

MINUTES OF PILLING'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2017 AT 7.00 PM

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH HALL, SCHOOL LANE, PILLING

Present: Councillors; J. Savage, Chairman,
J. Barton
Mrs. E. Cookson,
N. Cookson,
G. Curwen,
E. Moorat,
Mrs. B. Schofield,
Mrs. D. Schofield,
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Parish Council
Lancashire County Councillor V. Taylor

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were sent from Cllr. W. Whiteside and Wyre Cllr. G. Holden.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 13th April, 2016, having been circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

Resolved; The Chairman signed the minutes.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Tayban Site

Permission was granted on 1st May, 2015 for outline planning for up to 40 houses, but a further application to reduce the number of affordable homes is still waiting decision. There was discussion on the way Wyre Council has dealt with affordable housing in the parish. The Auction Mart reduced the affordable housing on the site and the development to the rear of Bradley's was granted for 6 market houses replacing the 11 affordable housing originally granted. Councillors were greatly irritated by developers gaining planning permission citing affordable housing only to then be granted market housing on the same sites. As Wyre's portfolio holder for Community Engagement, Cllr. Viv Taylor would look into section 106 and the way Pilling is losing out with the affordable homes system.

4. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

One of the first roles of the parish council is to represent the parishioners. This is particularly important given the government policy of moving responsibilities downwards from central government to borough councils and then to the parish council. Bearing this in mind, it is a concern to hear of possible capping of parish and town council precepts. It seems unreasonable to expect a greater range of services to be provided, when at the same time the amount that can be raised to pay for these services is limited. In many cases parish councils are raising their charges to pay for services which have been withdrawn by these larger authorities!

Despite these potential setbacks, we continue to work towards improving facilities within the village. After a concerted effort, Back Sands Lane was resurfaced at the end of last year and the programme of works for the coming year includes a number of roads in Pilling. Whether these will be completed to the standard that we expect remains to be seen, but it is at least a start.

An ANPR camera to cover the approaches to Eagland Hill has been purchased and we are expecting that this will aid the police in detecting crimes in an outlying area of the parish. If this is successful, the scheme may be extended to other parts of the village. As the number of houses in Pilling increases – a good number of these being what are termed affordable housing – we have held meetings with Regenda to discuss their lettings policy; it is only fair that such properties should be offered to people who have a direct Pilling connection in the first instance.

The 'water' meetings where a group of representatives of organisations meet to discuss problems within the village and to come up with a solution continue. This past year has seen extensive work on the outfall through the seawall and this should help the quicker drainage of water as will the clearing of ditches to allow for the free flow of water. As with many things the timescale for works does not always satisfy our needs.

We also seek to provide opportunities for the people of Pilling; in preceding years a number of defibrillators have been located around the village and training in using these devices has been on-going. The field where the new community hall will be sited has been opened to the village and a number of events have taken place on here, while work to improve the range of facilities has continued. A celebration to mark the 90th birthday of HM the Queen was held last year during which commemorative medals were presented to the children of Pilling.

Pilling remains a pleasant place in which to live and to raise a family; the variety of occasions when everyone comes together to celebrate is a regular part of the pattern of village life. To commemorate this; an event 'Celebrating Pilling' will be held in May on the new field, where there will be exhibitions, displays, food, fun, games and music. Indeed it will be a day to celebrate all that is good about living in Pilling.

To improve facilities and to provide opportunities for the people of Pilling requires the support of my fellow councillors, our lengthsman Graham and our clerk Gillian and to them I extend my grateful, thanks.

Resolved: The report was accepted.

5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Pilling Parish Council began the year with £45,476 finishing with £67,522, that being balances of £17,866 at Nat West and a Reserve Account of £49,656. The Council continues to futureproof against capping by slightly increasing the precept.

Pilling Parish Council has been extremely successful with grants this year. Grantscape and the Moons Trust have funded towards the ANPR camera on Eagland Hill and thanks go to Cllr. Debra Schofield for her hard work in getting this project off the ground. Thanks are also extended to Cllr. Eddie Moorat for securing funding for Celebrate Pilling; a community event to bring together many of the volunteer organisations in the Parish centring on the weekend of 20th and 21st May.

The clothing collections continue to reduce the cost of the seven defibrillators now located throughout the parish; this collection service also added to the funds for the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, which had a change of entertainment this year. Thanks are due to Cllr. Moorat and his right hand man for their hard work towards this beneficial service in the Parish.

The grass cutting contracts have seen a slight increase due to Adactus' late payment last year and receipt of this year's contract by the end of this financial year. The Reserve Account interest of £631 is more than last year, but the balance is higher and the interest was reduced radically from January.

The expenditure on staff costs is slightly down, due to the timing of essential payments. Maintenance costs in the parish including equipment have halved, hopefully this reflects a respect for the community!! Subscriptions costs include Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and the Parish Lengthsman's workshop, which was relocated this year.

The Parish Council was able to purchase a further defibrillator installed at Garstang Road Garage; making seven in total. The Queen's birthday was commemorated through the distribution of Royal Mint coins during a picnic at St. Johns Church, although the weather was against eating outside.

Pilling in Bloom has purchased a large number of plastic self-watering barrel planters to replace the wooden ones, many of which have rotted, but they are over 19 years old and this has seriously depleted the balance. This year's Senior Citizens' Christmas Party costs have increased, but ALL invoices have been paid, including the one outstanding from last year.

Donations were made to the Royal British Legion and the British Red Cross. The rent of St. John's Church Hall which allows both the Clerk and the Parish Lengthsman to work in the parish has increased.

Looking to the future the Parish Council hopes to enjoy Celebrate Pilling and encourage volunteer organisations to appeal for funding to assist in their individual events.

Resolved: The report was accepted.

6. REPORTS

Report of the County Councillor

County Councillors Viv Taylor reported that although Smallwood Hey Road is listed as 4th it has missed out for work over roads in Fleetwood. The poles for the average speed camera on Head Dyke are being erected at the moment. Lancashire County Council highways have concentrated on reactive works and gully clearing throughout the year. Although it took 5 months to repair; the collapse on Stakepool Drive was eventually repaired after Cllr. Moorat contacted Lancashire County Council by United Utilities. Lancashire County Council is still clearing drains, gullies etc. after the floods of December 2015.

Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Unfortunately the meetings last year were held on the same night as the Parish Council meeting, however, Cllr. Taylor reported on Wyre Council's 'Together we can make a difference' whereby Wyre will help communities look for funding.

Carters Charity

The charity has seen a stable year with no changes.

Memorial Hall Committee and Pilling 20 20

Funding for the new hall was submitted to the Lottery with a design and costings; this was successful in the first stage and continues to the second stage, which requires more strenuous details to be produced. The committee is to arrange a meeting with Garry Payne at Wyre looking for support.

The housing development on Memorial Road is completed and the rented homes are filled, however, the shared ownership homes have had no interest. In the past year a car park has been created on the new field and two football pitches regularly mowed by volunteers. A football team has marked out the pitch to start playing in September. Development continues with extending the play area for juniors and creating a trim trail through the 8 acres of woodland including an adult gym and benches. Each Spring and Autumn 500 trees are planted to create the woodland.

The drainage basin on site, which takes overflow from Memorial Road has been fenced, but as it continues to fill with sand, is still in the hands of MCI. Until it operates correctly United Utilities will not take responsibility. A new fence on Taylors Lane finishes the appearance of the site to passing traffic.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

There were no matters raised.

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

Date

Chairman

***The next annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on
Wednesday, 11th April, 2018.***