

9 parishioners, Parish Council members, the Parish Clerk and Caretaker in attendance

Also in attendance Cllr Allan Bainbridge, PCSO Brian Donnelly and Nichole Herbert Durham Police

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

All members present

2. **Welcome:**

Cllr Davies (Chairman Waldrige Parish Council) welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending, he introduced the Parish Councillors and the Clerk.

3. **Minutes from previous years Annual Parish Meeting - 27 April 2017**

The minutes were agreed and approved, signed by the Chairman as a true

4. **Chairman's Report:**

Cllr Davies presided. The written report from the meeting is appended in full to these minutes. He noted if anyone wished a copy of the annual report to see the Clerk or visit the website

5. **County Councillors report:**

Cllr Bainbridge gave a report on Birch View as he took over this problem from Cllr Henig. He said Durham County Council have taken over this now and only thing outstanding is the highways, waiting for the road to be adopted.

Cllr Sexton spoke of the lessons learnt over the bad winter and will be helping to provide extra salt in future.

6. **Parishioners questions:**

- One resident requested to use to rooms for free to hold an event for her child to raise money for her trip to Madagascar. The members agreed to donate the room for free.

7. **Guest speakers** - PCSO Donnelly and Nichole Herbert gave a brief presentation and gave advice about cyber crime, and how to stay safe, as this is now a major problem. They gave our literature on this.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**

This will take place on 9 April 2019 - to commence at 6.00pm before Full Parish Council meeting, unless further guest speakers to be found and then the meeting will take place at a date to be confirmed.

Chairman's report – Annual Parish Meeting

I would like to welcome everyone and thank you for attending this evening. This meeting is held in addition to the normal Parish meetings which are held every month, except August, making 11 in total. Before each meeting the Council holds a surgery at 6.30pm for anyone wanting to attend, all we ask that prior notice is given to ensure Councillors will be in attendance.

I would also like to introduce our team for the year ahead Our Parish Clerk- Angela Foster Councillors Julie McDonnell, Kath Foster, Katie Warren, Geoff Cork, Melanie Howie, Chris Moody, Howell Davies and Glen Martin and Brian Laidler our caretaker. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Carol Harris who has stepped down from the council this year.

All our contact details are available on our website at www.waldridgeparish.co.uk, and in our Clippings newsletter, which is personally delivered by the Councillors to all residents 4 times per year.

The Parish are always happy to have parishioners attend our meetings, raising local issues and concerns, requesting assistance and information. We can't promise to achieve what everyone wants, but we can promise that we will do everything in our power to act on your behalf.

The Council is here to serve everyone in the area, so if you have any views or ideas to help improve the work of the Parish Council, please let us know as we are interested to hear them.

Throughout the year we have organised and held many events which will be discussed in our Annual Report. We review these activities constantly; hoping to make everything we are involved in even more successful than in previous years. The aim of these events is to provide a community based event where families can spend valuable, fun filled time together without needing to spend a lot of money. The events were a great success. When the Annual Report is issued, you will see just how much has been organised for the Parish, by the Parish, in the last year.

The Parish would like to invite all residents to take an active role in these events and also our environment by joining one of the many working parties that are organised. Even if you were to just pop along and give 15 minutes once a year to help us pitch an event tent or just set up a table, this would be a most welcome contribution. You'll be made very welcome.

Moving onto Northumbria in Bloom, the working group has, thanks to the hard work of Councillor Cork and Brian our Caretaker, has developed and grown beyond expectations once again. We have sponsored flower beds and as always, the parish looks in great shape with the addition of more flower beds. This year is going to be slightly different with a bigger focus on the wider community within the Chester le Street AAP bringing more communities into activity. I'm sure Geoff will answer any questions you may have later.

It has been raised by our local police force in the past, that maintaining local amenities to the high standard that we do, actively discourages crime. We are very lucky to not only live in this environment, but also one where the crime rate is low. Whilst we all recognise that there is a minority of people who behave in an inappropriate manner; it is important that you continue report incidents to the Police so that suitable measures can be taken to minimise the effect of undesirable behaviour. We are working with our neighbouring residents in Pelton and with the local Police to rid the nuisance of the off road motorbikes on Cong Burn and would ask all residents to report and sightings to the Police on 101 recording date and time.

We have actively pushed for speed checks in the parish to raise people's awareness of the need for caution in our built up areas when driving. We have attended several of these speed checks at all hours of the day. As a result of these speed checks and the hard work of our County Councillors, new lower speed restriction have come into force as you would have seen in the village and on Waldrige Estate. We will continue to monitor the effect and ask for the speed checks to be carried out. Moving on, as with all Councils our financial records are available to be viewed, upon request, by residents of the Parish and our draft financial report for the year will be enclosed in the annual report once issued.

When we distribute copies of our annual report can we ask if anyone has any questions to raise them with us? If you do have any specific parish based queries, please do not hesitate to approach one of your councillors tonight and any questions not able to be answered tonight will be looked into and we will get back to you. I would like to thank the members of our Parish Council, our County Councillors Katherine and Keith, and also Durham Constabulary for the time and effort throughout the year they have provided within our community and their attendance at our Parish meetings.

I would also like to specifically thank Angela, the Clerk of the Parish, and Brian, our Parish Caretaker, for all their unseen hard work throughout the year. We wouldn't survive without their support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank any of the public that have been involved in helping us this year, also all Parish Councillors for their time and energy. We are all volunteers and give up our time to help our Parishioners as best we can and also to continue keeping our Parish 'looking good'.

I look forward to seeing you again at our Parish meetings.

Many thanks again for giving your time to attend this meeting