

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (or Assembly) of the Parish of Windle held Tuesday 21st March 2006

PRESENT; Councillor K.D.Roughley (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. K.S.Barton (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft
Councillor W.Ashcroft
Councillor R.W.Barton
Councillor Mrs.M.P.Fraser
Councillor Mrs.E.Uren
Councillor Mrs.B.Walsh

Also in Attendance; L.J.Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

117. Prayers

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

118. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Kate Williams (St.Helens CVS) and P.C.Neil Henry (Merseyside Police) and Councillor A.F.Rigby.

119. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 15 March 2005, which had previously been made available to Parish Councillors, were offered for confirmation and, on being accepted as a true and correct record, were signed by the Chairman

120. Chairman`s Report

Councillor K.D.Roughley reviewed his time in office, and commented on the main events as follows;

- School Awards Ceremony – Bleak Hill School – as a former pupil it had been especially gratifying to present the Windle Parish Awards to the winners and to congratulate the School on its excellent results in all its different spheres of activity.
- Garden Competition – he paid tribute to the excellent work of Cllr. Mrs .Pat Fraser, and her fellow – judges in organising the competition and the prize- giving in the summer.

- Christmas Tree Lighting which had progressed smoothly and enjoyably for all attending, apart from one heart-stopping moment, when it appeared that the lights were not about to switch on at the critical time. He expressed his thanks to all involved and especially the Clerk, Len Kilshaw, for his efforts in organizing the event.
- Pre-Christmas Reception which had been very well attended and enjoyed by many residents and guests- especially the delicious buffet supper, which had been produced by Cllr. Pat Fraser and her band of helpers.
- Footpath Walks - thanks were due to Cllr. Mrs. B. Walsh and her husband Maurice for their hard work in organizing the walks and the pre-walking and maintenance of the footpaths.
- Parish Newsletter- as the editor, he was grateful for all the help and assistance he had received to produce and distribute the Newsletter twice a year.
- Ecclesfield - after many years of valuable service Councillor A.F. Rigby had recently stepped down as Chairman of Ecclesfield Management Committee - Councillor K.D. Roughley expressed his own thanks and appreciation for this service.
- In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their support, the Clerk for his help and guidance and his fellow District Councillors for their support during the year.

121 Financial Statement

The Clerk submitted a financial report, summarized as follows;

Balance at 1.4.05	10251
Plus projected income at 31.3.06	<u>11903</u>
	22154
Less projected expenditure to 31.3.06	<u>13333</u>
Projected balance at 31.3.06	<u>8771</u>

122. Reports

(a) Charities

Parochial Charities – Nil report .

Windle United Charities – Councillor Mrs. M.P. Fraser reported that the meeting was scheduled for April 2006.

(b) School Governors` Report 2005/06

Cllr.Mrs.K.S.Barton reported that Bleak Hill School continued to perform well in all areas of activity.The results were consistently above average and the Ofsted Inspection had produced a favourable result.

Performance against budget was being maintained.The introduction of parity pay ,and the fact that schools have to pay a large percentage out of school budgets had provided an initial shock,but,since then, a sensible adjustment had been made.

There was to be an after-school club starting after Easter,which should have a full complement of membership from September this year.

(c) District Councillor`sReport

Councillor W.Ashcroft reported that the prospect of losing all the properties north of the East Lancs.Road still hangs in the balance. The St.Helens Council has decided that things should remain as they are,at present,but there might be alterations made,prior to the 2007 Parish Elections. The Windle Parish Council`s request to have extra houses allotted to the Parish had been turned down.

Peter Parry`s newsagents,at the corner of Kiln Lane and Coronation Road,had been taken over by David Traynor,owner of the hair-dressing and beauty-treatment salon in Lynton Way.His intention is to move his business,plus the florist`s business from there to the Kiln Lane site, where,together with the newsagents,they will all operate from the one site.

Problems are envisaged regarding the future of the shops in Lynton Way,currenty being advertised for rent.These are now owned by Henderson Homes,and,from past experience,this does not inspire confidence as to the future maintenance of the site.

Ther are still complaints being received about the increase in “Rat Running” in Queens Drive,St.George`s Avenue,Regal Drive and Fairway.We have delivered a circular to all the houses that are affected in order to ascertain the residents views and we will pass the findings on to the Highways Dept,

Traffic build-up on Rainford Road and Bleak Hill Road is a major

problem and, has been made much worse by the alterations to Blindfoot Lane and the East Lancs.Road.The Highways Dept.is currently studying the junction around Tesco and Bleak Hill Road and those on the other side of the E.Lancs.Rd., where traffic enters and leaves both Crank Road and Moss lane.

Liverpool/St.Helens R.U.F.C. and Pilkington Recs R.L.F.C. have been in negotiation with a view to a possible merger.At present, however,things appear not to be progressing.

There have been calls to have the passage-way between Windle Grove and Rainford Road,either “alleygated” or blocked off.Again, within the area, as a consultation exercise,we have leafleted to find out what the majority view is .The latest official advice is that this passage-way is a public right of way and thus may not be blocked off or alley-gated.

Residents in Fairway,Regal Drive and Bleak Hill Road are still complaining of inconsiderate parking at school times.Cars are blocking the exit- view in Calderhurst Drive and as well as parking across drive ways it is very difficult to get a car through Fairway.There are grave concerns over the resultant difficulties thus raised and possibly preventing the urgent access of emergency vehicles.

After a successful lobbying campaign by Windle Parish Council and local residents supported by the Windle Ward Councillors plans were submitted to have a new 3m.high replacement perimeter-fence erected at the Lynton Way Play Area.The existing fence is 1.8m high and has failed to prevent unauthorised access out of hours..

The planning application was agreed to,but,without any prior consultation with the Parish Council,the height of the proposed fencing was deemed to be too high, and was reduced to 2.4m.

It has been announced that the new fencing will be erected shortly.

Please note that there are to be one day strikes on Tuesday,28th March and again on Thursday 4th May by council workers who are Unison Members.This will,inevitably,disrupt some services such as refuse collection.

Councillor W.Ashcroft concluded his report by thanking the Parish Councillors and the Clerk,for keeping the three Ward Councillors informed of problems as they arise,so that corrective action might be taken swiftly.

He also thanked his two Ward Councillor colleagues for all their help, and for adding some humour to a very difficult job.

(d) LAPTC

Councillor Ken Cleary had again been elected as the National Chairman of NALC.

The Clerk stressed the importance of NALC and LAPTC in providing assistance and guidance on important issues .

(e) Voluntary Organisations

CVS – still located at the 4th Floor, Tontine House, 24 Church St. St. Helens WAIO 6DR but now known as CVS St. Helens and District. and is now a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. During the past year the CVS had continued to increase the number of projects and services offered.

123. Public Comment

No public comment was made .

The meeting closed at 7.40 p.m.

Signed- _____
Chairman

Date -----