

MINUTES OF PILLING'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2019 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,
Gillian Benson, Clerk to the Parish Council
Lancashire County Councillor Salter
1 Resident

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were sent from Cllr. Mrs. D. Schofield, Lancashire County Council Slater and Wyre Cllr. G. Holden.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 11th April, 2018, 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

The role of a parish councillor as a representative of parishioners and a developer of facilities for those people is by nature cyclical, the same things keep coming around, sometimes due to the need for refreshment and sometimes because those things have not been done to the required standard in the first place.

The much awaited resurfacing of School Lane and Garstang Road took place during the year and while the work has been appreciated, we are aware that there are other roads in the parish that are in great need of work.

The police presence in the village continues to be low, although the introduction of a second ANPR camera in Eagland Hill, will, we hope, provide a more secure environment. Water is also an ongoing problem in the village and while there has been some work completed which has created better water flow in some areas, it is still lacking in the detail that we would wish to see. The forming of a Flood Action Group should provide an impetus for action whenever there is a danger of flooding. As in all cases though, prevention is better than cure.

The new community hall development proceeds to take shape, plans have been drawn up and building is expected to start before the end of the year. Even without a hall the field continues to gain support collecting two awards during the year. A celebration evening was held to thank those who had worked so hard to bring about these awards.

It is ironic in that in trying to improve facilities for parishioners, sometimes these are short lived. A bus shelter erected by the Elletson Arms did not last long before it was demolished by an unknown driver. Indeed the council is diligent in examining locations in the village where possible traffic difficulties could arise, particularly those near to new developments. As in many cases local knowledge is of great importance, although sadly this is not always taken note of.

The year has also seen the retirement of our lengthsman Graham and the employment of his successor Stan. We thank Graham for his efforts over the years and wish him well in retirement. Stan has quickly found his feet in the village and in addition to his lengthsman duties has taken on the role of co-ordinator of the Northwest in Bloom project. It is a sad reflection though, that on one day he collected over 30 bags of rubbish from the Garstang Road area, we all have a responsibility to look after our village.

The unique character of Pilling is something that we would wish to continue, the round of activities and celebrations mark the village out as a special place. It is our duty and our desire to maintain this pleasant atmosphere and I am grateful for the support of my fellow councillors, our lengthsman Stan and our clerk Gillian in all of this.

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 £59,729 finishing with £40,462, that being £3,643.41 in Nat West and £36,819 in the Reserve Account. The Council resolved in its budget in January, 2019 to dip into reserves rather than raise the precept substantially.

Pilling Parish Council has achieved the installation of a second ANPR camera for the protection of Eagland Hill residents. Successful grants towards costs were received from the Moons Trust, Grantscape and a donation from Eagland Hill residents.

The costs of installing our seven defibrillators throughout the parish has now been cleared, thanks to the clothing collections through St. John's Church, which has also donated funds towards the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party. Thanks go to Cllr. Moorat and his right hand man for their hard work towards this beneficial service in the Parish. Thanks are extended to Cllr. Mrs. E. Cookson for organising the fundraising bingo evening, the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party, entertainment and catering on the night with all her helpers. Pilling in Bloom, run by Cllr. Whiteside, spent grants on new barrels and reduced the cost of planting in the village.

Whilst interest rates remain low and banks pay next to nothing; the Parish Council runs a reserve account which holds the majority of their money, this year it has generated an interest of £262.58.

The expenditure on staff costs has increased; with the replacement of the Parish Lengthsman due to retirement and a work overlap of three months, this appointment also incurred additional costs with training courses and new PPE clothing.

Maintenance costs in the parish including replacement of the sit-on mower, a Billy Goat which picks up leaves and clears footpaths and the first ANPR camera on Bradshaw Lane. Four of the defibrillators needed new batteries, but a change of Parish Newsletter printer

has reduced costs considerably. The Parish Council, in reviewing the driver activities at the realigned Stakepool junction, has provided floral barrels to give a safer pavement.

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 and Pilling New Community Hall totalling £20,800, this includes £20,000 which the Parish Council had earmarked for the provision of a sports field since 2002 and was pleased to be able to assist the committee in providing sporting facilities in the village.

Renting St. John's Church Hall allows both the Clerk and the Parish Lengthsman a base to work from and a centre to hold residents surgeries.

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

6. REPORTS

Report of the Lancashire County Councillor

Cllr. Slater is concerned Smallwood Hey is not in the highway programme; yet Horse Park Lane is. He asked for photos of the terrible state of the surface, Councillors added that any resurfacing work would need to rectify the drainage problems. It was raised that investigations into the tree roots in road drain pipes appeared to be taking place. The councillor had chased up the junction of Garstang Road and Lancaster Road following the recent demolition of the bus shelter, but Lancashire County Council doesn't agree with raising the kerbs or bollards, but he will continue to take positive action.

Pilling in Bloom

The Parish Lengthsman is organising the floral displays this year and is to purchase plants from Cleggs, he has enlisted a number of residents and is to be complimented on the seat and new floral beds outside Townside Farm, School Lane.

Pilling 20 20

The committee is waiting for the tender documents and, although there is funding in place, it may require further sourcing and applying. The contracts are to be going out this week.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY RESIDENTS

Smallwood Hey Road surface

The resident added the state of the road is causing structural damage to homes and a road safety issue as trailers have been upended spilling their load. Outside Glencoe is especially bad and quite unsafe for cyclists.

Cllr. J. Barton added that Bone Hill Lane is to be resurfaced at a cost of £500,000 and Woods Lane is on the emergency highway list.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.30p.m.

Date

Chairman

***The next annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on
Wednesday, 8th April, 2020.***