Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on Monday 21st May 2018 at 8.30pm in the Village Hall, Bainton

1. **Present**

Mrs B Froggatt (Chair), Mr J Christie (JC), Mr S Smith (SS), Mrs S Christie (SC), Mrs S Lowes (SL), Mr C Adams (CA), Miss Deborah Snowden (DS), Mr P Metcalf (PM), Mrs E Brooks (Clerk to the Council) & Janice Summers (Bellwether editor)

1. **Apologies for absence**

Mr D Walford (Vice Chairman)

1. **Chairman’s report**

First of all, I would like to thank our previous Chairman Pam Bradnum for her contribution to the Parish Council over a number of years. Due to personal circumstances Pam resigned from the Council in July 2017 I am sure we all wish her well for the future. Fortunately, we were able to co-opt a further member to bring us to full strength. I would like to thank all Council members who have given their support over the last year also the Vice-Chairman for his advice and guidance during my first year as Chairman The nine Council members have a wide variety of interests, abilities and knowledge and their views help to give a balanced view on Council matters.

COMMUNICATIONS

After a difficult start to the year our village newsletter the Bellwether is now on a firm footing in the capable hands of editor Janice Summers, and we would like to thank her for her efforts. The BPC will continue to give full support.

We also have a website and notice boards so that village residents are kept fully informed of the BPC activities. There is also the option of attending Council meetings. We have recently updated the Bainton Community Emergency Plan which can be activated in the event of a local or regional disaster. We are at the moment dealing with new regulations regarding Data Protection and how we deal with personal details kept in Council documents. Planning applications are now dealt with online at the ERYC website and we purchased additional equipment to enable Council members to comment on all applications. We continue to have a good working relationship with the local Police Community Support officers who have been very supportive with problems we have with hare coursing and damage on Green lane.

HIGHWAY ISSUES

The state of the lanes and verges continue to cause concern due to the heavy traffic through the village. Applegarth lane has suffered badly this winter especially outside the Cemetery. We continue to raise our concerns with ERYC but have very little positive response so far. The only exception has been the agreement to provide additional lighting on Church street, and then the Parish council were required to purchase the lights.

In 2017 the Parish council agreed to plant additional trees along Green lane to supplement trees planted in 2000, and these were obtained from the Woodland Trust free of charge. At the same time, we had a spate of 4WD vehicles using the lane for supposedly recreational purposes which resulted in considerable damage to paths and newly planted trees. Green lane is public highway, and we have repeatedly asked ERYC to consider closing the lane to traffic during the winter months as they have done in other areas. We await their decision.

Considerable lobbying by council members has we feel improved bus services to and from the village. This is very important for many residents who have no ready access to their own transport.

MAINTENANCE

Considerable expense was incurred for the provision of new equipment for the playground which was only possible with the help of a grant. Unless further funding is available it is unlikely that further equipment will be provided. Maintenance of the existing equipment will be carried out to comply with Health and safety and insurance requirements.

Additional litter bins provided in the village have helped in no small way to reduce the amount dog fouling.

GENERAL

Fracking is a real possibility in the future which threatens local disruption to our area. As a small village I feel that we should have no other option but to join other local villages or groups to fight against the problems that the process brings.

I believe that wherever possible the Parish council should work together with other village organisations on mutual problems or enterprises to the benefit of the community. The costs of running the Parish council continue to rise each year, and we are mindful of spending within budget. The ERYC precept is unlikely to increase for the coming year but BPC finances are stable, and we look forward with optimism

1. **Matters raised by the residents of the parish**

None

1. **Close of meeting**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.17 pm