

## Windle Parish Council

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (or Assembly) of the Parish of Windle held on Tuesday 17 March 2015 at 7pm at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

Present Councillor R Barton (Chairman)  
Councillor K S Barton (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillor N Ashcroft  
Councillor W Ashcroft  
Councillor A Bate  
Councillor M McNulty  
Councillor K D Roughley  
Councillor E Uren

Also in Attendance J Anderson (Clerk to the Council)

- 176 Opening of the Meeting – Cllr R Barton chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.
- 177 Apologies for Absence: Councillor S Bligh
- 178 Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 18 March 2014 which had previously been issued to Parish Councillors were offered for confirmation and upon being accepted as a true and correct record were signed by the Chairman.
- 179 Chairman's Report: The Chairman, Cllr Richard Barton, reported as follows:  
“This is my second report as Chair of Windle Parish Council. I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for all their efforts on behalf of the residents and the work of the Parish Council. Thank you to Cllr Steve Bligh for his sterling efforts on producing the newsletter and his more than fair share in the delivering of them. Thank you to the various Councillors involved in representing the Parish on such bodies as: Age Concern – Cllr Nancy Ashcroft, Cllr Marie McNulty and Cllr Edna Uren; Cllr Ann Bate and Cllr Sheila Barton on the Ecclesfield Management Committee; Cllr Steve Bligh and Cllr Ken Roughley on the Police Forum; Cllr Nancy Ashcroft on Windle United Charities and Cllr Wally Ashcroft on the Sports Council.  
My first official duty was to present the Annual Achievement Awards at Bleak Hill School. As always it was a great pleasure to do this as it is such a happy and very well run school. My thanks to the Headteacher and all the staff for making this happen and also to the pupils and parents that make it such a happy environment. It is also good to have Cllr Sheila Barton and Cllr Nancy Ashcroft as Governors to keep Parish Council involved and up to date with the activities of the school.  
The next event was the Garden Competition which again was very successful. Many thanks to Cllr Marie McNulty for organising the event and Cllr Ann Bate and Cllr Edna Uren for joining in to form the judging panel. Again we are most grateful to Alan Hull (North West Federation of Allotment Holders) for providing two tickets to the Southport Flower Show as a prize.  
My next duty was attending Remembrance Sunday and as always it was a great honour to lay a wreath on behalf of the residents of Windle. The service is always moving and it is a great pleasure to see it so well attended in remembering our fallen heroes.  
Another highlight was the Christmas Tree Lighting at Bleak Hill School. Right up to the eleventh hour we were unsure of the weather but fortunately the rain stopped and we were able to have the lighting outside. This meant those parents able to attend could do so and it was, as always, well attended. Again many thanks to Alan Hull for acting as compère and Lenny Lowe as the man in the ‘red suit’. Also thanks to Windle Ward Councillors for providing £300 towards costs from their Windle Ward Improvement Fund.  
The final event of the year was the Christmas buffet held after the December meeting. The gathering went very well and those attending enjoyed a superb buffet prepared by the ladies and wives of the Councillors – our thanks to all involved.

The Lynton Way Play Area seems to be going through a stable period and after meetings with St Helens Council we have managed to reduce the costs to the Parish Council.

The Jim Malone Garden is looking very well this year and our thanks go to Four Seasons for looking after it on our behalf.

At the end of our October meeting our Parish Clerk of 15 years, Len Kilshaw, retired. I would like to thank Len on behalf of the Parish Councillors, both past and present, for his tireless devotion to his duty as Clerk and his behind the scenes help to those involved. We will miss his humour and friendship at the meetings.

However, it was with great pleasure that we welcome our new Clerk, Janet Anderson. Janet has fitted in seamlessly to our Parish Council and I know she will look after us and the residents as well as Len did.

I cannot believe how quickly my year in office has gone and I have greatly enjoyed it. My thanks to all again.” – Councillor Richard Barton

- 180 Financial Statement: The Clerk submitted a financial report, summarised as follows:

	£
Balance at 1 April 2014	6169.00
Plus projected receipts to 31 March 2015	13237.00
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	19406.00
Less payments to 31 March 2015	12066.00
Projected Balance at 31 March 2015	7340.00

- 181 Reports

(a) Windle United Charities – No report. Cllr N Ashcroft reported that there was a meeting 5 weeks ago but only she and 2 others attended. As they did not reach the quorum the meeting was postponed.

(b) School Governors – Cllr Sheila Barton reported that she was involved in 4 committees: Curriculum; Health and Safety; Finance and Community and Cllr Nancy Ashcroft was involved in the Health and Safety Committee at Bleak Hill School. The school seemed to be running smoothly. The Governing Body meetings had been changed from 4pm to 5pm to encourage better attendance. Cllr S Barton reported that there was to be a reduction in the number of school governors and that the new Chair was settling in very well.

(c) District Councillors – No report received.

(d) NALC/LALC/MAPTC/SLCC – The Clerk informed that these bodies provide useful guidance and information on the current changes occurring in Local Government as well as training courses for Parish Clerks and Councillors

(e) Voluntary Organisations – No report.

- 182 Public Comment: No public comment made.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed:  
Chairman

Date: