

Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership – Charity Number 1112151 – met on 20 May 2014 to hold the Annual General meeting followed by the General Meeting for the month of May

6.00PM to 6.20PM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Minutes

Present: W Bates, M Bell, J Blackburn, J Blakey, R Cowen, S Featherstone, K Griffiths, G Kitson, B Little, D Paget, C Parker, S Raine, F Salisbury, M Syer, S Walworth

In Attendance: Cllr M Plews

1. Apologies for absence: D Chambers, J Geyer, K Haigh, M Williams

2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting 21 May 2013:

Approval of the minutes was proposed by M Syer and seconded by D Paget and approved unanimously by the members present.

3. Chair's Annual Report:

The chair welcomed everyone to the 10th Annual General Meeting of Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership.

In 2013/14 further projects were considered for the remaining Bowburn Improvement Fund (Regeneration Pot).

The Youth Club installed gym equipment, upgraded the gym area, and repaired a path

With the help of matched funding from the Parish Council and Parish Paths Partnership, a popular footpath/bridleway was drained.

With matched funding from the Durham County Council, landscaping to Romaine Square tidied up the area around the bus stop.

The Community Centre improved the entrance area to make the centre accessible to all comers. Additional funds will install stage lights and a stair lift to the stage.

Of the other projects considered, £3600 was safeguarded for play equipment at Parkhill until a decision is taken on the County Council's Play Policy.

Unfortunately the lighting scheme on the Cemetery Road in Bowburn and the Old Quarrington Road was not carried out; however our local members will fund the removal of unsightly railings from the entrance to Tail-upon-End Lane and install bollards in Durham Road, which was in our Masterplan

The remaining funds are allocated to a contingency fund to cover any increase in costs and fund a community chest.

As well as holding funds for The Fun Day; Bowburn Opencast Action Group and the Bowls Group, we now hold the remaining monies for the Bowburn Improvement Fund, which is overseen by Durham County Council.

We have supported:

- A bus service for the Cape site and a Sunday bus service to the Arniston Centre.
- A weekly Credit Union Bank in the Community Centre with volunteers from the Partnership
- A member of the County Council attended to discuss:
- How the revised Local Plan will affect Bowburn
- Another explained how flooding recurs in the village, and gave advice on how to reduce the problem.

Comments were made on the following:

An appeal which was going to an independent planning inspector for the housing at the 'Daisy Field' which may affect future proposals for a Primary School

A proposal by the County Council to reduce the amount of street lighting.

Requested a re-design of the cycle lane into Durham City at Mountjoy.

Concern has been expressed at PACT meetings and to the County Council about the dangerous parking at the Infant School. Yellow lines have been updated but we feel that the lines should be extended.

A consultation questionnaire was completed on the possible re-location of Bowburn Post Office to a local Filling Station

Backing was given to the Youth Club leaders in a review of Youth Support in County Durham

Discussions continue with the Esh Group to create a percent? for Art work at the entrance to the village

Support for a community building at the north end of the village

Updates to the Parish Plan

A policy for tree management

A number of issues that may affect Bowburn in the proposed County Durham Local Plan.

The Partnership was pleased to note that the appeal in respect of the Daisy Field was dismissed but only on one ground that it had mentioned (separation distance of some houses from existing houses). It was also pleased to note that the appeal for a wind turbine at Heugh Hall (on which it had commented in the previous year) was dismissed.

The Partnership had also previously commented on an application for a Fire Training centre on the Industrial estate and these comments were taken into account when planning permission was granted this year.

Not all our comments to the Local Plan have been incorporated in the latest version but the Partnership is pleased to note that it does now contain provision for a new road which would take traffic from the existing line of the A177 through the village.

The Partnership is grateful for the support from:

Our locally elected County Councillors who regularly attend Partnership meetings

Members who are represented on the East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership and the Parish Council as well as our local interest groups.

Reports are received every month from each of these groups which keep the Partnership up to date on important issues in our area. The Partnership then circulates the information to the area of benefit.

The Deputy Mayoress, Councillor Jan Blakey who we are pleased to say is a regular member of the Partnership, opened the celebrations to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Bowburn & Parkhill Community Partnership. The Partnership welcomed Ashleigh Walker, who along with Katie Roberts, created the art work for the Partnership logo.

Members from the past and today enjoyed reminiscing about the setting up of the Partnership and its continuing presence in Bowburn.

The chair thanked:

The Trustees who have conscientiously attended meetings throughout the year, especially Ken Haigh who is standing down this year for health reasons.

The locally elected members for their support

The Parish Council for their information

The advice and support from Julie Anson and the County Council

PC Cockburn for his reports and attendance when he is available.

The Partnership continues to have a strong membership, but took the decision not to have a meeting in December as the third Tuesday is close to the Christmas holiday period.

In the future the Partnership will continue to support local groups and liaise with statutory bodies to put forward issues that concern the village of Bowburn and its residents.

4(i). Statement of Financial Affairs:

The treasurer presented a report on the 2013-14 accounts, by the independent examiner, Donna Paget treasurer of Bowburn Community Centre.

The report was proposed by J Blakey and seconded by S Raine and approved unanimously by the members present.

4(ii) Independent examiner for 2015:

It was agreed to appoint Donna Paget as the independent examiner for 2015.

5. Election of Officers: The election of the following officials was agreed by the members:

Chair: Richard Cowen Vice Chair: Jan Blakey

Secretary: Janet Blackburn Treasurer: Mike Syer

6. Election of Trustees: The following members were elected as trustees:

W Bates, M Bell, G Kitson, S Raine

7. Close of AGM:

The chair closed the AGM and thanked members for attending and looked forward to seeing them at future meetings.