

KIRKLAND PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 10th May, 2016 AT 7.30 PM

ST. HELEN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL, CHURCHTOWN

Present; *Miss S. Gilling, Chairman,*
Mrs. S. Hogg, Vice-Chairman,
C. Lambert,
Mrs. M. McLeod,
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Council
Wyre Councillor S. Pimberly

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Wyre Cllr. S. Catterall and County Cllr. Sandra Perkins.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was resolved that the minutes of the last meeting, held on 10th March, 2015, 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

I wanted to take this opportunity to discuss the December floods caused by Storm Desmond. I know that some properties in Churchtown were affected and that although months have passed since this happened, many people are only just coming to terms with it. It was quite traumatic for residents and has caused a great deal of stress. Practically, it has meant that many residents have had to leave their homes, which were uninhabitable and others have braved through, living as best they can in their flood damaged homes. I just wanted to extend my empathy to all those affected.

I also thought that the sense of community which was felt after the flood had hit was quite overwhelming. Many locals helped rescue people on the night and worked selflessly until the early hours of the morning. The Parish Council would like to send heartfelt thanks to those who did this; it was extremely kind of you. Also the church rallied around and collected food and cleaning products which they used to put together parcels to help those affected. This generous gesture was helpful, but more importantly it let those of us affected know that the community cared and wanted to help, for this I am very grateful.

I am sure that you are all aware that there are funds available to people affected by the flood and if anybody wants information on the different charities and government monies available, to please get in touch. I would like to say a huge thank you to Siriol Hogg, our Deputy Chairman, for all the hard work she has put in to setting up the Churchtown Flood Defence Group and for helping to make sure that our community gets as much help as is needed to recover from this flood and protect us from future floods.

On a positive note, we are very happy to announce that we have a new Councillor, Margaret McLeod, who has joined us. I would also like to thank our existing Parish Councillors who have dedicated a significant amount of their time and effort to maintain and improve the Parish of Kirkland. Thank you to Siriol, Keith and Colin; I am grateful for your commitment to the council.

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 who has worked hard in tidying and cleaning up after the floods. He does a great job and always manages to keep Kirkland looking its best.

Here's hoping that we all recover from the events of the start of the year and that things improve for our community.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Balance brought forward

The Parish Council began the year with funds of £6,576.67a little healthier than previous years due to frugal spending on the Councillors part.

Income

Councillors ensured that the precept remained the same, but still provided residents' continuity in maintaining the standards of service expected.

The grass cutting contract with Lancashire County Council remained the same this year, but is to be reduced for the coming season. The VAT has been claimed for the past two years at £449 and subscriptions were collected from the other Councils in the partnership to pay a combined amount. The public appeal for a defibrillator in the village has seen only one response to date.

Due to Kirkland Parish Council being a smaller Parish Council, having an income of less than £25,000, Government legislation has dictated the publication of certain documents on line, to fund the setting up a web site the Council was successful in gaining a grant from National Association of Local Councils to cover the initial costs.

Expenditure

The parish grounds maintenance contract continues and offers a constant service, well received by residents, who can see where their precept is spent. Staff costs remain level with previous years.

The increase in subscriptions represents the partnership rather than just Kirkland Parish Council subscribing to Society of Local Council Clerks, plus Lancashire Association of Local Councils. Kirkland Parish Council has replaced the barrels used for floral displays following the devastation of Storm Desmond in December.

Donations include Churchtown and District Children's Whitsun Festival, the Royal British Legion and St. Helen's Church Parochial Church Council. The Council also donated towards the grass cutting on the Memorial Hall field and the new play area recently installed after the floods in December.

Balance to date to carry forward

£7,606.46

6. ANNUAL REPORTS

Representative on Kirkland Memorial Hall

Cllr. C. Lambert reported that the refurbishment of the hall after the flooding is taking longer than was first expected. It appears that it may be September before it is open and available. There also appears to more funding for repairs than initially expected.

School House Trust

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hogg reported that the trust manager wishes to change the investment to St. James Place for better returns, although the capital has been making profit. The investment is from the sale of the School House many years ago and any interest is available for projects within the school, there have not been any applications this year.

7. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Flooding Funding in Churchtown

Cllr. Mrs. S. Hogg reported on the Flood Resilience Grant of £5,000 available in communities hit by floods, although it is only available after the work has been undertaken. There were complaints that acknowledgements to those claiming were not forthcoming. Wyre Council administered the Community Development Foundation Government grant of £500 for each property flooded.

It was reported that the Garstang Flood Barrier had failed on the night of Storm Desmond and this led to queries about the proposed barrage at Knott End and who would have the ultimate say in times of flooding. Wyre Council Pimberly reported that the gates will be opened by the owners working with the Environment Agency in any such incident.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 8.40pm.

Date

Chairman.....