

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, Bolton
Monday 21st May 2018 in Bolton Memorial Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm. A total of 23 persons were present, including five Parish Councillors, and County Councillor Neil Hughes.

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

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 Ruth Elstone, Head Bolton Primary School

Ruth gave an enthusiastic and inspiring presentation on the school's plans and policies. She has been head since September 2017. Having lived in the village for some years, she felt "drawn" to the school. There are 60 pupils this year, with 63 anticipated for September. Ruth is a teaching head, spending half her time in the classroom, which keeps her in touch with the children. There are three other teachers, two teaching assistants and specialist teachers for PE, French and Science. There are three classes in the morning and two in the afternoon, though this might change depending on numbers.

Discussions are taking place about the pros and cons of expanding (which would involve new building), but no decision has been made yet. The school is technically full at 56, but can cater for a few more if there is a compelling reason, for example a sibling in school or recently moved into village. Similarly, children outside the theoretical catchment area may be admitted at the discretion of the school. Children from outside the village who attend the nursery next door often move on to the primary school.

One of Ruth's priorities is to develop physical education and after school activities: the school is planning to make more use of the Hall and field. A recent example was a tag-rugby tournament organised by a resident, Dean Dewey, who has been supporting PE activities. A further priority is to improve behaviour, and build up respect to support the "caring, inspiring, enjoying and excelling" ethos of the school. "Consequence sheets" have been introduced: 3 sheets and parents are informed, 5 sheets and a privilege is lost.

Ruth is keen to promote stronger links with the wider community, including Bolton in Bloom's activities. One example is this week's "off-timetable" Nature Week (a literacy week in disguise), which is being supported by residents and parents.

"The Bolton Friends Association" raises funds to support the school, giving £50 per month. The school council has been rekindled, and children are involved in decision making, including the use of the £50.

The biggest issue facing the school is the juggling act with funding. The school has a Three Year Plan to demonstrate that it will not be in deficit. No additional funding is available for children with education learning needs (i.e. on individual learning plans), unless those needs are severe enough to merit an "education health care plan".

4. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2017/18

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

As before, 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, Peter past Chairman. The indefatigable Shelagh, our clerk, has beavered away with her usual efficiency and enthusiasm.

I should also mention the departure of one of our councillors, Barbara Butterworth, who resigned in March because of domestic and business pressures. I should like to thank Barbara for her service, which covered twenty years, including a period as chairman. We have co-opted Sheila Summerscales during the year and expect to add another recruit shortly. In terms of departures, we also lost Barbara and Derick Cotton who moved away in October, after many years service to the village. In addition to many good works. Derick

was a founder of the Exchange and our Parish Clerk, while Barbara compiled the Bolton Millennium Book. Hopefully we gave them a fitting send-off.

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 23rd June. As always, everybody welcome.

In the Cumbria In Bloom competition Bolton again gained several awards last year including Best Small Village and a Pride in your Community Gold Medal – A remarkable achievement. Great credit to Eleanor Hayton, Ann Shepherd, Sheila Summerscales and Rowan Hastwell and all those involved.

The Open Garden Day run by the Stathams resulted in significant funds being raised for the Play Park development.

The Bonfire party was also very well attended again, providing great fun for all present. It was very well organised by Frankie Hayton, Keira Booth and the PTA. Again part of the proceeds was given to the Play Park.

Close to my heart, the Litter Picking team comprising ten heroes collected an impressive haul of fourteen sacks during the Spring Clean up.

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, providing a valuable service and a meeting place for the community, thanks to the efforts of Lesley Ann 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.

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. In fact, most of my report will have appeared on the site at some time. I hope you visit and use it. Alan Green has taken over the maintenance supported by Neil Austin.

Shelagh has developed her round robin email system which now comprises some 137 users and continues to be helpful in conveying practical, up to date information. Data protection has now become an issue with the new GDPR regulations with which we have to comply. We will be dealing with this subject later tonight.

Eden Grove – After much “to ‘ing and fro’ ing,” the owner, Mr Bhailok, has apparently decided to go ahead with the development in line with the planning permission for up to 35 units. Demolition of the old school buildings has commenced, and work on the new building/conversion is due to start at the end of June, beginning of July.

Neighbourhood Plan – Hard to believe but we submitted our draft plan to the EDC for scrutiny and formal examination in September 2015. It was delayed as a result of staff changes and an error on the part of the EDC. Subsequently we were advised to await the outcome of the new EDC Local Plan as our plan has to tie in with the Local Plan. This has also taken forever but is due to be finalised shortly when we intend to press on with updating our own plan and seeking approval. You will be interested to know I wrote this paragraph last year and curiously the position remains exactly the same.

Turning to the Play Park, as you know, a steering group was formed called the Bolton Bunch to take the project to develop the Park forward. Following this, a number of fund raising events took place, including pub quizzes, a Fun Day in September which gave everyone in the village the opportunity to comment on the suggested plans, a Craft Exhibition in November organised by Diane Gainey, the phenomenally successful Auction of Promises and the equally successful evening with Leo Houlding. A number of

donations have been made including Bolton Exchange, the Willows Trust, Appleby Rotary Club and many other sources. Several applications for grants have been successful – the Big Lottery Fund, the Eden Community Fund, the Dulverton Trust, the Hadfield Trust, the Frieda Scott Trust and the Finn Family Fund - so that the overall fund now stands at over £50000, against our target of £65000, with further grant applications outstanding. Considering this activity has taken place in just over twelve months, this is a remarkable achievement for a small village and a great credit to all those concerned. Katrina will talk about the next stage shortly. One other point. It has been asked why all this money is being allocated to the Play Park, rather than to the refurbishment of the Hall. The answer is simple. These grants are only available to support young people and outdoor activity, and no other use is eligible.

I should like to say a big thankyou to everyone who contribute 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. As always, they are a minority of the community but our minority is much more substantial and active than most. 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 available to the meeting. The report is attached. The accounts have been internally audited (without charge) by John Cotter. The PC stayed within its budget during the FY2017/18, and ended the year with a precept surplus of £3667. The annual governance statement and accounts will be posted on the parish Web-site in due course as required by law.

7. Up-date on the Community Play Park Project

Katrina Nicholson expanded on the project on behalf of the Bolton Bunch Steering Committee. Of the £54,000 which has been raised within the last year, a very impressive £12,300 has come from local fundraising activities such as pub quizzes, the Fun Day, auction of promises, donations etc. The funds are held in the PC project account and the Hall Committee bank accounts. Although more grants are anticipated, there are now sufficient funds to commence the tendering process, which EDC (as current playground managers), will do on behalf of the community. It is anticipated that this might take up to three months. The PC and Hall Committee will work together to commission drainage work necessary to ensure the play park is usable the whole year. The cost of the playpark drainage element can be absorbed by the play park fund.

8. Public Forum

Bolton Lane Ends/A66 junction: visibility problems still arise when grass is not cut, or road signs placed in the wrong position. Clerk will take it up with Highways England if it happens again.

Construction traffic at Eden Grove: all vehicles have to be parked within the estate, not on the road.

Recycling: Non-recyclable materials are sometimes deposited in the bins – e.g. polystyrene in the paper/card bin. Valuable space is taken up by cardboard boxes which have not been collapsed. Clerk to mention in parish newsletter.

9. Date of next Annual Parish meeting: Tentatively Monday 21st May 2018