

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, Bolton
Monday 20th May 2019 in Bolton Memorial Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm. A total of 27 persons were present, including seven Parish Councillors, County Councillor Neil Hughes, District Council Joan Raine and guest speaker, Liam Donnelly

1. Welcome and introduction

The Parish Clerk, Shelagh Leyland welcomed those present and thanked them for attending and for supporting the Parish Council so well during the year. She also thanked Liam for travelling from Manchester to do the presentation.

2. Election of Chairman for the meeting

Peter Griffiths was proposed as Chairman by Councillor Peter Smith, and seconded by Councillor Roger Bird.

3. Presentation by Liam Donnelly, 1618 Architects, Eden Grove development

Liam gave a brief history of developments since planning permission was granted for a total of 37 units in 2015/16. A local firm has refurbished two stone bungalows at the far end and the two lodges near the gate. A larger company has been awarded the contract for conversion of the main house and stable blocks and initial new builds (three bungalows on old car park, plus one by the lodges. Work has started cleaning up the damage caused by water ingress and the fire in the main house. Two conditions (provision of drainage plans and archaeological survey) are being discharged.

The owner now wishes to modify the plans for the third and largest phase, to replace the proposed 10 unit- "mews" block with 9 detached houses, plus two further detached houses elsewhere in the grounds. An additional unit is proposed behind the first lodge, with direct access off the road. If planning permission is not granted for these changes, the original plans will be implemented.

The contribution to education and the installation of a footpath on the main road to the village remain.

Residents raised several issues:

- a) direct access off the main road to the proposed house behind the lodges would be dangerous due to the sharp bend in the road.
- b) the resulting footprint will be larger than the original Eden Grove site. This may affect the obligation to provide affordable housing.
- c) it is doubtful that permission would be granted for any additional unit given the change in status of Bolton in the Eden Local Plan
- d) concern was expressed about the ability of the sewerage system to cope with surface water (soakaways not being possible). However, United Utilities had been happy with the original plans.

The Chairman thanked Liam for the presentation.

4. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2018/19

"This is my fifth annual report as chairman and as usual it has been a full and interesting year.

As is customary, I will try to cover some of the main events briefly but, first of all, I must thank my colleagues for their support – particularly Roger, Vice-Chairman and Peter past Chairman. Shelagh, our clerk, the human dynamo, has performed her duties and much more with her usual efficiency and enthusiasm.

We co-opted Sheila Summerscales during the previous year and added another recruit this year in the form of Laura Hall, so we are now up to full strength as a Council.

Taking events in turn, the Field Day last June was a great success, thanks to the efforts of Andy Stevens, Claire Hudson, Christine Taylor and all their helpers. The next one is due on Saturday 22nd June. As always, everybody welcome.

In the Cumbria In Bloom competition Bolton again gained several awards last year including Gold for the Best Village, the Tidy Village Trophy, Gold for Pride in the Community and runner up for Best Sustainable Development. A remarkable achievement and great credit to the Bolton in Bloom Committee and their

supporters. The Open Garden Day run by the Stathams resulted in significant funds being raised for the Primary School.

The Bonfire party was also well attended again, despite the inclement weather, providing great fun for all present. It was well organised by Alan Green, the BFA and their many helpers. Enough money was raised to ensure that another display will take place this year.

Close to my heart, the Litter Picking team, comprising Bolton in Bloom and others, contributed to the Great British Spring Clean in March, collecting an impressive haul of fifteen sacks.

I must mention the colourful scarecrow competition this weekend. This was very entertaining, with the exhibits displaying a lot of work, creativity and humour.

Returning to regular activities, the walking groups, Bolton Wanderers and the Strollers, continue to venture out, come rain or shine, under the guidance of Jim Sellars and Cathy Smith .

Bolton Exchange itself continues to flourish, celebrating its tenth birthday, providing a valuable service and a meeting place for the community, thanks to the efforts of Lesleyann and all the volunteers who keep it going.

In terms of entertainment we continue to benefit from the Film Nights organised by Paul and Pat Wilson, who put on a varied and interesting programme. We have also had several live shows in the Memorial Hall performed by Highlights Productions organised by Cathy Smith and Sue Kibbler .

The village website continues to go from strength to strength and provides a valuable means of communication for residents, the council, local businesses and societies. I hope you visit and use it. Alan Green has taken over the maintenance and is in the process of upgrading the site using new software.

Shelagh has developed her round robin email system which now comprises some 150 users and continues to be helpful in conveying news and practical information. We believe we are compliant with the new GDPR regulations now in force.

Eden Grove – we have just heard from Mr Donnelly about the planned development for the site which will obviously have considerable impact on the village.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is currently in abeyance because at long last the EDC Local Plan has now been ratified. This covers much of what we were seeking and provides us with some protection from development as we are designated as a smaller village. However we can reactivate own plan should this be necessary.

Street lights – The Parish Council has taken over responsibility for the ten lights from the EDC, which has provided a grant towards their maintenance until 2022, when we will have to pay for them. They will all become LED lights which should be easier to maintain and cheaper to run.

Traffic was a matter of widespread concern last year following the A66 closures and there were similar concerns this year when major roadworks were announced. However, it is fair to say that Highways managed this process with commendable efficiency, resulting in minimal infractions. Consultation has already taken place about introducing a deceleration lane from the A66 from Appleby. Also, as you will be aware, consultation is currently taking place about the dualling of the A66. Neither change is likely to happen for some time.

Turning to the Play Park, as you know, this has now been completed thanks to the efforts of the Bolton Bunch and all those who contributed. Donations were made by Bolton Exchange, the Willows Trust, Appleby Rotary Club, Hansons and many other sources. We were successful in gaining grants from the National Lottery Fund, the Post Code Local Trust , Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, the Eden Community Fund, Cumbria County Council, the Cumbria Community Foundation with the Dulverton Trust, the Hadfield Trust, the Frieda Scott Trust and the Finn Family Fund, enabling us, with help from the EDC, to produce a state of the art play park in just two years - a remarkable achievement for a small village and a great credit to all those concerned.

On the subject of grants, Shelagh has been successful in raising money for a new cooker for the Hall and a project to build a dry stone wall bench in the field. This project includes training for volunteers and the Primary School has incorporated relevant educational materials into their curriculum and nature week.

In the light of the success of the play park project a steering group has recently been formed to investigate the possibility of refurbishing the Hall which is sadly in need of repair and development. The Hall is 97 years old and needs to be modernised and extended to meet changing needs of a growing community. The group comprises representatives from the Hall Committee and Parish Council and will seek to find out what everyone wants from the Hall and then develop an outline plan and costings. It is early days, has been tried before, but the success of the play park project does provide momentum and evidence that we are capable of putting in the hard yards and can manage this type of project. More of this anon. Needless to say, we will be looking for support, volunteers etc. A questionnaire will be coming your way. Please take time to complete it.

I should like to say a thank you to everyone who contributed in one form or other. I have mentioned a lot of names but I apologise to anyone I have missed out. I would like to finish as I did last year. Bolton is very fortunate to have so many people who are willing to give freely of their time for the good of the community. This year has provided even more tangible evidence of this community spirit. This is something of which we should continue to be proud and grateful."

5. Other Councillors' reports

None

6. Financial report

The Parish Clerk presented the annual accounts, copies of which were distributed to attendees. The report is attached. The accounts have been internally audited every quarter (without charge) by John Cotter. The PC will have to submit to external audit this year as both income and expenditure were above £25,000 (due to play park grants). The annual governance statement and accounts will be posted on the parish Web-site in due course as required by law.

The PC ended the year with a precept surplus of £3,495.93 and requested a precept of £6,750 for 2019/20. A VAT reclaim of £859.34 is expected, plus a grant of £908 from EDC for footway lights. Predicted expenditure in 2019/20 is £7730.00.

7. Public forum

An up-date was requested about the flooding on the Kings Meaburn road. CCC Highways report a problem with the drain from the road through the field to the river. "Trial investigation within the field is currently programmed for the 1st week in June. The renewal and upgrade of the pipe through the field from the road to the river is on the 19/20 NPRN scheme list if deemed required after the investigation so the issue will be resolved finally going forward".

It was reported in the last Herald that the main road in Bolton will be closed between Silver Street and Eden Fold from 3rd June for up to 5 days to investigate the drainage problem. Neither Neil Hughes nor the PC have been informed. This is Appleby Fair week, and will affect parking at the pub. The Clerk has informed Highways but not had a reply.

9. Date of next Annual Parish meeting: Tentatively Monday 18th May 2020

Signed as correct.....Date.....

Peter Griffiths, Chairman