

## **Minutes of the Monthly Parish Council Meeting**

**Held at the Community Centre Monday 29th May 2018.**

**Present** Cllrs. D North (chair), P Ford (vice chair) R Booker, D Dyson, B Lee. P Makinson. K Wicks, C Barnett, J Walker (clerk), Dr A Billings South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner. T Webster Community Engagement Officer, Sergeant Needham and two PCSO officers from Royston Station. J Timlin, Barnsley Chronicle. Nine members of the public.

**11. Apologies for absence.** None were received.

### **12. Police and crime commissioner.**

**12 A.** The PCC Dr A Billings spoke about his role and the challenges of policing with reduced budgets, less staff and the legacy issues involving SYP (South Yorkshire Police). The force are trying to restore neighbourhood policing and the Chief constable has been asked to look at ways of achieving this. Compared to 2010 we are currently operating with 500 less officers which equates to a 15% reduction, by comparison London has had a 5% reduction over the same period.

The PCC distributed copies of The Police and Crime Plan for South Yorkshire 2017-2021. The three priorities haven't changed: - protecting vulnerable people, tackle crime/anti-social behaviour and to treat people fairly. Most meetings I attend raise the issue of anti-social behaviour. Vulnerable people can be anyone who is the victim of crime i.e. the elderly or persons with mental health issues. The police service is the only public service available 24 hours a day due to other services i.e. social services having cuts in funding. Missing people is a growing issue that can take up police man hours.

A member of the public said they had been the victim of burglaries and asked that the South Yorkshire horse watch scheme is re-established. We had a scheme in 2014 and they still operate in other areas, North Yorkshire for example. The PCC said I don't know the answer to that at the moment but we will look into it and get back to you. The police sergeant said we use our own sites and have tried to coordinate them with other regions through establishing links. The PCC we will get an answer and get back to you.

The reduction of police officer numbers was of most concern to the meeting and the PCC was asked if there could be further losses. Whilst he could not be sure of further reductions, PCC felt that police officer numbers wouldn't grow in future and talked briefly about how AI (Artificial Intelligence) was being used in other countries such as UAE (Dubai). Funding cuts were also regularly on the agenda at the Association of Police and Crime Commissioner meetings where PCC's from all force areas meet. Regardless of political party, funding cuts and police officer numbers were of common concern.

### **12 B. Comments made / questions raised**

Cllr D Dyson asked if the 101 system will improve. The PCC explained how a new system has been put in place and is being tested. No launch date has been set yet because we need to get it right before the launch. Cllr D Dyson, people were losing faith that it would ever improve and continued to report frustrations at having to wait to be connected or be put through to the most appropriate department.

A member of the public said we don't need A.I. we need officers on the ground that we can see and talk to. Relocating the mounted section to West Yorkshire and bringing them back to Cudworth was an expensive mistake, who sanctioned the move? We've lost the helicopter too.

The PCC agreed that people on the ground were essential which is why he asked the new Chief Constable to reintroduce NHP (although with less numbers than before). The relocation of the horses was a mistake and did cost money. It was done at a time when there was real pressure on the force to make savings, at a time when the Force lost police officer numbers. Whilst the police helicopter base at West Yorkshire had been removed under NPAS (National Police Air Service) reorganisation, the public would probably not have noticed any difference in service. That said, NPAS was reviewing the current helicopter sites.

A member of the public said, it's not only the loss of police officers that making crime go up it's the leniency of the courts. Dr Billings said changing the law is something that PCC's cannot change. The member of public, its government propaganda to say that crime is going down, it's the reporting mechanisms that have changed! Banks are the worst – fraud not being reported to save their reputation. Dr Billings explained how cyber-crime was on the increase, with a prediction of over 50% of all crimes committed being cyber related in the next few years. For the police to tackle cyber-crime effectively they need experts in cyber technology as well as police officers.

A member of the public said they had been the victim of burglaries and asked that the South Yorkshire horse watch scheme is re-established. We had a scheme in 2014 and they still operate in other areas, North and West Yorkshire for example. Can South Yorkshire Police re-establish Horse Watch? Frustrated that other Forces seem to be able to run a scheme for the whole county yet we are told to use the relevant NHP Facebook Page to report incidents. Criminals don't stick to NHP areas, they work fast and stolen goods move fast. Sergeant Needham had raised this issue in Force and the advice was to use the relevant facebook pages. The PCC said I don't know the answer to this at the moment but we will look into it and get back to you. Police Sergeant Needham, said we use our own sites and have tried to coordinate them with other regions through establishing links. The PCC we will get an answer and get back to you. The PCC would speak to the Chief Constable as part of his ongoing discussions around how the Force is tackling rural crime.

A member of the public asked as Shafton is close to West Yorkshire, do the police run any cross-border operations to target off road bikes etc. The PCC explained how the Force's off road bike team can be used by any policing district to target ASB associated with off road bikes and quads etc. PCSO Duggan said that he had been part of cross border operations in the past with West Yorkshire but not so much lately as he understood that West Yorkshire PCSO's have different powers to colleagues in South Yorkshire.

A member of the public expressed frustration at reporting untaxed vehicles via 101 and being told 'it's not the police, it should be reported to the DVLA. Sergeant Needham said he would be happy to take any reports of untaxed vehicles and pass them on to the DVLA.

A member of the public asked, do police still go into schools to talk about crime, especially knives? The PCC replied, the Force has dedicated Children and Young Person Officers (CYPO's) linked to schools across the County. The PCC also highlighted his [YOYO](#) (your only young once) scheme. Which provides multimedia training from industry professional to young people in schools across South Yorkshire.

### **13. Equipment / Machinery Tagging.**

**13 A.** No representative present.

**14. Minutes of the previous meeting.** Held Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were read.

**15. Matters arising** from the minutes of the previous meeting.

**59 A.** Cllr D Dyson asked if BMBC could be asked to carryout repairs to the fencing at The Singing Man. Which was damaged by a vehicle. Then the parish could complete its work that funding was provided for. Cllr D Dyson added he will now take this up with the ward Cllrs. Cllr D Dyson has asked ward Cllrs to pursue this, but hasn't received any feedback at this time.

**78 A.** Cllr B Lee said the footpath sign opposite Rabbit Ings is missing again. The clerk will report to the footpaths officer. BMBC footpaths officers have replied to say it will be replaced. The sign hasn't been replaced at the time of this meeting.

**81 E.** A member of the public said there is a lot of tipping on the left hand side of Sandy Bridge Lane. The chair said he will ring the environment tomorrow.

The chair said this has been reported to BMBC environment who advised that we should contact the land owner. The clerk was asked to write to the ward Cllrs to see if they could get any action on this issue.

**16. Ratification of the minutes of the previous meeting.**

**16 A.** Ratification proposed by Cllr C Barnett seconded by Cllr K Wicks. The minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 are ratified.

**17. Police Matters. "Issues dealt with above"**

**18. Roads/ Footpaths/ Lighting.**

**18 A.** A member of the public said the road signs on Barnsley Road are not visible due to the trees obscuring them. The chair said we will have a look at them and get them sorted.

**18 B.** A member of the public reported that the litter bin on Tollgate Close has no lid so the bags blow out, also the last time it was emptied a car pulled up and filled the bin again with carrier bags full of rubbish from the boot of the car. So that bin is now unusable until the next scheduled emptying by the council. The clerk was asked to report to BMBC.

**18 C. Community Centre/ Playing Fields/Allotments.**

The chair reported that the two vacant allotment plots have now been let.

**19. Correspondence.**

**19 A.** An email has been received by the Parish Council from a member of the public. Relating to the footpath which runs between the new Barnsley Road and the old section of Brierley Road (near Booths and Noah's Ark) Stating that it is being used as a short cut by motor cycles and scooters, which present a danger to pedestrians using the pavement. The email asks if anything can be done to block off the footpath. The clerk has forwarded the email to BMBC.

**20. Any other business.**

**20 A.** The meeting are disappointed that the three ward councillors haven't attended.

**20 B.** A member of the public asked if there was any progress on getting a sign erected to direct people in to the recreation ground. Cllr C Barnett said he didn't think there was a need for a sign. The member of public said lots of people visit the recreation ground to bowl. Cllr P Makinson said we want a sign because it is a community centre and BMBC said they would fund and erect one.

**20 C.** A member of the public said the paths around the bowling green are breaking up creating a hazard. The chair said we are in the process of repairing the area.

**20 D.** Cllr C Barnett asked if the meeting with First Impressions had taken place. Cllr K Wicks reported no but I have contacted them and left my details. Myself and Cllr D Dyson have carried out a survey and decided 23 locations. First Impressions said they wouldn't be putting up the baskets until the first week in June at the earliest. Cllr P Makinson asked if the brackets were okay Cllr K Wicks most are okay but some will need replacing.

**20 E.** A member of the public said there are 6 or 7 black bags fly tipped on Engine Lane Close. The chair said he would report to BMBC tomorrow.

**21. Date of next meeting** Monday 25 June 2018 at 07.00pm.

There being no further business brought for discussion the Chairman closed the meeting at 08.45pm.