

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on Tuesday 20th May 2014
at Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane .

Present: Councillor W. Ashcroft (Chairman)
 “ R. W. Barton (Deputy Chairman)
 “ Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft
 “ Mrs. K. S. Barton
 “ Mrs. A. Bate
 “ Mrs. M. McNulty
 “ K.D. Roughley
 “ Mrs. E. Uren

Also in Attendance: L. J. Kilshaw (Clerk to the Council)

1. Prayers Cllr. Wally Ashcroft welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

2. Apologies: Cllr. S. A. Bligh –away on holiday.

3. Declaration of Interests: Declarations were confirmed to be the same as when last declared in December 2012 or Jan 2013- with the exception of the Chairmen and the Deputy – see below.

4. Election of Chairman

Cllr. W. Ashcroft, the outgoing Chairman, expressed his thanks for all the help, guidance and support and, not least, humour, afforded to him by his fellow members of the Council, and the Clerk, during his year in office. He also pointed out the difficulties in delivering the Newsletter and other sundry leaflets, and the major problem of the Lynton Way Play Area-still to be resolved.

It was proposed, seconded and :

Resolved that Councillor Richard Barton be appointed Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year 2014/2015 and, having accepted his appointment, he was installed as Chairman, and duly signed the appropriate Declaration of Office, which was witnessed by the Clerk.

Councillor R.W. Barton in the Chair

5. Election of Deputy Chairman- It was proposed, seconded and Resolved that Cllr. Mrs. K. S. Baron be appointed as Deputy Chairman for the forthcoming municipal year 2014/2014.

6. Vote of Thanks – Normally, at this juncture, it is customary to propose a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chairman for his efforts made during his year of office. Unfortunately, in all the excitement of the hand over, the opportunity was missed on this occasion.

It was only later when a somewhat piqued Cllr. W. Ashcroft pointed out that his efforts as Chairman, during his past year of office, appeared not to have been noticed nor appreciated by his fellow members that the omission came to light.

Cllr. Richard Barton, the new Chairman apologised profusely for this oversight, and it was proposed, seconded and

Resolved that a vote of thanks be extended to Cllr. W. Ashcroft for the excellent work that he had carried out as Chairman during his year of office.

7. Council Procedures and Appointments to Committees etc.

Resolved that:

(a) meetings, generally, to be held on the third Tuesday of each month, except in August, when there would not be a meeting, and to commence at 7.00pm, and also that the Annual Assembly be held in March 2015.

(b) that a Finance Committee be established to give initial consideration to appropriate matters, and to make recommendations to the Parish Council= comprising of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, immediate past years Chairman, plus substitute membership, at the discretion of the Chairman – for 2014/15 this would normally be Cllr. N. J. Ashcroft.

© that those planning applications etc. requiring early attention, there be delegated powers to the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and a Parish Councillor, resident in the vicinity of the site in question, to consider the application.

(d) that regarding the public footpaths within the Parish, residents should be urged to walk them at all times, and to report any damage or obstruction of the paths to Councillors W. Ashcroft and Mrs. A. Bate in order that any necessary action may be taken.

8. Standing Orders

Resolved that the Model Standing Orders, issued by NALC, be adopted, as appropriate, for the meetings of the Parish Council, with the provision for the termination of ordinary business at 9.39pm, and with the opportunity for the discussion of “Parish Matters” on the agenda.

9. Banking Accounts and Financial Procedures

It was, unanimously:

Resolved :

(a) that the NatWest Bank be the Council's bankers, and that the bank be authorised to honour cheques, drawn on the current account held in the bank, which were to be signed by two members of the Council, and the Clerk to the Council, in accordance with the current mandate. Despite the recent legislation it was considered prudent to keep the requirement to demand the signatures of two councillors.

At the next change of mandate, the designated signatories would be two Councillors only, as recommended by the “Practitioner’s Guide”.

(b) that the latest Model Financial Regulations be adopted, and subject to any further study and recommendations by the Finance Committee, for consideration at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

(c) that the responsibility for the financial affairs of the Council be vested in the Clerk to the Council, as the R.F.O. (Recognises Financial Officer).

(d) that there be delegated to those Councillors on the Management Committee of the Ecclesfield Sports Facility, authority to sign cheques in accordance with the management agreement.

(e) Mr. Philip Fairclough, the Internal Auditor, had resigned from the position, to take effect from the conclusion of his duties regarding the completion of his section of the Annual Return for the External Audit 2013/2014. This was due to personal

commitments requiring him to be frequently away from home. The Parish Council had reluctantly accepted his resignation and thanked him for his past services. A successor would need to be appointed for 2014/2015. This matter was currently under consideration.

10. Codes of Practice/Local Code of Conduct/ Modified Code of Conduct

Resolved :

That the revised Model Code of Conduct should be confirmed and adopted in respect of the handling of Complaints and Declarations of Interest.

11. Lancashire Association of Local and Town Councils, Merseyside Association of Parish Councils, National Association of Local and Town Councils, Society of Local Council Clerks.

Resolved :

(a) that the Council should retain membership of LALC/MAPTC/NALC , and that one copy of the NALC magazine LCR (Local Council Review) for the Clerk be ordered.

(b) that the representatives on the LALC Area Committee be Councillors R. W. Barton and Mrs. K.S. Barton.

12. Representation on Other Bodies

Resolved:

That the following members of the Council be approved as representatives of the Council on the following various bodies viz ;

(a) {Bleak Hill CP School Governors}- although official Parish Council representation is no longer allowed- Councillors Nancy Ashcroft and Sheila Barton are governors and thus, are able to keep the Council informed of relevant news concerning the School.

(b) Police Contact- Councillors Stephen Bligh and Cllr. K. D. Roughley

(c) Windle United Charities- Cllr. Mrs. N.J. Ashcroft

(d) St Helens and District Sports Council- Cllr. W. Ashcroft

(e) Age UK- Councillors Mrs. M. McNulty and Mrs. E. Uren

(f) Crime Prevention- Cllr. S.A. Bligh

(g) Halton and St Helens VCA- Cllr. W. Ashcroft

(h) Ecclesfield Management Committee- Cllrs. Mrs. K. S. Barton and R. W. Barton and Mrs. A. Bate .

Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)