the village really looked most festive. For Christmas 2021, we are investing in lights to be put on some of the lampposts at strategic points in the village.

The Maintenance of the village is of great importance to all of us, and the Parish Council takes this very seriously. As mentioned previously, we have a contractor – Peter Hallas – who works predominantly with the volunteers of Shadwell In Bloom every Tuesday. He also repairs the village benches, removes rubbish to the tip, installs the sponsorship signs, empties hanging baskets, to name but a few of his duties, and has played a vital role in the village for the number of years he has been with us.

After a short break at the beginning of restrictions, the Shadwell in Bloom volunteers started their work again – socially distanced of course – to restore Shadwell to its normal state of care. By using private contractors, we were still able to have hanging baskets each summer and for the beds to be fully planted throughout the year, unlike most of the surrounding villages. The work undertaken by the volunteers of Shadwell in Bloom cannot be underestimated. They undertake grass cutting, hedge cutting, litter picking, collecting leaves, weeding, sweeping, bed preparation, planting, watering, woodwork, building flower beds, and anything else required to enhance the look of the village, and also, this year, creating flower beds at Shadwell Nursery to engage the very youngest in our community in growing plants. We certainly owed them a huge thank you.

Litter picking has become quite a welcome pastime over the last few months for many people, with LCC promoting this and issuing the lilac rubbish bags we see all over the village. SPC has had a loyal band of litter pickers for many years, and we welcome the latest volunteers to this activity. SPC holds a small stock of the litter picking devices for those interested and would be pleased to help coordinate the actual picking.

The Parish Council is still seeking extra allotment space, but available land is in very short supply. However, there is a waiting list for those interested in having an allotment, and they should contact the clerk. Our new compost bins have been installed on the site.

During lockdown, we have all seen a huge increase in the number of walkers, joggers and cyclists. This has led to some conflict, particularly on Path 102, also known as the Red Lion or Cinder path. This Right of Way is a footpath rather than bridlepath, thus open to walkers only – not horse riders or cyclists. On this narrow path, social distancing is difficult. The Parish Council has repeatedly put up signs at each end of the route, but these have been ripped off. The fence at the Ring Road end has been destroyed a number of times, and we very recently had this rebuilt by one of our contractors. This is in part to prevent children and dogs running out on to the road. Our contractor has also undertaken repair of stiles and cutting back overgrowth on Public Rights of Way.

Our claim to a new public right of way off Winn Moor Lane was turned down by the City Council.

The work on East Leeds Orbital Route (ELOR) continues and, with the closure of Coal Road, and temporary closure of Skeltons Lane, has caused extra traffic on routes from the village. We meet regularly with representatives of Balfour Beatty, LCC, and representatives from other villages. Disruption will continue until the scheme is completed, but we attempt to mitigate this wherever possible. Hopefully, the new road will benefit us all.

The chance of funding under the City Council's Local Centres Programme, to improve the facias of the shops, now looks highly unlikely. LCC have withdrawn much of the funding and we are waiting to see whether there is a viable way forward.

We were asked to instal CCTV at either end of the village. Unfortunately, the cost of this would be around £90,000, which is prohibitive. However, if you have private CCTV, you may like to register this with the police. They would call on you to view recordings if crime took place in your vicinity. This has worked well in the past. If you are interested in this, or any other aspect of SPC, please contact the clerk.

Brief items of news: Our website has been updated. We have taken responsibility for the defibrillator outside the Post Office, we continue to press for resolution of drainage issues on Gateland Lane, and water pooling in Holywell Lane. Our request for flashing warning lights at the school was turned down. We are endeavouring to highlight a Boundary stone off Holywell Lane.

Grants and funding during the period have been awarded to the Tennis Club, Village Hall, Recreational Centre, Scouts, Horticultural Society, Cricket Club, Shadwell United, Shadwell Methodist Church and Shadwell Library.

We were sorry that the Horticultural Society has formally disbanded after over 70 years in existence.

My thanks, as always go to our Clerk, Mike Woods who has certainly been a great asset to the workings of the Council and without whom, we would undoubtedly grind to a halt. The amazing commitment of all the Parish councillors continues. Thanks also to Peter Hallas, who has proved himself invaluable, and to the Ward Councillors for their on-going support. And lastly to all of you who have helped others during the Covid pandemic.

Cllr Matthew Robinson, Harewood Ward Councillor

Cllr Robinson began by outlined the impact Covid-19 on the work on the City Council particularly on refuse collection, where the service was hit hard by crew bubbles frequently having to self-isolate when one member tested positive. Collections have now improved, but residents are reminded that if a collection is missed the bin should be left out for two days to give the crew time to come back and empty it. If after two days the bin has still not been emptied, the missed collection should be reported to the City Council.

Gradually, new ways of doing things have been found including more reactive ways of working and greater use of the internet and mobile phones to retain contact. The City Council is hugely grateful to volunteers and community groups for getting activities and services up and running again. MAE Care and WISE have worked hard to reach out to and help isolated residents, and anyone can still flag issues with them. Contact details are available on the City Council's coronavirus help page.

The City Council's review of 20mph zones should be available shortly in draft form. Contractors should be on site in four to six weeks to fix the flooding problems at the eastern entrance of the village on Shadwell Lane. There may be temporary traffic restrictions whilst the work is carried out.

The Police are redoubling efforts to tackle speeding. Extra funding has been provided for Automatic Number Plate Recognition (APRN) equipment to help counter criminal activity across the city.

ELOR – the project is progressing well, and efforts are being made to minimise the problems caused by road closures. Coal Road has now been closed permanently, but Skeletons Lane will reopen once work on that section is complete.

The Harewood ward councillors are hoping to be able to contribute towards the cost of the new Christmas lights in Shadwell. Moving the Local Centres Programme forward is going to be more difficult now funding has been cut, but efforts to identify top-up funding are continuing.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Robinson for attending, and for the very valuable support he and his colleagues provide to the village and to the Parish Council.

Updates from local organisations

Scouts and Guides

The Scout and Guide Groups have had a quiet year as due to the coronavirus pandemic we have been unable run our normally very active and adventurous programmes. We have kept in touch with our members and done some activities via zoom. Hopefully, we will be re starting this summer term. The volunteer leaders run weekly meetings, trips, camps, and weekend activities for the age group sections - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Brownies and Guides for the girls. We have vacancies for new helpers and Leaders so please get in touch if you would like to become involved.

Shadwell Tennis Club

Shadwell Tennis Club is thriving, with membership numbers at their highest for several years. We have a very active Junior section, well supported Seniors social tennis, coaching for groups and individuals, and importantly, an increase in the number of Shadwell families using the courts. Improvements to the facilities continue, with fundraising for court resurfacing the current priority. New members of all ages & abilities are most welcome. More information is on our website.

Shadwell Cinema Club

We are intending to recommence the Cinema Club as soon as practical after the village hall becomes available for hire. We will send an email to members with details of the first events, dates and timings, once we have made all the necessary arrangements.

Shadwell Shows

Shadwell Shows is a local group of people, who plan to organise events to celebrate the diverse skills and talents of villagers, including gardening, arts and crafts, music, food and drink, health and wellbeing. Everybody is welcome to get involved.

Yorkshire Countrywomen's Association

We are sadly a very small group now with only 21 members, and we have been meeting in the Village Hall since December 1963 (initially as the WI) then we continued after the name change to YCA in 1983. We fully intend to restart when the Village Hall reopens, and we welcome the PCC's decision not to raise hire prices.

Village Hall Subcommittee (St Paul's PCC)

A lot of the preparatory work required before we can reopen the village hall has now been completed and it is now only a matter of weeks before we do reopen. A date has not been set but it may be late April or early May. We look forward to welcoming groups back subject to prevailing coronavirus regulations. The PCC is committed to reopening the hall for the benefit of the community and so we have decided not to increase our hire prices, to hopefully encourage groups to return our hire rates will be the same as those in 2019/20 before the pandemic closed the hall. I will forward contact details for hall bookings in the near future.

Recreation Centre

As the lockdown rules start to be relaxed the Recreation Centre is opening its doors again subject to government guidance. Groups are starting to use the Centre again from this week. The Trustees have also restarted the re-build project with the Centre taking on charity status and beginning a village consultation exercise. Please contact Rob for further information.

Shadwell Methodist Church

Our Church reopened for services on Easter Sunday with a total congregation of 22 – the maximum number allowed by our Covid protocols. At present, places for the services need to be booked in advance through our Senior Steward. We look forward to providing full services, including singing, as soon as we are allowed.

During the various lockdowns, we have had joint Zoom services with Lidgett Park Methodist Church. Over the past year, our Minister, Tanya, has written daily on-line messages, thoughts and prayers that have been much appreciated. From 19th April, Tanya will be taking a well-deserved three-month sabbatical break and our Senior Steward will be the contact for any Church business.

Due to Covid restrictions, we are not currently taking bookings for any groups or events. The reopening of our monthly cafes and coffee mornings is being reviewed and we hope to eventually continue with these very successful events. The Church building has suffered from being closed; however, the lockdowns have provided an opportunity to carry out extensive maintenance and improvement work.

Due to Covid restrictions in the past year, many people have been unable to attend funeral services in the village. A Memorial Service is being arranged so that they can all come together to remember and celebrate the lives of those who have died during lockdown.

Shadwell Playground Campaign

The scheme is due to start in May and will be completed before the children break up in July for the school holidays. The plans have been finalised and are displayed in the park, and have been publicised on our Facebook Page, most of the feedback has been positive.

Earlier in the year, every household in the village was given a letter asking for donations, we ran this alongside a very successful Go Fund Me page and have raised over £12,000. Families who gave over £100 will all receive a donation plaque, either a cow, horse, sheep or pig. We wanted a farm animal theme, because we live in the countryside, and we did not want it to be the same as Roundhay Park. Plaques will go up in the autumn when the park is completed.

Keeping with the farm theme, we are hopeful at some point in the future to be able to obtain/purchase an old tractor, that we can put in the park, for children to play on. So, if you hear of anybody with a broken tractor that they no longer require please let Alison Ford know.

Business plaques will be publicised later in the year when businesses have been open for a longer period of time after the pandemic, Shadwell Childcare, the fish shop and the Post Office have already given support for business plaques which will be placed on the new car park fence.

The Campaign group still cannot believe we raised all this money, and that Shadwell will definitely have a new park this year. We have a lovely village, and we deserve a nice park for all to enjoy. We hope we have good weather this summer and the park is full every day of people enjoying themselves.

Questions and Comments

Cllr Trickett reported that World Book Day is this coming Friday (23rd April), and that the Library had a small quantity of children's books to give away.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7:41pm.

Signed: Dated: