

KIRKLAND PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 11th March, 2014 AT 7.00 PM
AT KIRKLAND MEMORIAL HALL, CHURCHTOWN

Present;

*K. Ellin, Chairman,
Mrs. C. Richmond, Vice-Chairman
Miss S. Gilling,
A. Swindley,
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Council
Wyre Councillor David Swift*

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. S. Hogg and County Cllr. Sandra Perkins.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was resolved that the minutes of the last meeting, held on 19th March, 2013, having been previously circulated were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Report from Cllr. Cath Richmond, Chairman of Kirkland Parish Council

The Parish Council has this year been back up to full compliment as Siriol has very kindly joined us. She is in fact now Vice Chairman.

This year Siriol has been working hard to alleviate flooding in the Village and things seem to be progressing with the approval of funding from the Environment Agency. We have purchased a new notice board – accessible to all and ask that residents are encouraged to use it to display their parish events. Speed on The Avenue continues to be monitored with the 20MPH flashing lights at school times.

The Parish Council made a ‘very expensive’ purchase with the red telephone box and is waiting for ideas on its best use for the Village. The Christmas Tree has returned to the Horns Inn under our own power source.

Kirkland Parish Council has maintained the same precept request for the coming year so as not to impact on residents.

I'd like to thank all Parish Councillors for the time and effort given in maintaining and improving our Parish. With special thanks to Gillian our Parish Clerk and Tim the Parish Lengthsman.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Responsible Financial Officer Report 2014

Balance brought forward

The balance carried forward from last year was less than the previous year, with a number of expenses taken from reserves.

£3,652.64 in 2012 - 2013

£2,491.18 in 2013 - 2014

Income

The Parish Council were forced to increase the precept in order to maintain the standards of service residents have become familiar with. This year marked the last payment of the Rural Grant from Wyre Council and the grass cutting contract with Lancashire County Council was again reduced. However, VAT for the past three years, was reclaimed at a cost of £462. Kirkland Parish Council re-signed to the Parish Lengthsman scheme, where public rights of way complaints can be carried out by our lengthsman and this generates £200.

Expenditure

Money has been taken from reserves leaving the Parish Council very lean and this has meant that donations to village organisations could not be as generous as in past years. But investment has been made in the parish with the purchase of a new notice board at the side of the cross. Staff costs remain static with a slight decrease over last year's figures, but this is just timing of payments and PAYE.

Subscriptions include membership of Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and Web site publication. The insurance was renegotiated and reduced and the Kirkland News, now produced in full colour, has increased due to a wider circulation.

The Christmas Tree outside the Horns Inn was most successful this year, but the switch-on highlighted problems with the Parish Council's lights on the Church's Christmas Tree, which have yet to be sorted out for this Christmas.

Donations include £650 towards the grass cutting at Kirkland Memorial Hall, with further donations to Churchtown and District Children's Whitsun Festival, the Royal British Legion and St. Helen's Church.

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

Representative on Kirkland Memorial Hall

The Parish Council representative, Cllr. Mrs. C. Richmond reported on the repairs to the flat roof and the damp proof course to the porch. The Trustees are considering replacing the chairs on the hall and updating the bathrooms. Kirkland Memorial Hall continues to be well used with the largest income generated by the many caravan weekends held. The specially reduced rate for residents and free use by the Parish Council and the Children's Whitsun Festival continues.

Kirkland and Catterall St. Helen's C of E Primary School

The school continues to make good progress under the leadership of Mark Hamblett. They have been Ofsted inspected returning a good with outstanding features and SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) found our school to be 'Outstanding' in all areas.

They continue to hold communion at half term, with all parishioners welcome to attend and are aiming to establish community teas. New timetabling has been introduced with whole school topics of community based activities. Each term there is an aim that every class will have a visitor in and a trip out, often very much in the local area. The school is keen to extend links with the parish, they will be exhibiting at the Patronal Festival and the school choir will be singing. The choir will also be singing at Christmas at the Punchbowl.

The planning permission for the canopy has been granted and will be paid for by a Lottery grant. Grants have also been applied for to make the trim trail one to be used in all weathers. The IT department has been upgraded with 22 laptop computers, an I Pad for each class and 1 extra for individual children funded by the School House Trust.

The school thanks the community for the support they receive and look forward to extending relationships with residents of Kirkland parish.

School House Trust

The Trust is happy to report that investments have performed well and this has allowed the funding of the upgrade to the IT department at Kirkland and Catterall St. Helen's C of E Primary School with 22 computers and I Pads.

Representative on Wyre Area Road Safety Committee

The representative was pleased to confirm the introduction of 20MPH at school times, through the flashing warning lights. It was noted that although many motorists do slow to adhere to the speed limit on the Avenue, some just don't slow down for any one.

Representative on the Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Lancashire County Council has had its highway budget cut by 10% and is cutting the grass cutting schemes by 10%. The phone number to report potholes etc has been changed to 0300 0530011 to allow for cheaper calls from mobiles. The new web site has the facility to report and pin point street lighting, road damage, flooding etc. The public consultation on rural bus services has been dropped.

Wyre Council will not be passing the localised council tax benefit paid by Government to Parish Councils, which results in an increase to residents. The Parish Charter update was discussed as it has never been touched since its inception.

The Police are now supplying monthly crime submissions to the Parish Councils. Although there have been divisional changes there are no changes proposed to the Garstang Neighbourhood Policing Team and no further Police buildings are to be sold off.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Dog Fouling in the Village

Councillors were concerned at the amount of dog fouling on the pavements in the Village and were instructed to report this to Wyre Council, who now have a dedicated web page.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 7.35pm.

Date

Chairman.....