

**The Annual Parish Meeting for Faldingworth was held
in the Memorial Hall, Faldingworth on Wednesday 15 March 2017.**

Chairman: Cllr T. Howard (Chair of Faldingworth Parish Council)

Clerk: S Aikman

Also present: 10 members of the public.

APM/17/03/01 Minutes

The notes of the meeting held on 15 March 2016 were agreed and signed as minutes.

APM/17/03/02 Chairman's Report

Neighbourhood plans have been at the forefront of discussions for many Parish Councils in the last year. In the last newsletter, residents were asked for their views on this matter. Whilst there was no response a speaker has been invited tonight to explain Neighbourhood plans to residents so they are able to make an informed decision.

The amenity land which was part of the planning permission for Cricket Meadows has taken a step forward. In order for this to happen the Parish Council has allowed the land to be accessed via the perimeter of the playing field. Trees have been planted round the perimeter of the playing field to provide a walkway to the amenity land. The trees were planted free of charge to the Parish Council by The Conservation Volunteers which is an initiative funded by West Lindsey District Council.

With the help of the Memorial Hall, Faldingworth live and West Lindsey District Council, the Parish Council has purchased a defibrillator which is located outside the Memorial Hall.

APM/17/03/03 Financial Report

The Clerk gave a report on the financial status of the Council.

APM/17/03/04 Neighbourhood Plans

Cllr Steve England and Cllr John Evans (Nettleham PC) gave a presentation on the process and benefits of producing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

WLDC was promoting the development of NPs. 6 plans had been adopted, 1 was going to referendum and 33 were currently in preparation.

While the Local Plan gives a strategic overview the NP gives the opportunity for communities to influence future development, protect open space and gives a community right to build and to challenge proposals. The geographic position of Faldingworth meant that future development proposals were possible; a NP would give the opportunity to influence where and how much development was planned.

Cllr Evans had been majorly involved in the development of Nettleham's NP and felt that the community was better than the District planners at leading on the scope and scale of development in their Parish.

Planning Officers have to refer to adopted NPs when considering any development proposals.

Information and funding was available to help communities develop NPs. The process should include:

1. Area designation (whole Parish)
2. A character assessment – funds are available to have a consultant do this for the community. It must be done by a professional to carry any weight. NP committee members should walk around the Parish with the consultant.

3. Consultation – a key part of the process. Start simply with what do you like in the Parish, what don't you like, what should be improved. All helps with the decision making. Move on to scale/scope of possible developments, type of housing, facilities needed. Good record keeping of consultations is essential evidence for a NP. Consult – get feedback – consult again.

It was not noted that a NP cannot designate less housing than in the Local Plan which gives the minimum development for your area.

NP gives guidance as to what is appropriate for the future of the community.

The NP committee should be composed of a variety of people and expertise within the Parish, getting as many involved as possible. Only the Parish Council can decide to do a NP.

A provisional draft plan may be as little as 4 pages long. A full plan can be around 15 pages, with 100 supporting pages of evidence.

NPs are submitted to WLDC, if they are happy with it then goes to an external examiner to ensure it is clear, sound and cannot be misinterpreted. The NP then goes to referendum and is voted on by the community. The NP then has to be considered by WLDC Planning. The final NP will determine what can happen in the community over the next 20 years.

£11k Locality funding available. WLDC have further funding if necessary. Once the area is designated WLDC can help with printing questionnaires. Training is also available through 'Locality' and WLDC.

Once the NP process has started it starts to build up weight as you progress to completion and has full weight once adopted. It is expected to take approximately 1 year to complete the plan; a worthwhile process that helps to understand what is important for the community and to understand the dynamics of the community.

Central Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is 15% for communities where there is no NP and 25% where there is a NP.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is 2,000 pages, 60 page condensed version. The NP must be compliant with the NPPF.

Support:

- Cllr Evans is a NP Champion and can give guidance on the process.
- Locality has produced a step-by-step guidance document.
- Community Lincs can provide support and guidance on consultation
- Look at other NPs on WLDC website

APM/17/03/05 Parishioner's Questions

There were no questions.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed by the Chairman.....