

Update from Parish Council meeting held on 10 December 2018:

- PCSO Lorraine Kavanagh was unable to attend but sent a crime report to the Parish Council which is available on our website.
- There was no update given at the meeting from District Councillors.

Bell Lane Car Park

- Wakefield Council had sent some amendments to the original car park layout as requested. These were agreed. We are waiting for final costs.

Senior Citizens Fund

- At the request of the Senior Citizens Fund Committee the Parish Council agreed to an additional grant of £2000 to ensure that all costs for the Christmas Tea would be met this year.

Village Events Committee:

The minutes were received and accepted. The Parish Council thanked the Committee and staff for their hard work in making this year's events a success:

- Gala
- Community Day
- Tree Dedication Service
- Beacon Lighting
- Christmas Lights Switch On
- Santa Day
- Drop In (held monthly)

Village Facilities Committee

The minutes were received and accepted.

- Play Ground Inspection Reports – The annual inspection of play equipment at Carr Bridge and Low Ackworth had been carried out. There were 3 minor items requiring attention on each site.
- Cemetery Fees – It was agreed that the Cemetery fees would be increased in line with Wakefield Councils fees – Ackworth residents are charged 60% of their fees and non-residents are charged 20% more than their fees.
- Dando Way – from Bell Lane car park to Mill Lane – discussions had been held with an officer from Wakefield Council on improvements that could be made to the path to enable it to be suitable for use all year round. We are currently waiting for his report.
- Additional Planters and Seats – it was agreed to ask Wakefield Council's permission to site these on the grassed area opposite the junction of Barnsley Road / Bell Lane.

Road Safety Committee:

The minutes were received and accepted.

- High Ackworth – for many years we have been pressing Wakefield Council for improvements for pedestrians crossing the A628 near to the Village Green. Due to the poor sight lines Wakefield Council have been unable to put anything in place. The Parish Council have agreed to fund a PV2 survey this will give a firm indication if the area fits the criteria to be put forward for consideration to install some type of crossing.
- Parking issues on Dicky Sykes Lane and Turnberry Avenue – we are waiting to receive draft proposals from Wakefield Council of any improvements that can be made.
- Long Lane / Pontefract Road Junction – we had asked Wakefield Council that the 30mph sign be moved from south of Beech Drive further north towards Pontefract. Wakefield Council said that they can only seek to alter the speed limit if they can identify a pattern of speed related road incidents that have resulted in injury. We are asking them to reconsider this decision.
- Traffic Island crossing point on A638 at All Saints Church – further evidence has been sent to Wakefield Council about the condition of the footpath at this crossing and we await their response.

Allotment Working Group:

- The Parish Council have approved a recommendation from their last meeting to open the waiting list to any resident who lives in the Wakefield District. Priority would be given to Ackworth residents and as practiced at the Cemetery a different scale of charges for non-residents would apply.

Planning Applications Update:

The Parish Council have a policy to object to all tree felling applications unless the tree is dead, dying or a danger to the public

An objection will therefore be sent to Wakefield Council for all of the following:

18/02327/TCA 101 Pontefract Road – To remove 5no. Cypress trees and 1no. Blue Atlantic cedar – the Report from the Tree Surgeon says – T1 is dead and trees T2-T6 are of low quality. The removal of T2 –T6 is a precursor to re-landscaping which will include new tree and shrub border.

18/02557/TCA Snaith Villa, Pontefract Road – remove dying pear tree and replace by younger pear and apple trees

18/02566/TCA 93 Pontefract Road – T1 Remove Birch with failed crown; T2 Birch – minor lift – 5% thin, 1m drawback from conflicting buildings/highway on T3 Ash, T4-T6 Birch

18/02421/TCA Birchwood House, Purston Lane – Remove 7no. Ash trees, 1 no. Sycamore and minor pruning to 1 no. Lime and 2 no. Sycamore trees.

Other planning applications:

18/02621/FUL 24 Bell Lane – conversion of existing dwelling (use class 3) to 2 n. dwellings (use class 3).

It was agreed that the Clerk writes to Planning stating the Parish Council has concerns about parking issues at this property.