

WINDLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (or Assembly) of the
Parish of Windle, held on Tuesday 20th March 2007 at
Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs.K.S.Barton (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft (Deputy Chairman)
Councillor R.W.Barton
Councillor K.D.Roughley
Councillor Mrs.E.Uren
Councillor Mrs.B.Walsh

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

124. Prayers

The Chairman opened the meeting with prayers for the work of the Council.

125. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors W.Ashcroft(attending a St.Helens Council Function) Mrs.M.P.Fraser, -family commitments, and Mrs.M.McNulty -away on holiday.

126. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 21st March 2006, which had been previously made available to Parish Councillors, were offered for confirmation and ,on being accepted as a true and correct record,were signed by the Chairman.

127. Chairman`s Report

Councillor Mrs.K.S.Barton reviewed her time in office,and commented on the main events as follows :

- School Awards Ceremony

As a former pupil and a current governor of Bleak Hill School,it had been especially pleasing to present the Windle Parish School Awards . The high standards of achievement,in both the academic and sporting spheres of activity continue to rise year on year,which is due both to the hard work of the children, and also that of the dedicated teachers and staff.

- Garden Competition

Once again this popular event had been a success,and tribute was paid to Cllr.Mrs.Pat Fraser and her committee for organising the both the competition, and the prize-giving later in the year.

- Remembrance Day

It had been an honour to lay a wreath, on behalf of the Parish, in tribute to those who had fallen and given their lives and also for those many others, whose lives had been affected by what they had witnessed and experienced.

- Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Cllr. Mrs. Sheila Barton expressed her disappointment that, on account of illness at the time she had been unable to attend this annual event at Bleak Hill School .

She had received good reports of the occasion from others who had attended, and she wished to thank Cllr. Mrs. N.J. Ashcroft for stepping into the breach, and deputising for her as Chairman on the day.

Mr. Wellens and his staff had made everyone very welcome – the children had sang with their usual gusto – the Mayor, Cllr. Teresa Sims had carried out her duties with her usual aplomb – and Alan Hull had been a successful M.C.

Thanks were also due to the Clerk, Len Kilshaw, for organising the event .

- Pre-Christmas Reception

This special evening gets more popular every year, and the sumptuous buffet prepared by Cllr. Mrs. Pat Fraser and her helpers is worthy of exceptional praise. The Chairman expressed her thanks to all who had helped to make the evening so enjoyable for all the guests attending.

- Parish Newsletter

Cllr. Ken Roughley was thanked for his work as editor in , yet again , producing an excellent publication and a really good informative read for the residents of the Parish.

In addition the Chairman wished to thank all who had contributed articles and also, those who help to distribute the Newsletter throughout the Parish.

- Ecclesfield

Cllr. Mrs. Sheila Barton reported on the work of the Ecclesfield Management Committee and how she had served as Interim Chairman for several months after the resignation of Cllr. Tony Rigby. A new Chairman had now been appointed for this year.

- In conclusion , the Chairman wished to thank the Clerk for all his help and hardwork and , most of all, his patience. Thanks were also expressed to Parish and District Councillors for their support and kindness in helping the Chairman fulfil her duties during this year of office.

Last ,but not least,she thanked her husband and fellow councillor, Richard Barton for wrestling – with good humour – with the Chain of Office prior to every official event.

128. Financial Statement

The Clerk submitted a financial report,summarized as follows:

	£
Balance at 1.4.06	8874
Plus projected income at 31.03.07	<u>12674</u>
	21548
Less projected expenditure at 31.03.07	<u>11929</u>
	9619
<u>Projected balance at 31.03.07</u>	<u>9619</u>

129. Reports

(a) Parochial Charities

Nil report .

(b) School Governors` Report

Cllr.Mrs.K.S.Barton informed the Council that Bleak Hill School had received an excellent OFSTED Report – graded “Outstanding” and continued to perform well in all areas of activity.

Performance against budget was on track..

The Pre-School and After –School Clubs were progressing satisfactorily,but the School- Holidays Club was much less successful and was under review.

(c) District Councillors` Report

Cllrs.Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft and K.D.Roughley reported on District Council matters and events :

The Ward Committee Meetings appeared to be working and suggestions received from the floor were being taken into consideration and acted upon.

The Town Hall will now be used much more for the staging of events – e.g.

The St.Helens Rugby League Team “The SAINTS”- had recently been given a Civic Reception there in recognition of winning the R.L.Challenge

Cup, the League Leadership Trophy and the Grand Final Trophy as Champions in 2006: and, in February 2007 the World Club Championship Trophy by defeating the Brisbane Broncos (Australian Champions) in the match at the Reebok Stadium, Bolton.

In addition the team had been voted the “BBC Sports Team Of the Year in 2006 ”and their Coach, Daniel Anderson , “BBC Coach of the Year”.

The “St. Helens Show” was to be revamped in an effort to restore the original family carnival atmosphere enjoyed in its early years.

The new Blackbrook By-Pass had been recently officially opened by the Minister for Transport.

The current limited ban on the drinking of alcohol in the streets etc., was to be widely extended throughout the borough.

District Council Elections, together with Parish Council Elections , were scheduled for Thursday, 3rd May 2007.

(d) LAPTC --NALC

Councillor Ken Cleary had once more been elected as the National Chairman of N.A.L.C..

The Clerk stressed the importance of NALC and LAPTC in providing assistance and guidance on important issues.

(e). Voluntary Organisations

CVS - Cllr. Mrs.N.J.Ashcroft observed that the St.Helens CVS is much more professional in its approach since it became a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

Cllr K.D.Roughley observed that it was now becoming more difficult for smaller voluntary organisations to obtain public funding and access to grants etc.

130.Public Comment

No public comment was made.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Signed -----(Chairman)

----- (Date)