

**KIRKLAND PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 AT 7.30 PM**  
**AT KIRKLAND MEMORIAL HALL, CHURCHTOWN**

*Present;*

*Miss S. Gilling, Chairman,  
K. Ellin,  
Mrs. C. Richmond  
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Council*

**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 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, 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. Sam Gilling Chairman of Kirkland Parish Council**

The Parish Council worked hard for so many years to reduce the road speed limit on the Avenue (especially past the school) and we were fortunate that this happened. The 30MPH limit is also being regularly enforced by the mobile speed camera, which is usually parked up near the entrance to Kirkland Hall. Hopefully this will deter people from continuing to speed; I know it has made me think more about slowing down. I have spoken to parents at the school and their general consensus is that traffic is a great deal slower and calmer than it was.

Kirkland Parish Council has been a counsellor short since the resignation of Andrew Swindley, but despite this we have managed to achieve a great deal this year and we continue to work hard for the residents of our parish. We do, however, need to recruit a new person to fill the role of Parish Counsellor, so perhaps we could have a think to see if we know anybody we could ask. It seems that advertising in the newsletter hasn't encouraged anyone to come forward so far.

The village is starting to look brighter now as Spring approaches and the flowers start to bloom. The daffodils along the avenue are going to look amazing and we were very lucky to have received the donations we did for the bulbs. I think generally Kirkland is looking much better since the renovation of the Horns Inn as this is the first thing people see when entering the village. Perhaps we could look to do something in time for summer? I thought Keith's sunflower competition was a great idea to brighten up the village; perhaps we could do something like this again?

I would like to thank our Parish Councillors who have dedicated a significant amount of their time and effort to maintain and improve the Parish of Kirkland. Thank you to Cath, Siriol and Keith. I am grateful for your commitment to the council, without which

we would not be able to continue. I am also grateful for our good relations with Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council who continue to support us and can hopefully continue to play an active role in our maintenance and development.

Lastly I would also like to thank our Parish Clerk for her continued help and support for Kirkland and its counsellors and also to our Parish Lengthsman for his continued hard work in making Kirkland look its best.

## **5. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**Responsible Financial Officer** Report to February, 2015

Balance brought forward

The balance brought forward is healthier than the previous year due to frugal spending by the Councillors and a number of outstanding invoices.

£2,491.18 in 2013 - 2014

£3,968.12 in 2014 - 2015

### **Income**

Following deliberations, which incorporated the loss of the rural grant, the Parish Councillors ensured that the precept remained the same, but still offering residents' continuity in maintaining the standards of service residents expected.

The grass cutting contract with Lancashire County Council was again reduced, but extra work and therefore income was generated through the public rights of way scheme. The Parish Council received £100 from St. Helen's Parochial Church Council towards the replacement of Christmas Tree lights for their tree outside the church.

### **Expenditure**

A reduction in spending was achieved with the lack of purchases this year for assets in the village, last year the noticeboard was replaced at a cost of £1,500.

Staff costs rose slightly with the salary set by the Joint Council. The Maintenance Contract with Catterall Parish Council has increase by 2% and continues to offer a service which is well received by residents who see where their precept is being spent.

Subscriptions include membership of Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and Web site publication. The lower subscription figure is a result of Kirkland and not the partnership councils subscribing to Society of Local Council Clerks. The insurance was again renegotiated giving a reduced amount.

Whilst the Christmas Tree outside the Horns Inn was again donated, the Parish Council made a donation to the floral display at the church's Patronal Festival.

Donations include Churchtown and District Children's Whitsun Festival, the Royal British Legion and St. Helen's Church Parochial Church Council. Councillors are still waiting to receive requested information from Kirkland Memorial Hall before being able to consider a donation to the grass cutting on the playing field.

### **Balance to carry forward to date:**

**£7,774.74** This will change by the end of the financial year with the invoices to be paid at the March meeting.

**6. ANNUAL REPORTS**

**Representative on Kirkland Memorial Hall**

The trustees are to purchase new chairs and update the toilet facilities. Trees have been replaced along the Avenue.

**School House Trust**

There have been two meetings this year and the investment report is ok in today's market, with the interest has been offered to Kirkland and Catterall St. Helen's C of E Primary School. These funds are to be used to update the interactive whiteboard. Cllr. Mrs. C. Richmond has updated the School House Trust website as many parents were unaware as to the background of the Trust.

**Representative on Wyre Area Road Safety Committee**

After many years of chasing through this Committee by providing support, the speed limit on the Avenue has been reduced to 30MPH with the additional 20MPH during school times for Kirkland and Catterall St. Helen's C of E Primary School.

**Representative on the Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils**

A reply from the Chief Constable talked about a Police hybrid model, which is working in Kirkham at present and it is hoped it will be rolled out in Garstang. This should bring more Police officers to Garstang and therefore more Police presence in rural areas.

**Lancashire County Council, Mr. Sim Lane-Dixon**

The Lancashire County Council programme of highway works for the coming year has not been finalised to date. The amenity grass cutting contracts will be paid at the same rate as this year and Lancashire County Council is to make further savings of £300m over the next 3 years. Lancashire County Council will replant trees in Owd Wills, Churchtown to replace the dead ones.

**Wyre Council, Garry Payne**

Wyre's Government grant has reduced by 15% for next year, but this will have no effect on front line services for 2015 – 2016. The Parish Charter will be rolled in with the engagement review being carried out in Wyre. Wyre will stop sending hard copies of planning applications from January, but this will be reviewed in 6 months.

**Police, Sergeant Danielle Freaney**

She expanded in the Hybrid Model, where Police officers would take control of ALL crimes and incidents rather than referring them to specialist departments. Police officers have been reduced by 1,250, that is one third in the past few years and Garstang offers one sergeant, two Policemen and one PCSO to cover the Over Wyre area. She urged members of the public to write to complain if the action by an officer with not up to acceptable standards. The hi-viz rural crime is based in Lancaster.

**8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

There were no members of the public present.

*There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.10.pm.*

Date .....

Chairman.....