

---

# Ellel Parish Council

---

## **Minutes of the annual parish meeting held at the recreation rooms, Galgate on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 6.45pm.**

### **Present:**

Cllr S Booth (chairman), Cllr M Blundell, Cllr I Collinson (vice chairman), Cllr J Greenwood, Cllr M Helm, Cllr M O' Riordan & Cllr D Whitaker.  
Gill Mason (clerk to the council)

### **2016/1 Chairman's annual report.**

This has been a good year regarding the receiving of grants from Sports England and from Tesco's to improve the playground facilities. Michael Helm has done very good work in obtaining the grants for the Recreation Field as well as the Ward House Farm bridleway. The *Rhubarb City* newsletter has continued to strengthen and the revival of the Galgate Children's Treat is another community development to be welcomed.

Early on in the year the council struggled with the threat of boundary changes to the ward. As far back as July the possibility of some housing development in Dolphinholme was first mentioned, and this was but a little cloud like a man's hand upon the horizon compared with the storm which has followed.

The Lancaster City Housing Plan has occupied much of our attention, with meetings with the planners and extra meetings with residents. It is proposed that 3,000 houses will be built between Galgate and Scotforth, effectively making Galgate a suburb of Lancaster, a fear which was expressed in the Ellel Parish plan. Equally serious is the threat to build 500 houses in Dolphinholme. Whilst some development of our communities is to be welcomed, this needs to be appropriate and proportional. With the Launds Field and the Stoney Lane sites, Galgate is presently undergoing a 19% increase in its housing stock. This is perhaps more than can be absorbed. It is quite clear that the 500 houses proposed in Dolphinholme are absolutely out of scale for a community which has 110 houses. This is inappropriate and disproportionate. The plan, if it goes ahead, will spread its blight across our two communities like a cancer.

On a broader front we struggle with the problem of the drastic local and County Council cuts, and the resulting inability of these to respond to our needs. Two examples of this are the need to raise the footpath wall alongside Whitley Beck on Stoney Lane, and the need for yellow lines on the north side of Salford Road, all the way from the Galgate traffic lights to the doctor's surgery. Both of these needs have been asked for on a number of occasions but residents are left wondering, when, if ever, will these needs be met? I am sure that everyone on the parish council could provide a similar list.

The parish council as ever retains tight control over its spending, and this is important as we all need to remember that it is not our money which is being spent, but money from the residents of Ellel. The keeping down of the precept level and its wise use are characteristics of the Council, and I am sure that all Councillors will share my appreciation of this restraint.

I am sure that all Councillors will join me in praising the work of our new clerk, Gillian Mason, who has taken a pro-active and committed approach in her work with the Council.

### **2016/2 Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The minutes of the 2015 APM minutes were signed as a true record by Cllr Booth.

### **2016/3 Statement of accounts – year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.**

The clerk reported an underspend of £4431.00.

(Please see attached sheet)

**2016/4 Open Forum – at which any person on the Ellel electoral register may participate.**

No residents were present.