

# PILLING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013 AT 7.00 PM

AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, TAYLORS LANE, PILLING

*Present:* Councillors; J. Savage, Chairman,  
E. Cookson  
G. Curwen,  
J. Edmondson,  
E. Moorat,  
S. Morley,  
Mrs. B. Schofield  
W. Whiteside  
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Parish Council  
Two residents

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were sent for Cllr. G. Morris and the reason accepted.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2012, having been circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

*Resolved; The Chairman signed the minutes.*

## **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters raised from the minutes.

## **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Terry Molloy reported that a new Community Beat Manager has been appointed to cover policing in Over Wyre in P C Garry Cross who will commence duties on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

There have been no anti-social behaviour incidents in the past month compared with none for this time last year. Of the three reported crimes for March none have been detected and this is up on the one crime last year. Damage to the Amenity Area occurred when the chains on the height barrier were cut, perhaps in preparation for other incidents? These were quickly relocked and sand bags have been strategically placed to prevent fly tipping. Four empty bullet cases from a point 22 rifle were found and a dead bird in the litter bin. Two thefts occurred, one of a handbag at the Nursing Home and a tax disc from a motorbike.

Last Sunday the Police were chasing 8 men and 4 dogs' hare coursing through fields. Unfortunately whilst the Police are out and about there is no one manning the Farm Watch text helpline, which would have provided help with pin pointing the culprits.

## **5. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

As a Quality Parish Council, Pilling Parish Council has a proactive culture and a vision of the future. The move nationally towards a more modern approach to Government has improved accountability and leadership, increased efficiency and improved the outcomes for local people. This is the aim for the Parish Council in working alongside other authorities and organisations in improving the quality of life for parishioners.

## **Water**

The Parish Council continues to hold half yearly meetings with relevant bodies to discuss problems related to water and flooding. The regularity of these meetings does mean that we are able to set a timescale for actions to be completed and to ask questions if the work is not done. We build relationships with representatives through these meetings and this is bearing fruit. After the last meeting, Councillors were able to view particular locations in the parish that required attention along with the appropriate personnel. In a year which has seen so much rain, these meetings have taken on a particularly urgent focus.

## **Roads**

Allied to water problems are the problems with the road surfaces. There are potholes and uneven surfaces in many parts of the parish. As a council we continue to press for repairs to be completed. There are also areas that would benefit from the road being raised to improve sight lines and these are put forward for inclusion in work programmes, although the financial climate does not allow for these being done as quickly as we might like. An accident last year on Head Dyke caused the closure of the road for an unacceptable length of time and Lancashire County Council officials were questioned about this by Councillors.

## **Police**

Pilling is still (according to statistics) an area of low crime. The involvement of PCSO's in the Village has had a measurable effect. However, there have been personnel changes in the area and the number of PCSO's has decreased. This is a matter of concern which we hope is not reflected in raised crime figures.

## **Community Involvement**

Any productive community is able to come together to enjoy and celebrate important events and during the past year we had an extended weekend of activities to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. The initial planning meeting of just five people extended to a group of over fifty who were involved in the planning, organising and carrying through of the events.

We have other occasions ranging from the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party to the Remembrance Service and are pleased to see the many ways in which our village comes together to remember and celebrate.

## **Conclusion**

The best Parish Councils want to improve the quality of life and the environment for people living in their area. Government policy encourages councils to become more active in service delivery and dynamic and professional in delivering the goods. As Councillors we seek to serve the people of the parish and to reflect their views in our dealings with other bodies and organisations.

As Chairman I have been privileged to lead a group of dedicated and knowledgeable Councillors who want to achieve the best for the people they serve. They have been diligent and determined in their efforts, ably supported by our Clerk, Gillian and our Parish Lengthsman, Graham and I thank them for all their help and encouragement.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Pilling Parish Council has finished the year with a healthy balance of £30,953. Income of £11,000 includes the many grounds maintenance contracts for the village and although the one through Lancashire County Council has reduced we still maintain increases with Wyre Council, Siromer Tractors and Lune Valley Rural Housing Association. The Parish Council has tendered for the work with Wyre Council for the coming year and awaits the outcome.

Pilling in Bloom secured grants of £746 by entering Wyre in Bloom and a Village donation of £200 to carry out the wonderful planting schemes and thanks should be extended to all those who sourced, planted and care for the floral displays.

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party was well supported financially, thorough donations and fundraising events and carries a healthy £300 towards this year's festivities. Pilling's Diamond Jubilee celebrations brought the village together and even provided a mobile PA system for the use of Pilling organisations.

The expenditure on staff costs has increased due to long term sick and the need to employ replacement staff to carry out the necessary jobs in the Village. The costs of equipment and parish maintenance are less as less damage has occurred. Insurance, subscriptions and advertising remain level with last year and Councillors took advantage of training provided by the Lancashire County Training Partnership. The clerk also passed the General Power of Competence, which is a new part of the CiLCA qualification she holds.

The Parish Council was fortunate that a local businessman kindly donated part of the new, brighter Christmas Tree lights whilst the Parish Council added to these to fully cover the tree.

## **7. REPORTS** **Youth Council**

The youth club continues to thrive and it is intended that in the near future some members of this club will be given the opportunity to form the next youth council, providing views and opinions from young people on issues that affect the parish.

### **Report of the Memorial Hall Committee**

The committee continues moving forward to provide facilities and is looking to the future with the involvement of Pilling 20 20.

### **Pilling In Bloom**

Pilling in Bloom will be entering Wyre in Bloom this year and Cllr. W. Whiteside has attended the meeting in Wyre to pick up the publicity posters. There was talk of replacing some of the worst barrels through the Village.

### **Carters Charity**

The capital is invested and remains so until needed.

### **Pilling 20 20**

The group is gradually making progress and is looking at the correct way forward to selling the Memorial Hall and buying the new site. It is the management committee who carry the responsibility for making decisions on the sale and purchase and they are working with Pilling 20 20. A successful appeal to County Cllr. Viv Taylor has resulted in funding to assist with legal fees.

**Over Wyre Road Safety Committee**

The problems at Lane Ends remain unresolved, but a site meeting is to be held next Wednesday with Graham Wilcock, Lancashire County Council in the hope of a positive outcome this time.

**Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils**

The Chairman reported that it had been suggested the Over Wyre Parishes join to pursue their flooding issues, but as each Council faces a different scenario this was not followed up on and instead by working individually Parishes receive answers to their particular situations. BUT working together as Lancashire Association of Local Councils the Wyre Area can put pressure on other authorities.

**St. John’s School**

St. Johns has seen a good year with the pupil numbers rising from 61 to 90 and the building bursting at the seams. New classrooms are needed and there is permission for one, but it is difficult to budget for and the school is waiting for quotes. An outdoor classroom is to be built where the air raid shelters used to be. The role will see 15 leaving in July and 11 incoming in September.

**St. William’s School**

There are 37 on the role at present being offered a full range of activities beyond the National Curriculum. Full time Nursery care has been offered since September and the recent building work is completed. Due to the recent outstanding results Ofsted will not be ‘dropping in’ until Summer 2014.

The school provided performing arts and music scheme and will continue with to provide the music. The lead teacher is showing other schools how to go about what St. Williams achieved. The school thrives despite the low numbers and staff levels.

**8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

***Date of the next meeting.***

***The next annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2014, in the Comrades Room, Memorial Hall, Taylors Lane, Pilling.***

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45p.m.

Date .....

Chairman .....