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Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (or Assembly) of the Parish of Windle, held on Tuesday 16th March, 2010 at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

Present: Cllr. R. W. Barton (Chairman)
Cllr. K. D. Roughley (Deputy Chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft
Cllr. W. Ashcroft
Cllr. Mrs. K. S. Barton
Cllr. Mrs. A. Bate
Cllr. S. A. Bligh
Cllr. Mrs. M. McNulty

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

143. Apologies

No apologies received.

144. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Assembly, held on 17th March 2009, which had previously been made available to Parish Councillors, were offered for confirmation. Upon being accepted as a true and correct record the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

145. Chairman's Report

The Chairman- Cllr. Richard Barton – reported that he was enjoying his year in office-, which was the first time he had been Chairman, and gave a summary of events, which he had been privileged to attend to represent Windle Parish Council, as follows;

1. At the end of June 2009 the Armed Forces Day - when there was a Service of Celebration and a march past of veterans concluding with a beating the retreat by the Pipes of the 103rd Royal Artillery Regiment .
2. Presentation of the Windle Parish Council School Awards at Bleak Hill CP School in July. This is always a pleasure to attend and pleasing to note the continued excellent all round results being obtained by Mr. Ian Wellens and his Staff.
3. September 2009- he had attended along with Councillor Sheila Barton – the R.A.F Association Battle of Britain Service at St. Helen `s Parish Church, which had been a reminder of the great debt owed to those who made great sacrifice in winning the war.

4. In October, as Cllr. Barton was away on holiday, it had proved necessary for the monthly Parish Council Meeting to be conducted by the Deputy Chairman Cllr. Ken Roughley.

In addition he had presented the Garden Competition Winners with their prizes before the Council Meeting. Cllr. Barton expressed his thanks to Cllr. Roughley for deputising for him on this occasion.

5. A wishing –well had been presented to the Bleak Hill School, by the Parish Council for use in the School garden, at a short ceremony in November.

6. December had brought the visit to Eccleston Library to attend the Eccleston Parish Council Tree Lighting, when accompanied by Cllr. Sheila Barton and the Clerk to the Council, Len Kilshaw in representing Windle Parish Council.

7. Again in December the Windle Parish Council Tree Lighting had once again proved to be a wonderful occasion enjoyed by all present- especially the children when singing or at the arrival of Father Christmas.

8. After the December meeting the Pre-Christmas Reception had been enjoyable and thanks were due to the Ladies on the Council for providing the excellent refreshments.

In closing his report the Chairman thanked Cllr. Mrs. Marie McNulty for her excellent work in looking after the Jim Malone Memorial Garden and organising the Garden Competition. Cllrs. Sheila Barton and Ann Bate were thanked for their work in serving on the Ecclesfield Management Committee and Cllr. Roughley was thanked for his efforts in producing the Parish Newsletter.

He expressed further thanks to all his fellow Parish Councillors and the Clerk, Len Kilshaw for their support, help and guidance during the Council Year and hoped that problems regarding the next Christmas Tree Lighting might be resolved successfully in the next few months.

146. Financial Statement

The Clerk submitted a financial report, summarised as follows:

	£
Balance at 1/04/09	10,026
<u>Add projected income to 31/03/10</u>	<u>12702</u>
	22728
<u>Less projected expenditure to 31/03/10</u>	<u>14768</u>
<u>Projected Balance at 31/03/10</u>	<u>7960</u>

147. Reports

a.) Windle United Charity –

Cllr. W. Ashcroft gave a brief report and advised that the charity was still seeking suitable candidates who were in need of help.

b) School Governors

A special meeting was to be held in order to resolve some budget issues. However the School continues to produce excellent results both academically and in sporting achievements, as well as maintaining a welcoming atmosphere. Mr. Wellens and his staff are to be congratulated on keeping up these high standards.

c.) District Councillors

Cllr. W. Ashcroft presented this report on behalf of all three Ward Councillors ;

Work had almost been completed on the former "Tanning Shop" (84 Kiln Lane). A problem had arisen with the type of shutters that had been installed, which the Planning Office deemed unsuitable, despite the fact that they matched perfectly the ones on the hairdressers next door. However a site meeting had been arranged between the planning-officer, the three ward Councillors plus the Chairman of the Parish Council and the owner of the property. She was advised to submit a new application rather than appeal.

Complaints still come in from the public regarding the dangerous junction at Coronation Road and Kiln Lane. This has been an ongoing problem for twelve years or more and still remains a problem despite continued requests from the Ward Councillors. The Highways Officer is planning alterations to Roseberry(Rosebery) Road and has agreed that he will attend a public meeting if we so desire. We will also be asking residents living close to the Coronation Road junction to attend and make their views known.

The Ward Committees are proving popular and the Parish has benefited from them with the inclusion of a Community Notice Board situated at the newsagents in Coronation Road.- two further notice boards have been installed at Hard Lane and Rivington Ave. Two speeding indicator lights have been sited in the Parish- one on Rainford Rd. and one on Bleak Hill Rd. They appear to have definitely encouraged motorists to drive more carefully. Additionally funding was allocated to Cabbage Hall Allotments, Hard Lane , enabling a further 17 units to be opened. Extra tidying-up work had been done on the J. Malone Garden at Windle Island.

There was some notable disruption during the prolonged freeze in Feb. and services were stretched to the limit. Although many residents were inconvenienced because the side – roads and pavements were not gritted, all main roads were kept free of ice and traffic was kept moving. It was also very pleasing to note that all the meals-on – wheels were delivered to every qualifying resident and that extra facilities were organised at Windle Pilkington House for those needing extra care. Many of the Council staff, senior, middle and junior levels worked long hours in difficult circumstances, and our thanks go out to them.

On a wider front the Lowe House Medical Centre has now opened and will prove an excellent facility.

Also the new Cowley Language College was officially opened by the Minister for Education, Ed Balls.

Since it was deemed a priority area Victoria Park has seen a sharp decline in vandalism. There has been a noticeable drop in anti-social behaviour due to the ban on drinking in public places all across the ward. We must thank the neighbourhood police and their C. S. Os for working closely with us and keeping us well informed. Unfortunately there have been some problems on the Alder Hey Road Allotments, including several break-ins with damage to the greenhouses and sheds, and items have been stolen which would suggest that this is not the simply the work of local vandals. The area has been given top priority status by the Police, and the Ward Committee has approved funding to provide fencing to improve security.

Culturally things are moving on apace:-

“Dream” – the iconic sculpture by Jaume Plensa - was officially opened at the Whit weekend with a procession of 2,000 residents walking up the hill to the site, accompanied by two local brass bands, along with young boys dressed-up as miners and girls dressed to compliment the Fairy Queen. It was a day to remember !

“Dream” has now won several major awards – the most recent being a national award by the Civic Trust for Community Engagement. This latter event took place at St. George’s Hall, Liverpool and was attended by 150 top architects from around the country, and a photograph of “Dream” was chosen for the front cover of the award’s Brochure. Other national awards gained, included the Marsh Award and the British Pre-cast Concrete Award.

On the Heritage side the “Friends of Victoria Park” have successfully applied for a large grant to employ a team of consultants to examine the feasibility of bringing the park back to its former Victorian glory. This will enable them to apply for lottery funding in the region of £3,000,000.

A further application for a Heritage Lottery Grant is to be submitted in order to enhance Windleshaw Chantry.

The Town Hall is now being used by the public and attracting many voluntary groups to use it.

Another St Helens Live Concert Programme is to be organised and will reflect the cultural talent around our town. Tea Dances proved to be extremely popular, and a civic reception for the new Mayor of our French twin-town- Chalon-sur – Soane including musical entertainment by the St.Helens Sinfonietta Orchestra, was one of the highlights.

The second “North West Brass Band March and Hymn Tunes Competition” took place in Victoria Square.

A Victorian Weekend attracted some 3,200 people to the Town Hall.

The Cultural Awards were again a huge success and were held at the Park Inn. On the Friday night we celebrated our youth involvement, and on Saturday night the senior awards were presented .

More street entertainment is planned for this year and a week long programme of dance will be performed throughout the town centre. The Events Team have taken over responsibility for the “Town Centre Entertainment” so a much more professional approach is expected.

The Council has just taken on a 99 year lease on Ruskin Drive Leisure Sports Facilities.

In concluding his report on what had been an interesting and very busy year, Councillor W. Ashcroft proffered his thanks to his fellow Councillors Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft and Ken Roughley for their help and comradeship- particularly in covering for him when he was recovering after hip-replacement surgery.

(d) LALC/LALC/MAPTC/SLCC

The Clerk stressed the useful help and guidance provided by these organisations on important issues.

(e) Voluntary Organisations

At the moment there was a slight problem with the supply of copies of the St Helens CVS magazine which needed resolving.

Public Comment

No comment made.

The meeting closed at 7.25 p.m.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Chairman)