



Menston Parish Council
Annual Meeting of the Parish
30th April 2024 at 7.05pm

in The Chevin Room, Kirklands Community Centre

Present: Councillors Philip Moore (Chairman), Marilyn Banister, Lisa Greer, John Houlihan, Dale Smith, Chris Steele and Jo White

Clerk: Catriona Hanson

1. Introduction and welcome from the chairman of the Parish Council

Councillor Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting,

2. Chairman's report on the Parish Council's activities 2023 – 2024

I would like to start by saying thank you to Goodith White, who has now stepped down as a Parish Councillor, for her enthusiasm and commitment whilst on the Parish Council. The Parish Council are grateful that she has agreed to continue being involved with developing the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Parish Council has now been joined by Lisa Greer and John Houlihan who are both involved in a wide range of local activities and bring a wealth of expertise and enthusiasm.

The start of last May saw the village celebrating the King's coronation with a number of events and activities organised by the Parish Council working with local organisations and businesses.

The Parish Council has continued to support the provision of defibrillators in Menston by paying for replacement parts and purchasing a brand-new defibrillator and cabinet which has been sited at Kirklands. This work will continue as we are now working to identify those areas of the village which would benefit from additional defibrillators.

The Parish Council has been working with the local Park Group and Bradford Council to draw up some new proposals for Menston Park which will include a range of new play equipment and a memorial dedicated to Peter Finlay – who gave so much of his time to local groups in Menston.

The Parish Council was also involved as part of a consortium to purchase an area of land on Otley Road and whilst the combined bid was not successful it was a very worthwhile exercise in working with local groups and identifying priorities for the village.

Work has started afresh on the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan. A series of consultation exercises are now taking place to identify local aspirations and to shape the future of Menston. There are still plenty of opportunities for Menston residents to become involved. Thanks to Marilyn Banister for taking the lead with this group.

The Parish Council has continued to contribute to funding the Christmas lights in Menston.

The Parish Council has continued to fund the printing costs of the village newsletter, including an insert from Menston Cares.

The Parish Council has also made representations on a wide range of topics including the following:

- Much-needed highway improvements at the junction of Bingley Road and Main Street making it safer for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists
- Access for all at Menston Station as part of the improvement works
- Leeds Bradford Airport airspace change programme
- Opening of the Nisa shop in the former Co-op building
- Removal of obtrusive illegal signs at the gyratory
- Planning matters including enforcement and encroachment issues

3. Summary of expenditure

The Parish Council has used some of the Community Infrastructure Levy funds to support the following key projects:

£50,000 (CIL funds) to Menston Cricket Club for their new pavilion

£25,000 (CIL funds) to the Kirklands Trust for replacement windows in the old building at Kirklands

The Parish Council has also agreed to set aside £150,000 from the remaining CIL funds - £50,000 towards the new Scout Hut, £50,000 towards play equipment in Menston Park and £50,000 towards improvements on Main Street. This leaves a balance of £77,548 which is available for specific projects.

Other local groups and organisations which have received financial support from the Parish Council in the last year have included – the Cameo Lunch Club, Menston in Bloom, Menston Thespians, the Scouts and Guides, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Menston Show, The Beeches, Menston Bowls Club and the Friends of High Royds Memorial Garden.

4. Forthcoming plans for 2024/25

The Parish Council will continue to press Bradford Council's Highways to improve local roads and transportation.

The Parish Council will continue to work with the local Parks Group to update play provision in Menston Park.

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan will continue and the Parish Council will continue to encourage local people to become involved.

A key priority for the Parish Council is to make sure that the most appropriate use is made of land in and around the village. We will also continue to support local groups and organisations and encourage applications for a new round of CIL funds.