

MINUTES OF PILLING'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11th APRIL 2018 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,
P. McWhirter
E. Moorat,
Mrs. B. Schofield,
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Parish Council
3 Residents

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 12th April, 2017, 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. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman's Report 2018

When travelling to a new location in a rural area, a visitor can often follow signposts which take them so far, then, suddenly he or she is faced with a sign that does not show the destination. In short, they are lost.

People seeking information about different services available from borough and county councils and then trying to access those services often face similar problems. One of the things a PC can do is to signpost parishioners to the right department to find the required information.

Parish councils represent their local communities and while not possessing many powers, can influence decisions made at a higher level. The past year has seen the introduction of a 30 mph limit on Lancaster Road due in part to pressure brought by the council.

The extreme rainfall at the end of 2017 which caused flooding in a number of properties and also affected valuable acres of farmland reminded us of the need for regular meetings with a range of agencies to consider problems relating to water drainage. Sadly actions do not happen as swiftly as we would like and there are still times when local knowledge and information is ignored. Plans are afoot for the setting up of a flood action group which will enable villagers to respond to future situations in an effective manner. This is though dependent on the provision of accurate and up to date information by borough and county councils and other bodies.

Parish Councils are involved in making decisions and delivering services and in this respect, the introduction of ANPR cameras in Eagland Hill will we hope provide a safer environment for parishioners.

The exciting plans to provide a new community hall and other facilities on the recently purchased field reached a new level with the news that the bid for monies from the lottery commission had been successful. When this is completed we will indeed have a marvellous centre for village celebrations.

Parish Councils have a role in monitoring provision by other bodies. As with many other areas of the country, Pilling suffers from potholes and decaying road surfaces; while this year has seen the resurfacing of a section of Garstang Road, the planned work on School Lane was side-lined when the parish council challenged the decision to do only part of the work needed. We expect more for our people.

Ultimately, our purpose as a parish council is to improve the quality of life for the people of Pilling and in this task I am supported by my fellow councillors, our lengthsman Graham and our clerk Gillian and to them I express my thanks.

John Savage
Chairman, Pilling Parish Council.
Resolved: The report was accepted.

5. REPORT FROM THE RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Pilling Parish Council began the year with £67,522 finishing with £59,730, that being a bank balance of £4,273 and Reserve Account of £55,456.47. The Council continues to consider its residents, but to futureproof the income by only slightly increasing the precept for the coming year.

Pilling Parish Council has been successful receiving grants from the Moons Trust, which have helped towards the replacement of some more of the Pilling in Bloom barrels and towards the installation of a new noticeboard at the Community Hall site. Many organisations in Pilling, including the Parish Council have benefited from Celebrate Pilling, the community event created by Cllr. E. Moorat through funding. Thanks to him are extended from the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and the defibrillators for providing a much appreciated boost.

The clothing collections continue to reduce the initial cost of the seven defibrillators located throughout the parish and have generated £254 this year. Thanks again go 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 decrease against last year as Adactus' is yet to pay. The Reserve Account interest of £30.67 has plummeted against previous years with the interest radically reduced this year.

The expenditure on staff costs has slightly increased, due to the timing of essential payments. Maintenance costs in the parish including equipment have increased, as a number of the defibrillators required new pads, but the community Field now has a new triple noticeboard provided by the Parish Council. The cost of the Parish Newsletter rose, due to the increased number of publications, but a different printer has been sourced which will reduce future costs.

Subscriptions costs include Lancashire Association of Local Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks and the Parish Lengthsman's workshop. Donations were made to the Royal British Legion, Pilling Jubilee Silver Band and Bowland Mountain Rescue. Renting St. John's Church Hall allows both the Clerk and the Parish Lengthsman a base to work from within the parish.

Gillian Benson,
Responsible Financial Officer, Pilling Parish Council
Resolved: The report was accepted.

6. REPORTS

Report of the Wyre Councillor

Cllr. Holden attended the Wyre Flood Forum with Cllr. N. Cookson and Cllr. J. Barton. The Pilling Flood Action Group contacts were passed on; the initial meeting will be in early May.

Pilling in Bloom

Cllr. W. Whiteside will purchase the plants and ensure they are planted; residents have been approached to maintain the sites throughout the village ready for judging in July.

Carters Charity

The charity has gifted the majority of its capital to St. Johns School with the small amount remaining keeping the account live.

Memorial Hall Committee and Pilling 20 20

The Lottery submission yielded £500,000 to build the new hall, but this is not quite sufficient, so further submissions have been made. The Walney Island windfarm has granted £29,000 and there are two more funding bids in the pipeline. There is a shortage of about £100,000 to build the designed hall.

A project manager has been appointed and is gathering quotes from architects with a final decision in May. Work should start early next year. Thanks were expressed to all those who have worked so diligently in securing funding. A business plan is necessary to further the grant application. In the past year a trim trail has been created on the field with hundreds of trees planted in the country park area by volunteers in the village. The football pitch will be used by two teams in the coming year, an increase on last year, now that the field is getting established.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Bus shelter on Taylors Lane

A resident raised the planning application for the new hall, which located a bus shelter on Taylors Lane, and would like to see one for the comfort of passengers. Bus services through Pilling are a hail and stop and as such will stop anywhere passengers 'put out their hand'. The application was submitted by MCI as part of the Memorial Road development. A shelter at the end of Memorial Road would help the majority of residents and Regenda will be approached.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20p.m.

Date

Chairman

***The next annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on
Wednesday, 10th April, 2019.***