

WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (or Assembly) of the Parish of Windle, held on Tuesday, 15th March 2011, at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane, St Helens.

Present: Councillor K.D. Roughley (Chairman)
 “ S. A. Bligh (Deputy Chairman)
 “ Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft
 “ W. Ashcroft
 “ Mrs. K. S. Barton
 “ R. W. Barton
 “ Mrs. A. Bate
 “ Mrs. E. Uren

Also in Attendance: PC M. Pender (Merseyside Police)
 L. J. Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

149. Prayers

The meeting was chaired by Cllr. K. D. Roughley (Chairman of the Parish Council). He opened the meeting with prayers and a welcome for all present. Beforehand he had informed the Council of the sad passing away of Peter Blackburn, former Asstnt. Chief Exec. St Helens Council.

150. Apologies

No apologies received.

151. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 16th March 2010, which had previously been made available to the Parish Councillors, were offered for confirmation. Cllr. R. Barton, Chairman in 2009-2010, requested an addendum to his report (see min. 145.) to indicate that he had had the privilege of laying a wreath, on behalf of Windle Parish Council and its residents, at the Cenotaph in Victoria Square, St Helens, on Remembrance Sunday in November 2009. When this had been added the minutes were then accepted as a true and correct record, and signed by the Chairman Cllr. K.D. Roughley.

152. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he was enjoying his current year in office so far, but apologised to the Council, that he had not been able to complete his report in time for this meeting, but would do so at the Annual Meeting in May.

153. Financial Statement

The Clerk submitted a financial report, summarised as follows;

	£
Balance at 1/04/10	7961
<u>Add (projected) receipts to 31/03/11</u>	<u>13186</u>
	21147
<u>Less (projected) payments to 31/03/11</u>	<u>13345</u>
<u>(Projected) Balance at 31/03/11</u>	<u>7802</u>

154. Reports

a) Windle United Charities

No report.

b) School Governors

It was reported that the School was facing financial constraints in the present climate, and was awaiting the forthcoming Budget from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in order to determine just what these may be.

The School continues to maintain its high standards- both academically and on the sporting field. The report from OFSTED was once more a very good one.

b) District Councillors

Cllr. W. Ashcroft reported that:

The problems with the shutters on the former tanning shop (84 Kiln Lane), which, under new owners, was now a beauticians, had finally been resolved, and the new shutters match perfectly the existing ones on the shopping parade.

There are still problems with parking safely at the junction of Kiln Lane and Coronation Road, due to cars parking too near the corner and making it difficult to enter or leave either road. Residents living nearby sometimes had difficulty in accessing their own properties.

One business on the corner wanted to open a coffee bar and vibro-gym, which caused some consternation, mainly due to the perceived extra parking problems resulting from such a move.

Therefore, along with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, the Clerk and the Ward Councillors, an on site meeting was arranged with a representative of the Planning Dept., the Chief Highways Officer and the owners of the business.

The application was refused, but the Highways Officer agreed to look at the ways, by which, this corner might be made safer.

Alder Hey Road Allotments had suffered from a number of vandal attacks, theft and arson. Access was gained mainly from the brook running alongside Dodd Avenue. A successful bid to the Windle Ward Committee resulted in the allotment holders being able to erect a fence to minimise the problem.

Following one particularly bad attack of arson, it must be said here, that the local Police Constable Mark Pender and the CSO Simon Kelly were extremely helpful, and went well beyond their normal call of duty. As a result, they were both shortlisted for an award for the commitment shown.

The Ward Committee also gave some help in tidying up the Jim Malone Memorial Garden at Windle Island.

Following work on the street lighting on Bleak Hill Road the electricity connection to the Christmas Tree was decommissioned. Again the Ward Committee helped with the

costs of providing a permanent underground chamber to house a new connection, nearer to the School Entrance and visible from three vantage points.

The severe snowfalls, just before Christmas, caused the usual problems and forced the Highways Dept. to prioritise gritting activities to ensure that all main roads and bus routes were kept clear of ice. The Parish experienced some problems with Hamilton Road, where there were some minor collisions and many more near misses. But it was pointed out to Highways that as this was the main road to Bleak Hill School, and does have the occasional bus passing along to and from the School, it should be added to the priority gritting list. It is a source of delight to inform that they listened and we are now told that the road is being gritted.

Again in Hamilton Road the question of flooding has reared its head again. A meeting was arranged between those residents affected and two representatives from United Utilities plus members of the Parish Council and two Ward Councillors. There it was agreed that the residents would accompany the United Utilities reps. to see if they could determine just what was causing the problems. We are still awaiting the results.

The cost of opening and closing the Lynton Way Play Area are of deep concern to the Parish Council. Whenever it is left open the problem of youth misbehaviour raises its head. There is no doubt that locking it up each evening, and re-opening in the morning is the answer, but this is not sustainable from the Parish's relatively small budget. We are currently working with residents to try to find a solution and are delighted that the Head of the Department of Environmental- St Helens Council has kindly agreed to attend the Parish Council meeting, which will follow on from the conclusion of this meeting, in order to hear representations from those residents, who will be attending, concerning the Play Area.

The funding for the Victoria Park Project as mentioned in the report last year (MIN. 147 16/03/10) is now expected to be confirmed, which is tremendous news.

Following the May 2010 elections Cllr. Ken Roughley, unfortunately, lost his seat on the Borough Council.

This was a particularly sad time for both Nancy and myself because I felt that we worked well as a team. We miss Ken's humour. We miss his commitment- his skill with the computer and administrative excellence. We would like to publicly thank him, here and now, for all the help and fond memories that we enjoyed together.

May we also thank all members of the Parish Council for their help and commitment over the last twelve months, and also, it goes without saying, thanks to our ever diligent Clerk, Len, without whose input none of us could function.

(d) LALC/NALC/MAPTC/SLCC

The Clerk re-iterated the value of these organisations as a source of reference and advice, especially with any new practices and administration being introduced by the new coalition government.

(e) Voluntary Organisations:

St Helens & Halton CVS

The new set up appears to be functioning well, and earlier problems in receiving the bulletins have now been resolved.

(f) Ecclesfield Sports Facility

Drainage now working well after problems caused by heavy snowfall. Problems persist over use of the car park.

(g) NW St Helens Crime Prevention Panel

The Chairman gave information about the activities of this group, which meets every month. The Police raise money to help e.g. to provide a bell for purses to help prevent thefts made when people are shopping.

(h) Sports Council

Cllr. W. Ashcroft gave the following report on the Sports Council;

"I have attended several meetings this year and been deeply impressed by the commitment of this group, in continuing their activities to encourage participation in all kinds of sport.

They are now working closely with the Council's Sports department.

The Sports Council are able to offer any club, registered with them, CRB Checks for only £10.00, which compares very favourably with the normal cost of £60+.

I am particularly delighted that the Chairman of the Sports Council was awarded the "St Helens Special Award for Services to Culture" at the Cultural Awards Ceremony last month.

This is well deserved as Roy commits most of his waking life to the betterment of Sport."

155. Public Comment

No public comment was made

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed ----- Date-----
Chairman