

MINUTES OF PILLING'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 2016 AT 7.00 PM

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL LANE, PILLING

Present: *Councillors; G. Curwen, Chairman,*
J. Barton
Mrs. E. Cookson,
N. Cookson,
Mrs. B. Schofield,
Mrs. D. Schofield,
W. Whiteside
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Parish Council
Wyre Councillor G. Holden,
One resident

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were sent from Cllr. J. Savage, Cllr. E. Moorat and Cllr. S. Morley. Lancashire County Councillor V. Taylor sent apologies.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 8th April, 2015, having been circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

Resolved; The Chairman signed the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Tayban Site

It was noted that the Parish Council was not aware of any developments to date, Wyre Councillor Holden would enquire.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The economic policies for the Government have led to far reaching consequences which have been experienced at all levels from national to County to Borough and lastly to Parish Councils. The past year has seen cuts in services at unprecedented levels. Inevitably, those of us who live in rural areas will feel the brunt of these cuts and it is the Parish Council that responds on behalf of its parishioners to the different bodies who seek to bring about change.

The most damaging cut for Pilling was the proposed loss of subsidies to bus services. For people who depend on the buses to travel to school, work and hospital appointments as well as social and leisure activities this would have been the death knell to this and many other rural communities. Fortunately, through the combined efforts and pressure from all levels of council a solution was arrived at and we do have a slimmed down bus service. It is perhaps ironic that the past year has seen the erection of two bus shelters in Pilling.

Cuts to the road maintenance budget have also had an effect on Pilling. As a council we keep a check on the condition of roads and bring to the attention of Lancashire County Council areas where there are potholes and road edges that need urgent repair. Sadly with most of these being on minor roads they are not high enough on the list of priorities and when they are done, they are not to the standard that we would expect.

We continue to hold regular meetings with a range of bodies in what are termed the 'Water Meetings'. They enable us to bring matters of concern to the different representatives and to set out a timescale for when these concerns will be dealt with. Over the years these meetings have been held we have established a regular pattern of work and have developed a good working relationship with individuals; which helps to bring about action more quickly. However, they too are affected by the cuts to council budgets and actions cannot be brought about as speedily as we would like.

As with all parts of the country, the need for more housing has led to a large number of plans being submitted. Unfortunately, despite the promises to take greater note of local views, Borough Council planners seem to ignore these for the most part.

Despite these difficulties, Pilling still remains a pleasant place in which to live and bring up a family. The wide range of village events shows a sense of community that is not always seen everywhere.

As always the Parish Council seeks to inform, to represent and to take decisions on behalf of the parishioners. To do this requires the support of my fellow Councillors, our clerk Gillian and our Lengthsman Graham and to them I extend my thanks.

Resolved: The report was accepted.

5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Pilling Parish Council began the year with a balance of £46,067.56 and completed with £45,476.7 that being a bank balance of £2,129.71 and Reserve Account of £43,347.00. Accepting that more demands are being made on Parish Councils to pick up the work of other authorities who are increasingly unable to carry out services Pilling Parish Council has taken money from reserves to maintain the standard Pilling residents expect.

The greatest single income was the public subscription to our now six defibrillators in Pilling Parish and many residents have attended the numerous training courses provided by Peter Bond from the British Red Cross. Thanks are due to Cllr. Moorat for his hard work towards these beneficial units in the Parish.

The grass cutting contracts have seen an increase due to the income now received from St. John's Church for the maintenance of the Jubilee Field.

The bank interest increased by pennies and donations to Pilling in Bloom saw a further £100 from last year. Catterall Parish Council continues to sub contract the Parish Lengthsman and this generates an additional income.

The Reserve Account interest of £569.41 was less than last year, despite depositing a larger proportion of the precept. Income for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and the VAT refund was also down this year.

The expenditure on staff costs has slightly increased due to a small pay rise spread over two years. The costs of equipment and parish maintenance are up as a number of repairs have been carried out. Subscriptions costs include Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Parish Lengthsman workshop and Broadfleet Sensory Garden. Our new councillors each attended the introduction to Parish Councils courses held by Lancashire Training Partnership and this gives an incite into the proper workings of a Parish Council.

Pilling in Bloom has increased its costs, but well within its account, to produce the many floral displays and the Parish Lengthsman is maintains the sites by watering through the

Summer months and clearing and re-soiling during Winter. Four new plastic self watering barrels have replaced the rotten ones to give an even better show this year. Interestingly the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party did not cost as much this year, but there is still one outstanding bill.

Donations were made to the Royal British Legion and the British Red Cross, this being well down on last year's loan to the Memorial Hall.

Both the Clerk and the Parish Lengthsman now work from St. John's Church Hall and this has increased administration costs as has the monthly rental of the Pilling Web Site.

Resolved: The report was accepted.

6. REPORTS

Report of the Wyre Councillor

Cllr. G. Holden reported that Wyre were waiting for the Local Plan. Cllr. Holden is a member of the licensing committee. There were discussions about the charging of the green recycling bins, for those who do not pay for the service their green bins will not be collected by Wyre Council.

Resolved: The Councillor was thanked for the report.

Report of the County Councillor

County Councillors Viv Taylor reported that Small Wood Hey Road and School Lane again missed out on the programme of resurfacing works in Wyre, ranked number 4 in Wyre by Cllr. John Fillis. However, she will keep pushing for the next financial year.

Lancaster Road remains 40 MPH despite a number of assurances we will see 30mph on the A588 through Pilling village.

Memorial Hall Committee and Pilling 20 20

There is a degree of frustration and hope over the progress being made on site and members are pushing the developers to complete their responsibilities under planning. Since the last annual meeting Pilling Memorial Hall has been demolished and the 24 houses being built on site are well underway and Taylors Lane has been closed and seen traffic lights on many occasions.

The developers have to finish work on the new field by 31st March and the committee is still waiting. The development on the field is staged to work in tandem with stages of the house building and Wyre Council needs to know that this is not being adhered to.

The final information to complete the Lottery submission is about to be completed, the financial profile is ready to go and the whole document is to be run past the Lottery representative before submission.

The comparative building costs saw an original £1.4million for an eco friendly hall, but working with a local contractor this has been reduced to £750,000, with, hopefully, £500,000 from the Lottery. The orientation of the hall has been turned to take advantage of the south facing view. The Chairman added that the committee are pleased that Wyre Council is supporting the project.

More involvement is needed from Pilling residents, there was a tree planting session on the field last week and the play area is waiting for the developer to finish off instillation and construct an access road. There are two football pitches and by July one should be available to play on. The committee still needs a solution to the attenuation pond, as it is so deep as to be a drowning hazard.

Sarah Morley is working with the Schools to enlarge the play facilities and this group is sourcing their own funding.

The core group is to push forward but they need new members to pull in other facilities to develop a Multi Use Games Area and a club house, as changing facilities should be separate from the hall.

Pilling In Bloom

Pilling in Bloom won silver gilt last year and has replaced four more rotten barrels. Planting will take place from mid May and Pilling will be entering Wyre in Bloom. Cllr. Whiteside was thanked for his continued leadership; he hoped to recruit residents for location maintenance.

Carters Charity

The balance of £6,000 is invested, but should St. John's School make an application for a project, it could be distributed. This would need the head teacher's approval before any grant could be made.

Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils

It was noted that the date of the quarterly meetings now clash with Pilling Parish Council meetings.

Water Meetings

Cllr. Curwen reported on the water meetings in Pilling involving the MP, the Environment Agency, Natural England, NFU and local farmers. Cllr. Barton met with the Environment Agency to locate the pinch points on the dykes recently, although we need to know what the time scale for clearing is. There is funding available to repair the penstocks through the sea wall, but we are not sure what this funding entails? There has been no indication as to how the rivers will be maintained to assist farmers and residents. Cllr. N. Cookson volunteered to attend the Wyre Flood Forum in future on Pilling's behalf.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no matters raised by the resident.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05p.m.

Date

Chairman

Date of the next meeting.

The next annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 12th April, 2017.