

Killinghall Parish Council

Chairman: Anne Holdsworth

Clerk & RFO: Robert Bareham

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held at the Methodist Church, Killinghall on **Monday 8th April 2024 7.00pm**

Attendees: AH = Cllr Anne Holdsworth (Chair), AB = Cllr Andrea Beal, CD = Cllr Christopher Dunn, MD = Cllr Margaret Donnelly, TD = Cllr Trevor Dixon, JM = Cllr John Moretta, RB = Rob Bareham (newly appointed and to be confirmed Parish Clerk & RFO)

Members of the Public = 26

Guests: County Councillor MH = NYC Cllr M Harrison (Present)

Key: FB = Facebook, HA = Housing Association, IA = Internal Auditor, IAY = Internal Audit Yorkshire, KPC = Killinghall Parish Council, MoP = Member of the Public, NAG = Nidd Action Group, NYC = North Yorkshire Council, NYP = North Yorkshire Police, PC = Parish Council, SLCC = Society of Local Council Clerks, VHT = Village Hall Trust, W3W = What 3 Words.

1 **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from the representatives of the Police and the Housing Association.

2 **Minutes of meeting held April 2023**

The Chair read the minutes of the last Annual Assembly 2023 and advised those present that the minutes had been previously approved by Council to enable actions to be taken on the outcome of that meeting.

3 **Welcome by the Chairperson**

The Chair welcomed the residents and explained that the meeting had been scheduled for one hour prior to the monthly business meeting/agenda and that maximum time was to be allowed for members of the public to make it their meeting and to contribute in the way permitted by Standing Orders.

4 **Presentation of Annual Report 2023/24**

In view of the public interest being shown on a few topics the Chair advised that her report would be published on the website and that would allow those present to make their observations on issues of the day.

5 Introduction of Police representatives for our community.

In the absence of these representatives, Cllr Moretta gave details about the non-attendance to the meeting by the police who was to accompany the Housing Association Officer. A prepared report was read re every effort to increase Police monitoring of the situation of anti social behaviour which had arisen in the village.

Council Beal reported that

- she has been liaising with those involved and after the last parish meeting had corresponded and kept in touch with residents in the village and shared details – emails were sent to Andrew Jones, Michael Harrison North Yorkshire Housing, Crime Commissioner and PCSO Jess Harby.
- Contact had been made with Andrew Jones MP who was already aware of the situation and provided contact details of the Housing Association relating to the property in question.
- Details were circulated to concerned residents so that they could directly report the problems being experienced.
- It came to light one of the occupants was now in prison and the other under pressure had moved Ripon.
- Regular monitoring of the situation was in place.
- Residents were advised that if any more incidents had occurred, they should report them immediately, however small or considered to be an issue, to the Police and/or contact Cllr Beal direct who would process the complaint.
- The Police Sgt had been in contact with Cllr Beal and was fully aware of the situation and had persuaded the Housing Officer to attend the meeting with him.
- He also advised that police patrols have been increased and stressed that residents must report any suspicious issues; if police don't know about it they cannot do anything; policing can be adjusted to cope with issues and reporting it is a must.

Details are on the web page if needed.

It was further reported that conversations with Tesco had revealed the staff were relieved when it was known the individuals concerned were missing as the problems, they had experienced had now reduced – staff had found it necessary to wear body cams.

Cllr Beal intends to return to Tesco to update them on current situation. The Police had promised they would send someone to monitor situation when they can.

Public Comments :

- Police needed to support the housing officer.
- Concerns expressed about safety of women in the village either shopping or attending functions in the village hall in the evenings.
- Public safety is priority
- ... phoned police waiting 20 mins on 101, was told to telephone again, was then contacted and was told to leave the offender alone... who, whilst was waiting to get into his accommodation, was found urinating against the wall her house wall!

- It was queried why Housing Association placed these category one persons in property in such locations?
- Residents were advised that housing officers must place these people in communities – in privately owned properties and leased to the housing association – they have a responsibility to house these people. A process is in place to deal with such incidents – the category of criminality must be arranged.
- A query from resident living in proximity: once that person is legally in situ, are issues of legality making removing them very lengthy?
- An issue concerning country boundary lines/drugs was put to the meeting about this problemas recently there was this was an issue in nearby village which, due to public demand, was ultimately pushed away and moved itself down to Killinghall where children are being warned at the both primary and senior schools as well as being reminded to report issues or suspicions and it is known that the parking up of drug dealers at Tesco car park each evening also occurs.
- Advised again that details – anything - such as photos or number plates should be reported but in reply resident stated report had been made with police response being it is a similar status in every village... .. report and ask for incident no. and ask what monitoring they are doing.
- 15 years there has been occupants in that particular Ripon Road property but never as bad as the last 12 months.
- Individuals of this nature are encouraged to take undertake rehabilitation but if against such action they cannot be forced to accept any help.
- NYC Cllr Harrison commented that in his experience for over 20 yrs folks did not come to these meetings, nor Police representatives, because there wasn't any crime reported, but now he echoes KPC members call for more reporting of issues. We can be more demanding if these individuals are unacceptable.
- Cllr Harrison commented that using the premises to house people who needed support to re-integrate into the community had clearly been a success, as we didn't even know it was such a property despite it being in use for over 15 years and seemed it was only recent tenants that were causing the issues. So in his opinion, the solution is not to try and prevent the premises from being used to act as support for offenders, but to ensure that specific tenants were supported appropriately, and moved on if necessary. And we give the police and the housing association the benefit of the doubt for a month, keep on reporting issues, and question them next month.

6 **Update on the first year of North Yorkshire Council by
Cllr Michael Harrison**
See Appendix A

7 **Public Session**

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and invited them to remain for the KPC Business meeting scheduled to follow.

8 Close of meeting at 8.02pm.

Appendix A

Cllr Harrison introduced himself to the room for those who didn't know him, advising he had represented Killinghall for 20 years, both on Harrogate Borough Council, North Yorkshire County Council, and now North Yorkshire Council where he sits on the executive responsible for Heath & Adult Services.

It was 1 year after 7 district and 1 county council were merged into a single unitary council. Priorities initially were to be safe and legal on day 1, there were immediate savings (such as senior management restructuring) and other restructures had taken place. He viewed it as a 10-year project, with a focus on driving out efficiencies and synergies that a large council can achieve, whilst remaining local.

Some things were always standardised across the county:

- Winter service
- Waste disposal
- Highways

Some things make sense to standardise
Waste collection

But with local exceptions/differences where necessary
e.g. waste collection

Finance is the biggest challenge for all councils:

We spend 50% of our entire revenue budget on Health & Adult Services, well over 60% when you add in children's services

We started the year with a 30m budget deficit and are using reserves, with a long term plan to drive out efficiencies.

Problem areas/High spending areas:

Home to school transport

Working age adults needing support

Bus subsidies

And this shows itself in the condition of the highways.

Opportunities – the unitary 'dividend' that other councils don't have, areas like Leisure where we can achieve public health improvements. We've previously made some tough decisions – grass cutting, waste collection, green waste charging, libraries redesign – and are benefitting as a result.

The former Harrogate district (including Killinghall) actually had a £80 reduction in council tax over two years as council tax was standardised across the county (although council tax still rose, just not be as much as it would have done without standardisation).

Cllr Harrison advised we will continue to lobby for fairer funding and improve services and the financial position by driving out efficiencies

Cllr Harrison answered questions from the floor on highways matters.

Signed.....Dated.....