

**MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL CROSS ROADS PARISH MEETING
HELD 6.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 16th May 2024
AT ST. JAMES CHURCH HALL, ALBION STREET, CROSS ROADS**

Present: Cllr Tito Arana, Chair Cross Roads Parish Council
District Councillor Rebecca Poulsen
Mags Smith, Clerk
7 Members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Apologies received from District Councillors Herd and Brown
2. **To approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2023**
Resolved: That the Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 10th May 2023 were approved.

3. **Chairman's report:**

Well where do I start? What a year, for the first time ever in 2023 Cross Roads stood alone as the 3rd tier representing the Parish of Cross Roads, This followed a successful campaign by many around this table and others to trigger a Governance Review which brought an end to the 3 village Parish Council of Haworth, Cross Roads and Stanbury which had been the 3rd tier since 1999. We wish Haworth and Stanbury Village Council all the best.

In the first half of 2023 a lot of hard work was put in to ensure the changing to our new council was seamless, I would especially like to thank my Deputy Chair Sarah Cotton in this matter, she worked tirelessly, liaising with HR companies, setting up bank accounts and many other considerations, we really could not have got there without your input Sarah, also Cllr Bev Underwood who arranged phone lines and later furniture to be purchased to make our office a place we can now use and enjoy. The last piece of the split that needed arranging was the Clerk, and I don't mind saying for once I am taking all the credit for this, having worked closely with Mags Smith on the old council, especially on the Neighbourhood Development Plan I just knew she was the right person for the job, her work has always been of a high standard and she is prompt in everything she does, anyway the good news was when I approached or more begged Mags to help us out she agreed, subsequently she has also agreed to stay on permanently, Mags I am certain all Councillors are over the moon with the work you do for us, it really is very much appreciated, you really do make my role as Chair a very easy one and I thank you for your support.

At the first meeting of the new council I was elected Chair, what an incredible Honour, the first Chair of the new Council representing a village I have lived in for nearly half a century, I was also lucky again when my choice for Deputy Chair was also elected, Sarah Cotton is absolutely everything you could ever ask from a deputy chair, highly capable, very intelligent, very hard working, honest and always prepared to help. I am really really lucky to have you by my side and I cannot thank you enough.

Next, I would like to thank all the Councillors who sit around this table, so thank you Janet Anderson, Bev Underwood, David Senior, Peter Clarke and newly appointed David Robertshaw, what a really fine bunch you are, thank you all for all your support and hard work.

Also a special thanks to former Councillor Marion Aston who chose to step off Council after a good few years of active service, thank you Marion for your hard work

and I am sure you will be a big success in your new role as Church Warden for St. James Church.

Marion, Bev, Sarah and I also managed a trip to parliament (self funded of course) we were taken round the palace of Westminster by our MP Robbie Moore, a fabulous trip.

Lastly I would like to thank our Ward Councillors, MP Robbie Moore, PCSO'S, Deputy Lieutenant and District Council representatives, many who turn up at nearly all our meetings, but on top of that we now seem to have a very reasonable and consistent turn out from members of the public, thank you to you for showing an interest in this council your attendance is genuinely appreciated.

Along with setting up the council, many Councillors were heavily involved in the save the Cross Roads Inn campaign. From December 2022 along with the steering group we managed to register the pub as an asset of community value, stop the pub being demolished, beat off an appeal of the asset of community value, receive very high level of support and numbers from public meetings and for me most importantly we managed to secure the public works loan that allowed us to bid for the pub, alas by the time we did it was too late as the owner had already advanced the start of a sale with another party, however this process hasn't been wasted, we now know if we so wish we can make a case that will hold water to secure a public works loan should any project worthy of consideration arise.

Also the new owner of the pub is investing heavily into it and I am hopeful it will soon be serving refreshments to the thirsty residents of Cross Roads, we wish them every success

There was other reasons to be happy, planting of planters, planting of bulbs, the unveiling of a new defibrillator in memory of Howard Simpson, finally securing the freehold for Cross Roads Toilets, Coronation celebrations in the park, the Christmas lunch for the elderly, unveiling of a blue plaque to George Feather a soldier and military medal winner who made the ultimate sacrifice in WW1, the return of the ALWAYS FANTASTIC Village Gala and last but not least yes another successful Christmas light switch on THANK YOU LADY KATH FOR TURNING THEM ON. All great events we also had really nice touch that was arranged by Councillors Cotton and Underwood who gave teddys to commemorate the coronation of King Charles to the children at Lees School, one of the first things delivered by this Parish Council, well done ladies.

I would also like to thank the Lees Cum Cross Roads Village Association for spear heading many of the events outlined above, your hard work under Chair Peter Clarke is very much appreciated. They even did the first Cross Roads Calendar.

So that about wraps up the first year of the Cross Roads Parish Council, it has been a really solid start and we are now looking to build on the solid foundation we have created.

Thank you very much for listening and let's hope 2024 to 2025 is a another very successful year.

4. Report from Cllr Poulsen

Cllr Poulsen said it had been a very busy year. Although Sugden End tip had closed which was very disappointing, options are still being looked into.

What District Councillors do is not always seen but it means a lot to those residents involved. There are a lot of villages to cover but Cllr Poulsen had taken part in many events such as hook a duck at the Gala and the Toad patrol. She has also been involved with white lines, pot holes and the Longacres play ground. The bin at Vale Mill Lane is now in its final place and is being well used.

She is always happy to support village events but sometimes they clash, but she makes every effort to attend as many as possible.

A great amount of effort is recognised to all three District Councillors and the Parish Council thanks them for their hard work.

5. Public Questions

The members of the public wished to comment on items on the agenda of the following Annual Parish Council meeting and therefore did not bring any questions forward at this time.

6. Any other business

No other business was brought forward.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.45pm

Signed:

Date: