



Open General Meeting on 23 March 2006

MINUTES

Present

Heather Thomas-Smith, Keith Grimshaw (Chairman), Malcom Beresford, John Rodgers, John Mathew, Gillian Jones, Gavin Dewar, Robert Cater and 28 other members.

At the start of the meeting, after welcoming everyone, Heather relinquished the chair to Keith, explaining that he had become LoPRA's chairman until the AGM in the Autumn, but that she still retained secretaryship.

A65

Ian Evans reported on the Public Inquiry into the Highways Agency's intended revocation of the Line Orders for the Hellifield and Long Preston Bypass, where LoPRA represented the LP Parish Council. He explained the background and stated that revocation would lead to de-trunking of the A65. The PI's Inspector should have his Report written soon, to pass to the Secretary of State. The Secretary will come to a decision on it, then to be announced.

He reported that Gillian Jones had requested pertinent information from the HA long before the PI, but had not received it until afterwards. The MP had been informed and suggested this lapse could legally be taken further. Ian stated that if the PI is 'lost', then a further PI could possibly be held concerning the de-trunking aspects.

Discussion from the floor covered pressing NYCC to add a LP Relief Road to its priority list of new works, should the A65 become de-trunked.

Discussion also covered the present rectification of collapsed drains in the village prior to resurfacing the A65 later this year. It was considered desirable to publicise contacts for relevant Engineers for villagers' use in complaining about the state of the road, after they had been ascertained. Putting this in the Parish/Village Magazine was suggested.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Ian and others for the work they had done in preparing for the PI.

CDC Housing Needs Survey

KG reviewed the Executive Summary of the Report on the Survey, which had been outlined in the last edition of the Newsletter. (See Newsletter for details). A conclusion was that 61 affordable homes are required in Hellifield and Long Preston over the next 5 years.

The legal planning framework will change in 2007, becoming 'looser'. Increased vigilance will therefore be needed to watch for planning applications being made.

The Report also recommended that Craven DC reviews its various housing requirements annually. If this recommendation is adopted by CDC then LoPRA should chase it up annually to ensure it is done.

New Youth Group

A report was made on the recent public meeting, with CDC representatives present, regarding setting up a Youth Group, which had emanated from the Parish Plan. The Parish Council is taking the lead: a Youth Leader will receive some reimbursement. Discussion included reporting on it in the Parish/Village Magazine, fund raising, seeking volunteer helpers, etc. An outing is already being arranged and a fund-raising coffee morning on 29 April.

TRAMPS

GD reported on LoPRA's plans to engage TRAMPS to show films in the Village Hall. The first will be in the Autumn, with LoPRA managing the event itself. He gave details of the arrangements, saying that the event would break even financially if around 40 people attended. The members approved the plans and discussed matters such as the type of films to be shown, the pricing structure etc.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

HT-S reiterated the message from the invited speaker, Margaret Benson, at the last Open Meeting about setting up further schemes in the village. Two exist already and three others did operate in the past. She holds further information about setting up such schemes.

Parish Council Elections

HT-S reported that elections to the Parish Council occur in May, whilst nominations have to be submitted by 3 April. She invited members to consider standing.

Any Other Business

Discussion took place on the retrospective planning applications made for works constructed in connection with the developments at Town Head. HT-S reported on LoPRA's lengthy communication with the YDNP about this, both with the specifics and the principle. She confirmed that it is important to allow

the planning process and the enforcement of requirements to proceed without undue hindrance. An appeal to a Planning decision is currently pending.

R Cater.