

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - CALVER**

**Minutes of the Calver Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Calver on Thursday 19th April 2018 at 7.30pm.**

### **Present - Calver Parish Councillors:**

Councillors Jonathan Harris (Chairman), Derek Ballard, Beatrice Carman, John Hearnshaw, Pat Howard and Ron Marshall.

### **Also in Attendance:**

Simon Oldham (Clerk), Councillor Kath Potter (PDNPA) and 14 local parishioners.

### **Apologies:**

Councillor John Tibenham (DDDC).

### **2018.1 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 20th April 2017**

Approved as a correct record.

### **2018.2 Key note speaker - Engaging with National Park Communities - how the Peak District National Park Authority works with National Park communities and residents on planning and conservation issues, a presentation by John Scott, Director of Conservation and Planning**

John Scott gave an overview of the role and work of the Peak National Park Authority, including :-

- His responsibility as Director included Planning and Conservation, the Policy and Communities teams and Planning Control
- The 38000 residents of the national park were important to the Authority and the "community" element was becoming an increasingly important to enhance and build stronger links with local communities. To this end, he was working with Parishes and local communities who were keen to develop a neighbourhood plan which was a key aspect of influencing what happens in your village in the future
- A £5k grant scheme had been re-introduced around 18 months ago, for local communities to bid for resources on local projects, this against a backdrop of 34% Central Government cuts imposed over the last 7 years
- About 1000 planning applications were received each year, 700 of which were for building or house extensions. The approval rate was around 88-90%. Pre-application advice was also offered and therefore any no-hope schemes were never likely to come to reality
- Around 30 planning appeals were received each year, of which about 70% were won by the Park Authority
- The key aims of the Park were to conserve and enhance quality, increase enjoyment and understanding of the National Park and improve the socio-economic and well-being of local communities. Planning applications were drawn to the Parish Council's attention as a statutory consultee, site notices were put up and immediate local neighbours were notified and invited to comment

- 80% of all applications were delegated to Officers to determine, but if the Officer's decision differed to the views of the Parish Council, the application was automatically submitted to the Planning Committee for determination
- The enforcement team were available to offer free advice on matters of planning concern. There was a general public perception that the Park Authority should take a tougher line on enforcement

Following his presentation, John Scott invited questions from local parishioners and attempted to respond accordingly. Amongst the issues raised were :-

- Why Peak Park was bottom of the National Park Authorities league table against the target of 80% of planning applications being determined within 8 weeks
- Whether the Park Authority had extensive controls in place for developments in conservation areas
- What was Peak Parks view about Central Government pressures to build more houses and the impact on villages and given the context that many of our children can't afford to live in our village
- Do you have policies in place for the development and maintenance of woodlands
- How does Peak Park manage to balance the economic angle in making planning application decisions on an informed basis

The Chairman thanks John Scott for his informative presentation and attendance at this evenings meeting.

### **2018.3 Chairman's Annual Report 2017/18**

Having circulated copies of the Chairman's annual report, Councillor Jonathan Harris drew attention to some of the salient points of his annual report. In addition, in relation to the Bird Garden project, he outlined that an application was shortly to be progressed to establish a Community Interest Organisation for submission to the Charity Commission.

### **2018.4 Issues to be raised by Parish Electors including the opportunity to put forward suggested local projects to be funded by the Council during 2017/18**

The following matters were raised by local parishioners and the Chairman responded accordingly :-

- A pot hole in close proximity to the Cross on Main Street was in need of repair
- What opportunities existed for monitoring traffic speed on Hassop Road up past the Garden Centre as it was increasingly difficult trying to get out of the junction at the top of High Street
- Cars were speeding up Main Street having taken a short cut from the top of Baslow Hill through Curbar and exiting on to Hassop Road via High Street. We need to get our heads together to lobby for something to be done about this. Speeding vehicles are a risk to local children in the vicinity
- There was an increased spate of dog fouling recently in the village and residents were urged to be more vigilant and ask the dog owners to pick it up

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had a healthy level of accumulated reserves and invited parishioners to propose ideas on how the Council might spend some small monies improving aspects of the village. He

outlined that the Parish Council were potentially considering the scope for locating a third defibrillator at the Craft shop and would be supporting the development of the Bird Garden project in some capacity.

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.