

BINGLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Cardigan House, Ferncliffe Road, Bingley BD16 2TA



ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF BINGLEY

Thursday 27th April 2017 6.30PM

Held at Mornington Road Methodist Church Hall, Herbert Street, Bingley BD16 4NU

Chaired by Councillor Ros Dawson, Chair of Bingley Town Council and minutes taken by the Administrative Officer, Laura Jowett.

Also present : Councillors Beckwith, Chapman, Clough, Dearden, Goode, Hardman, Quarrie, Simpson, Truelove, Varley, J Wheatley, M Wheatley and Winnard.
Ruth Batterley, Town Clerk
nineteen members of the public.

1. Welcome by Councillor Dawson

Councillor Dawson welcomed everyone to the Annual Town meeting for Bingley. She introduced herself and explained the format of the meeting. Councillor Dawson noted that the aim of the meeting was to allow residents to share with councillors their concerns for the area.

Councillor Dawson identified some highlights of the first year of Bingley Town Council including Litter Picks, tidying up derelict buildings, improvements to the Christmas lights and the recent Easter market.

Councillor Dawson gave an overview of the Town Council.

- 1 year since council formed
- Serves Bingley, Cottingley, Crossflatts, Eldwick, Gilstead, Micklethwaite
- 16 councillors, 6 wards, over 18,000 electors
- Budget 2016-17: £136,566 (carry over just over £80,000)
- Budget 2017-18: £211,214
- Precept: 2016-17: £15.34 2017:18: £15.96
- Priorities: good governance, financial management, policies, procedures and organisational structure, allotments, tackle issues

2. Presentation by Bingley Town Councillors

The following presentations were delivered;

Councillor Marcus Dearden, Vice Chair of the Town Council and Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee gave a presentation about the work of the F&GP committee. He explained that the Finance and General Purposes committee is a very active committee with responsibility for financial management and setting the budget. Cllr Dearden explained that F&GP ensure the council acts lawfully and that the Town Clerk plays a major role in this. He stated that the council understand the need to keep the precept as low as possible for residents and that Bingley's precept is one of the lowest in Bradford District. He explained that grants had been awarded to a number of local groups including Cottingley Guides and Bingley Green Dog Walkers.

Councillor Mark Truelove, Chair of the Planning Committee gave a presentation about the Planning Committee. He explained that it was formed 8 months ago and has 8 councillors, that Bingley Town Council make recommendations on planning applications but that Bradford Metropolitan District Council make the final decision. Councillor Truelove informed the meeting that the Planning Committee had considered 142 planning applications in the year and councillors would attend a planning appeal about Milner Field Farm in Bradford on the 15th May as the council have registered their objections to the proposal. He went on to explain that Bingley Town Council are hosting a meeting on 30th May at 6.30pm to discuss a Neighbourhood Plan for Bingley and he urged residents to attend and get involved.

Councillor John Goode spoke about Allotment gardens in Bingley. He acknowledged the tremendous amount of work from Ruth Batterley, Town Clerk, in the transfer of the allotments from Bradford Council to Bingley Town Council. He expressed his thanks to Jennifer Gregory, as site rep, and to Ray Gregory for all their hard work at Beck Lane. He explained about priorities for work at the allotments and about the need to reduce waiting lists by limiting them to Bingley residents and, where appropriate, splitting plots as they become vacant.

Councillor Simpson gave an update on the Green and Clean committee and highlighted some of their achievements including collecting 239 bags of rubbish from 5 litter picks, engaging with local schools, recruiting 16 Green and Clean champions, completing a survey of rubbish bins and encouraging responsible dog ownership. She explained that a local nursery has been contracted to provide floral displays which will be in place throughout the summer.

Councillor Chapman spoke of her involvement in developing an Emergency Plan for Bingley. She explained this came from Bingley Flood Support Group and now provides a plan for any emergency, including flooding. She explained the clean-up continues but that Bingley is more prepared for emergencies due to having the Emergency Plan in place.

Councillor Chapman gave a further update in her role as Chair of the Staffing Committee. She highlighted the work of the committee in relation to appointing staff and other tasks related to employing staff such as contracts, appraisals and policies.

Councillor Varley gave a presentation on the work of the Communications and Events Sub Committee including social media, the new Bingley Town Council website and both virtual and hard copy newsletters. She spoke of events attended by councillors and of the new logo with 6 sections to reflect the 6 wards covered by the town council.

Councillor Dawson spoke about assets and derelict sites. She explained that the Town Council have recently applied to have Bingley Pool, the Town Hall and Myrtle Park registered as Assets of Community Value and that the council have decided to apply for Priestthorpe Annex to be registered as an Asset of Community Value. She reported that the Station Master's House is currently up for sale and that a community protection order enabled the grounds to be tidied up.

Councillor Dawson then went on to look ahead to the councils priorities for 2017-2018. She explained the priorities are identified in detail in the Spring 2017 newsletter and outlined some key dates of upcoming activity for the council including the Annual Meeting of the Council on the 23rd May, the Neighbourhood Plan meeting on the 30th May and the Green and Clean Forum on the 10th June. She explained there will be a resident's survey about markets and that the council are temporarily moving their offices to Cottingley.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Phillip Davies MP, Ward Councillor Simon Cooke, Jean Sidebottom, Councillor A Fenton, Councillor H Clough and Councillor C O'Neill.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 31st May 2016. Proposed Councillor Varley, seconded Councillor Truelove and agreed. Fourteen were in favour and there were four abstentions from the vote.

5. To receive comments and questions from electors of the parish

Residents raised the following items:

1. Empty shops on Main Street. Councillor Dawson advised that Bingley Town Council wrote to the landlord and will follow this up. Councillor Dawson explained that empty shops will be on the agenda for the new Town Centre and Regeneration Committee.
2. Concerns were raised that if Lidl open in the town it may impact on the Co-op. This was addressed and the resident advised that the Co-op had not expressed such concerns.
3. A member of the public raised their concerns about the budget. They felt that the precept would have to be increased by 63% next year. The Town Clerk explained that was incorrect She explained the process, that the council is building reserves and that they are keen to keep the precept low.
4. Parking concerns on Clyde Street and in the centre of Bingley. Councillor Dawson explained that all parking and highways issues are the responsibility of Bradford Metropolitan District Council but that this issue will be raised with them.
5. Parking issues in Crossflatts around Bingley Grammar School. Councillor Hardman gave an update.
6. A resident raised their concerns about registering Myrtle Park as an Asset of Community Value. Councillor Dawson explained the process and that it means assets cannot be sold without consultation but that it does not commit the council.
7. A resident commented that the Auction Mart has to be a retail site and expressed concern that Sainsburys was refused but Lidl approved.
8. A member of the public raised his concerns about the lack of bins and horse riders riding recklessly in Prince of Wales park.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm, Councillor Dawson thanked everyone for attending and encouraged them to help themselves to the light refreshments provided.