

## **PILLING ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014 AT 7.00 PM**

**AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, TAYLORS LANE, PILLING**

*Present:* *Councillors; J. Savage, Chairman,  
E. Cookson  
G. Curwen,  
J. Edmondson,  
D. Lawrenson  
E. Moorat,  
W. Whiteside  
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Parish Council  
Four residents*

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were sent for Cllr. S. Morley, Cllr. G. Morris and Cllr. Mrs. B. Schofield and the reasons accepted.

### **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, having been circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

*Resolved; The Chairman signed the minutes.*

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters raised from the minutes.

### **4. VISIT FROM PAUL NICHOLSON AND PAUL MCWHIRTER, REPRESENTING THE YOUTH GROUP**

Pilling Youth Group was founded in 2012 and meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings in Pilling Memorial Hall with 40 – 50, 11 – 15 year olds and 12 adults. There are 6 adults in attendance at each meeting and recent trips out have included swimming, bowling and rock climbing. At the hall badminton is played and the Comrades room is used for chilling and socialising. More male volunteers would be welcomed to work with the young people.

The Councillors were very pleased to hear the Youth Group is going from strength to strength with the adult consistency and no reports of damage to the hall, as has been the case in years past. The Chairman invited the Youth Group to form a Youth Council and has been invited to a meeting to explain what is needed, procedures etc. The Youth Council would bring forward issues of importance to younger people in Pilling.

Both gentlemen were thanked for attending and presenting information about the Youth Council.

### **5. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

The government is increasingly encouraging parish councils to deliver more services and to play a greater part in their communities. When you consider that for this council this could include areas such as planning, highways, traffic, community safety, housing, street lighting, litter, war memorials, seats, shelters and rights of way, it can be seen that this is a wide ranging remit.

The council seeks to work in cooperation with other tiers of government, although this can only be effective when other bodies subscribe to the same viewpoint and timescale. Pilling Parish Council comments on all planning applications that come before us, however, this can be difficult when guidelines on building in Pilling seem so confusing. Furthermore, on occasion, planning conditions are not complied with, but sadly rising costs have led to a fall in enforcement from the borough council. The annual meeting with representatives from other agencies continues to be fruitful in considering problems identified within the parish and working towards a solution. Talks with the Environment Agency have created a more cohesive plan for clearing dykes and identifying whether the responsibility lies with the EA or the landowner.

Smaller bodies do have influence though and as such, the council has been involved in discussions with the bus operator, leading to the restoration of the bus route through the centre of the village. This is a vital service for many of our parishioners and the recent decision not to axe bus services in the evenings and at weekends has to be applauded. The about turn though was brought about by pressure from individuals and from bodies which included this council.

The enhancement of life for locals is at the heart of what we do as a council and given the rural location of Pilling, transport routes are a key issue. We continue to put forward roads that are in need of repair and improvement, although these are not always taken on board or if they are, they are not given the priority that we would like. Throughout the year, councillors attend regular meetings both of the full council and of sub-committees. They also represent the council at other meetings, attend training courses, listen to parishioners and act as a visible presence at many village events. One of these of course, is the annual senior citizen's Christmas party, organised by the parish council. Those who attended this year will have noticed the new arrangement of tables - the first alteration in many years. Some may have doubted whether it would be successful, but when tried it worked. In our communities we are faced with change and perhaps we view this with uncertainty. But, if we face change with an informed and positive outlook and have the ability to make variations based on local knowledge, then it can only be to our benefit. The development of Pilling in a planned way will contribute to a longer term, more thriving local community.

In closing, it only remains for me to thank my fellow councillors, our clerk, Gillian and our Parish Lengthsman Graham, for their hard work and support as we face up to the challenges of taking Pilling forward.

*Resolved: The report was accepted.*

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

Pilling Parish Council completed the year with a healthy balance of £38,573.

Bank balance of £2,800 and

Reserve Account of £35,700

Income of £11,000 includes the reduced number of grounds maintenance contracts for the village and although the one through Lancashire County Council has reduced we still maintained slight increases with Siromer Tractors and Lune Valley Rural Housing Association.

Pilling in Bloom secured grants of £925 by entering Wyre in Bloom and two Village donations to carry out the wonderful planting schemes and thanks should be extended to all those who sourced, planted and care for these floral displays.

The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party was entirely supported financially through donations and fundraising events and carries a healthy £650 towards this year's festivities.

The Parish Council invests some of the working capital into the Reserve Account which saw an interest of £400 this year against the pence the bank is offering.

The expenditure on staff costs has slightly increased due to payment dates. The Parish Lengthsman is now on a pay scale tied to NJC recommendations following the abolition of the Agricultural Workers Board. The costs of equipment and parish maintenance are less as the Lengthsman is back on top of the job. Insurance was rigorously negotiated and dropped by £400. Subscriptions costs increased and include Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Parish Lengthsman workshop, Pilling's Web Site and Broadfleet Sensory Garden. The Parish Lengthsman has received Health and Safety Training this year.

The Parish Council replaced both the sit on and push mower this year and got an excellent trade in price for the old machine. Smiley SpID was returned for an MOT and upgrade to allow for longer working times.

*Resolved: The report was accepted.*

## **7. REPORTS**

### **Report of the Wyre Councillor**

Cllr. D. Lawrenson report on Wyre over the past month and added that there was not much which directly affects Pilling except planning. There had been a recent planning application for a new build which was turned down on Flood Zone 3 regulations, as Wyre had an appeal upheld by the planning inspectorate on a similar application.

The Mayor elect is Ronnie Shewan, another round of grants through Shaping Your Neighbourhood is available and the new Wyre Volunteer bus will be in Pilling on 30<sup>th</sup> April. Wyre is protecting the most vulnerable in society with discretionary housing payments. 10,000 residents used energy switch for their energy last year, Wyre is the 5<sup>th</sup> best in the toilet awards and the number of empty houses is reducing by altering the council tax payments.

Free parking at Booth's supermarkets has been negotiated in Garstang and Poulton, Wyre has been awarded gold in Investors In People with a 'genuine team effort', £7million has been saved over the last 8 years with more over the next 2 years and a freeze on the council tax. Work has started on the leisure centres, £1.5million has been spent on disability facilities and Wyre has saved 23% in the staffing budget. Wyre has the lowest number of Band D properties. Wyre is bidding for £6million to fulfil lives by ageing better.

Cllr. Lawrenson was asked about planning enforcement for those who go against planning permission. Unfortunately Wyre has not got the money to fight every one, the travellers in Preesall were a drain of £20million, and they don't have the teeth to fight.

*The Councillor was thanked for the report.*

### **Memorial Hall Committee and Pilling 20 20**

The management committee continues to provide the Memorial Hall facilities, keeping the building alive and in working order. The main focus at present is the Pilling 20 20 project with the planning application imminently to be submitted by the developer for the site and the new field site. Previous hold ups have been finally sorted and they look forward to plans coming to fruition next year.

### **Pilling In Bloom**

The Pilling in Bloom Meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April and volunteers informed. Cllr. W. Whiteside continues to attend the Wyre in Bloom meeting. Last year the Bloomers won Silver Gilt for the village and this year the theme is to be based on Gold as it is the RHS's 50<sup>th</sup> year.

### **Over Wyre Road Safety Committee**

Due to the increasing budget cuts less and less of Councillors highway problems are being sorted. Lancashire County Council has an online service to report potholes, blocked gullies etc. and telephone numbers have gone to 0300 for free calls. Pilling has particular problems with the surface of Garstang Road, Smallwood Hey and School Lane and across Broadfleet Bridge, which have been passed over in this year's programme, despite being put forward by the County Councillor. Councillors considered that a letter to the MP to highlight these problems copying Jo Turton, as Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council, would be in order.

### **Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils**

Attendances are waning and the night of the meeting is to be changed. Lancashire County Council, Wyre Council and the Police attend each quarter. The Wyre Parish Charter is to be revisited, Wyre will not pass on Government's localised council tax relief and planning ambassadors are being invited to shape the next local plan.

## **8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS**

Residents raised that the MP, Eric Ollerenshaw, was in Pilling on Saturday talking to residents about the roads, flooding and planning. He was also made aware of the problems of households on Garstang Road from Wyresdale Concrete.

### **Overhanging Vegetation**

It was reported that overhanging hedges on Head Dyke Lane were interfering with traffic, the residents will be contacted.

### ***Date of the next meeting.***

***The next annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2014, in the Comrades Room, Memorial Hall, Taylors Lane, Pilling.***

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55p.m.

Date .....

Chairman .....