

Whittle-le-Woods Annual Parish Meeting

Monday 8th May 2017, Village Hall at 7pm

Present:- Chairman Councillor Newall
Councillors, Bell, Briscoe, Candlish, Fogarty, B Higham, P Higham, Marsden, McDonald,
Partington, Yates and the Clerk.
Apologies:- None

The meeting commenced at 7.01pm.

Councillor Newall in her position as Chairman of the Parish Council took the chair.
The minutes of the previous meeting were **APPROVED** and signed.

Matters Arising

None

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was as follows:

I was pleased to have had the opportunity to serve again as Chairman for the last 12 months. At times I found it challenging and on occasion frustrating. I feel the Parish Council is in a transitional period with new councillors joining with new ideas, which are very welcome. I am a little disappointed that some areas have not progressed as far as I would have liked, but feel we are making some progress and we need to harness the talent of all the people around this table.

I would highlight some of our achievements this year:

The Flood Action Group who have made great progress in preparing and protecting against future flooding and have received praise for their professionalism.

The Smithyfields footpath improvements.

Introduction of Terms of Reference (TOR's) for some of the committees. (This is still to be completed to help new councillors understand their role and purpose).

Successful Neighbourhood projects – Lucas Lane triangle, wild planting and Welcome to Whittle sign (to be completed), as well as some new bins sited around the village.

Introduction of the residents' survey with a positive 5% return where we gained some valuable resident feedback and successfully tested our online survey capability.

Thank you! We are all volunteers who give our time willingly.

As I see it the main challenge we face for the coming year and beyond is a willingness to explore and accept new ideas and ways of conducting business. As with all organisations, to continue to be successful we need to take account of all properly expressed views and opinions with mutual respect and in a professional manner. Sometimes the meetings can become a little boisterous, leading to lengthy unproductive sessions. In other words we need to strike a balance, listen, make our points succinctly, reach a decision and then move on!

Notwithstanding what I've just said I believe this Parish Council is passionate about the village and is a force for good. We have an opportunity with the CIL money to build another lasting legacy (like the village hall) for the benefit of residents, and I for one want to make this my priority.

I would also like to thank Lesley and Malcolm (the Clerk and Lengthsman) for their excellent work this year.

Financial Report

The Clerk reported on the accounts for the year ending March 2017.

Meeting with the internal auditor will take place shortly and there are no issues to address. The balance carried forward at March 2017 was £49,114.24. See end of minutes for breakdown.

Tree Warden Reports

The Tree Warden's report is as follows:

All is well with the village's trees.

Pond Warden Reports

The Pond Warden's report is as follows:

All is well with the parish's ponds.

War Memorial Report

The War Memorial report is as follows:

We have had another busy year improving the war memorial grounds. We have a new flag, had two new seats put in and have had a tree survey done to improve the trees and bushes and we are now on top of demolition of those which require removal. We are considering supplying an additional litter bin and a noticeboard. We plant out a bed of seasonal flowers and at the moment the red tulips look good. The remembrance service was well attended, and we also meet on the 11th of the 11th at 11am just to have a simple service (it was nice to be

Signed.....

Date.....

joined by children from St John's). For anyone new to the area, you can get to the site by walking down Factory Lane. The entrance is on your right. An increase of £600 has occurred with our insurance, owing to a recent claim for damages following an injury in the car park. Following the sad death of Rosemary Boyd, her own potted yew tree has now been planted in the grounds.

Charities Report

The account balance carried forward from last year was £50.86. Payments to charity grant recipients, combined with receipts of interest and dividends led to a joint bank balance of £31.92 to be carried forward. See end of minutes for breakdown.

Community Hall Trust

The Community Hall Trust report is as follows:

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our fellow Trustees, Roy Fisher.

Roy, an architect by profession, had dedicated his life to numerous community causes and we were fortunate that he agreed to join the trust in September 1999. His greatest involvement was at the start of our lottery application and afterwards once the grant had been approved, liaising with the official architects in designing the building layout. His lifelong experiences were invaluable and he was always there to be called upon to give a speech at an event or to present prizes when required. He will be very difficult to replace and will be sadly missed by all Trustee colleagues.

The Hall had a good year and continues to prosper. We again held the Duck Race on the May Day Bank holiday at the beginning of May and as the weather was kind, we had a good turnout. We purchased our own barbeque so that we are not beholden to others to borrowing one. The Flower Show could have been better attended so we will have to consider moving it back to the normal date. The Brass Band concert was again performed by Tarleton Brass Band but it was not well attended so we need to decide what to do about its future. The Senior Citizens' Christmas Party was held in December when 79 people sat down to a traditional Christmas Dinner. The school choir did their usual performance together with the Blue Water Folk who went down particularly well. This year we applied to the ASDA Foundation for a grant to fund the party and were awarded £950. As was reported last year the next major maintenance work will be the replacement of the asbestos roof over the industrial unit. This has proved a little more complicated than thought so it will be in the spring of 2017 before it is done.

Whittle-le-Woods Playing Field Trust

The Playing Field report is as follows:

The Kem Mill field was used by the Sunday team, who had a good season, finishing about third. We have asked Chorley Council to improve the drainage on the pitch, and this work should take place this year. The Parish Council pay Chorley Council for cutting the field, while the maintenance of the changing rooms is done by the trustees. We ask all people who take their dogs on the field to make sure they pick up - even in the long grass.

Footpath Report

There were no issues raised about particular footpaths.

Matters Raised By Residents

There were no residents in attendance.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.11 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING			
8TH MAY 2017			
The main items of expenditure were:		The main sources of income were:	
Repairs and maintenance	£8,894.98	Precept	£35,608.00
Admin, including salaries	£21,070.85	Maintenance (incl CIL)	£17,365.56
Loan repayment	£5,039.96	Admin	£1,030.00
War memorial	£2,000.00	Interest	£24.62
Other (including VAT)	£5,260.33	Other (including VAT)	£818.47
Year's expenses	£42,266.12	Year's income	£54,846.65
Income minus expenses			£12,580.53
Bank balances at end March		Current account	£1,284.31
		Deposit account	£48,579.17
			£49,863.48
			Deposits not included
			£0.00
			Unpresented cheques
			£749.24
			Balance to c/f at 31st March 2017
			£49,114.24
			Balances with 31st March month end figure
			on April 2017 accounts
Signed			
Date			

Signed.....

Date.....

CHARITIES REPORT FOR 2016/7

BURSCOUGH AND PINCOCK CHARITIES AND ROBERT LEIGH CROSS

To be presented to Annual Parish Meeting 2017

At the time of the Annual Charities Meeting (held on 12th December 2016), the balance of charities accounts stood at £144.47 (£51.63 current, £92.84 deposit). Donations at this meeting were made to Help The Homeless (£50), Living Waters Food Bank (£50), and North West Air Ambulance (£40). Total donations £140.

CHARITY ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR 01/03/16 TO 28/02/17

Balance carried forward **50.86**

Inter-account transfers not included in figures below

But are listed in the itemised reports

RECEIPTS

Interest 0.23

Dividends 120.83

From Clayton charities 0.00

121.06

PAYMENTS

37 - Help the Homeless 50.00

38 - Living Waters food bank 50.00

39 - North West Air Ambulance 40.00

140.00

Balance carried forward **50.86**

Plus total receipts **121.06**

Minus total payments **140.00**

31.92

Account balance deposit account at 29th Feb **0.29**

Account balance current account at 29th Feb **31.63**

31.92

Carry forward to 2017/8

Signed, Chairman.....

Date

Signed.....

Date.....

