

HARDEN VOICE

Issue 1

Sept 2007

The newsletter of Harden Parish Council

Welcome to the first newsletter of Harden Parish Council.

Harden Parish Council was officially born at its first Annual General Meeting on May 15th 2007 following a campaign by Harden Village Society. Village Society members gathered a petition of the required 10% of residents which triggered a referendum of all village residents. The referendum was conducted by postal ballot in October 2005. 88% voted in favour of having a parish council.

Elections were held in May 2007 and three members were returned unopposed. At the first meeting, these member co-opted a further three and on July 26th one further member was co-opted bringing the council up to full strength.

Harden Parish Councillors



Alan Sykes is the chair of the parish council. Now retired, his other activities include being Chairman of Bradford Heart Support Group.

Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings are at 7.15 pm and are open to the public.

The agenda and minutes will be put on the notice boards near the Post Office at least 3 days before each meeting.

6 Sept 2007

18 Oct 2007

29 Nov 2007

10 Jan 2008

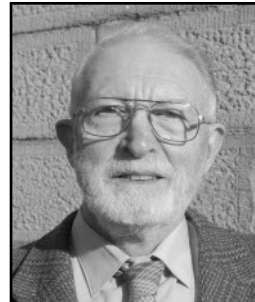
21 Feb 2008

3 April 2008

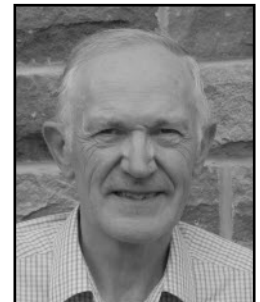
15 May 2008



Mike Andrews is the Vice Chair. He is a founder member of the Harden Players, Secretary of the Village Society and Chairman of Governors of Harden Primary School.



Douglas Archer is a retired university lecturer and erstwhile chair of the Harden Village Society. He is a member of Harden Congregational Church and Harden Cricket Club



John Bagnall is a Chartered Accountant and Chairman of the National family Decorating Contractors", Bagnalls", based at Shipley.



Colin Booth is a member of the planning committee. He is now retired and worked in the NHS for 40 years.



Kay Kirkham is the chair of the Parish Council Planning Committee. She works for Bradford Council as a policy officer and researcher in City Hall.



Jeanine Wood has been a resident of Ryecroft for 37 years. She worked in deaf education until her recent retirement left her more time to devote to local matters.

News from your Parish Council

What have we done so far?

The Parish Council has met three times since it came into existence in May 2007.

Setting up a new council is a challenging task. We have been supported in the early days by officers from the Shipley Area Office of Bradford Council and by the Yorkshire Local Councils' Association.

The council members have considered their powers and responsibilities, adopted a planning protocol and each one has made a declaration of financial interests.

The existence of the parish council resulted in the residents of Ryecroft finding out about a fund which offers money to areas within 10km of a quarry. We are now supporting them in a bid for money to sink a borehole to safeguard their water supply.

Parish Plan

The Parish Council takes a small sum from every house in Harden as part of the Council Tax you pay. In order to spend this wisely, we plan to distribute a questionnaire during the autumn asking you what are your priorities for the village. These could also include things which don't necessarily cost money but which you think would improve the village.

Planning

Bradford Council is required to consult the Parish Council about every planning application in the village. Kay Kirkham, Colin Booth and Douglas Archer make up the Planning Committee which looks at the applications and responds to the Council.

The Shipley Planning Panel made up of councillors from Bradford District, makes decisions on applications which have attracted opposition. Council Officers decide the others.

Meetings of the Planning Committee will be advertised in the same way as Parish Council Meetings and are open to the public. Your comments and views in advance of any meeting would be welcome.

Harden Village Website

As part of its plan to communicate with residents, the Parish Council would like to encourage the setting up of a website about the village which would include information about the council and its meetings.

Do you have the necessary expertise to help us? It could be very simple to begin with, but with the scope to develop into something more ambitious.



Harden Parish Councillors

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