

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (or Assembly ) of the Parish of Windle  
held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Present ; Councillor R. W. Barton (Deputy Chairman )  
Councillor Mrs. N.J.Ashcroft  
Councillor Mrs. K.S.Barton  
Councillor Mrs. A.Bate  
Councillor S. Bligh  
Councillor K.D. Roughley  
Councillor Mrs. E.Uren

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

138. The meeting was chaired by Cllr. R. W. Barton ( Deputy Chairman of Windle Parish Council ) , who welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayers .

139. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr. W. Ashcroft (Chairman of the Parish Council) and Cllr. Mrs. M. McNulty due to prior engagements.

140. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Assembly , held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008 , which had previously been made available to Parish Councillors , were offered for confirmation , and , upon being accepted as a true and correct record , were signed by the Chairman .

141. Chairman`s Report

In his absence the Chairman`s written report was presented to the Council by Cllr. Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft .This had been his third term as Chairman of the Parish Council, but ,due to a heavier than normal work-load for St Helens Council plus, a confinement to hospital and the resultant convalescence period he had been prevented from attending on several occasions . Fortunately Cllr. Richard Barton ( Deputy Chairman) had been able to take the Chair four times and to cover two services at the Cenotaph ,and present the Garden Competition Prizes. The Chairman wished to thank Cllr. R.W. Barton for his help and also for his work in representing the Parish on the Local Standards Board ,and also the Ecclesfield Management Committee along with Cllr.Mrs. Sheila Barton ,who had been elected Chairman of this committee.

- It had been a pleasure to present the Achievement Awards at Bleak Hill CP School ,where Mr. Ian Wellens and his Staff , continue to do an excellent job with the pupils and the School continues to go from strength to strength.
- Unfortunately our resident Father Christmas (Lennie Lowe ) had been unavailable to fulfil his usual role at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony , but John Glover ,had proved to be a fine substitute. Alan Hull had performed his usual master of ceremonies routine and, along with the lusty singing of the children, the event had been a great success .

- The Eccleston Parish Council Tree Lighting, held in Eccleston Library, had been attended and enjoyed by the Chairman and Clerk .
- Again in December the Christmas Reception was well supported and thanks were especially due to the Ladies Catering Committee for producing such a magnificent buffet.
- Cllr. Ken Roughley is to be commended for all the work he puts in on the Parish Newsletter. It must be very difficult double checking the authenticity of all the information he receives, but his task should prove much easier this year as there will be far fewer photographs of the Chairman compared to last year.
- The Jim Malone Garden has been ably looked after by Cllr. Marie McNulty and also the Garden Competition, with help doing the judging, from Councillors Nancy Ashcroft, Anne Bate and Edna Uren .The Competition produced more new entrants this year and it is intended to introduce a new category for the 2009 Competition.
- Lynton Way Play Area- it is proving expensive to provide opening and closing /security services, and ways are being sought to reduce these costs, acting on some good suggestions from Cllr. Steve Bligh.
- There was problem with 86 Kin Lane when an application for a change of use to a coffee /sandwich bar was made .This caused quite a lot of disquiet amongst the local residents , but fortunately , planning permission was refused.
- There is good news regarding the “Tanning Shop”-left empty for so long but, which has now been sold and will be brought back into use as a new business.

Cllr. W.Ashcroft concluded his report by thanking his fellow councillors and the Clerk, Len Kilshaw, for their support ,help and advice during the Council Year.

#### 142. Financial Statement

The Clerk submitted a financial report , summarised as follows ;

	£
Balance at 1.4.08	8079
Plus projected income @31.03.09	<u>12937</u>
	21016
Less projected expenditure @31.03.09	<u>12983</u>
Projected Balance @31.03.09	<u>8033</u>

#### 143. Reports

##### a) Parochial Charities

In the absence of Cllr. W. Ashcroft no report was given.

##### b) School Governors

Councillor Sheila Barton reported that the Sun-dial presented to Bleak Hill School last year , by the Parish Council , had enhanced the School Garden and was a source of interest for the pupils. The new Deputy-Head, Diane Holcroft, was settling in very

well to her new post and the School continues to achieve excellent results both academically and on the sporting fields. Credit is due for this to Mr. Wellens and his excellent Staff.

c) District Councillors

- Cllr. Mrs. Nancy Ashcroft reported on behalf of the three Ward Councillors as follows – Thanks were due to all residents who had, once more, opposed the re-application for the change of use from a residential property, in Kiln Lane, to that of a coffee shop, which had again been rejected by the Planning Dept.
- The “ Tanning Shop “ also in Kiln Lane had finally been sold and is being renovated to a standard, more in keeping with surrounding properties. The purchaser lives locally and it is believed that it will be opened as a health and beauty shop.
- A derelict property in Boundary Rd. has had a compulsory purchase order placed on it by the Local Authority, which means that the owner must pay for any repairs made during renovation.

The Ward Councillors had fought long and hard to get both these properties to a decent standard, and are delighted that this perseverance has paid off.

- Money allocated for environmental improvements for the Windle Ward is now being spent as follows -
- E.g. Community Notice Boards at Coronation Road and Hard Lane and a third one due at City Rd.
- The Jim Malone Memorial Garden, at Windle Island, will be upgraded by means of a grant for £350.

A speed gun campaign has been conducted in Windle Ward especially on Bleak Hill Rd. and Dentons Green Lane. Speed signs are to be erected on Bleak Hill Rd. and traffic lights on the junctions with Kiln Lane, Hard Lane, Greenfield Rd. Dentons Green Lane and Rainford Rd. respectively.

A pedestrian refuge will be erected outside Tesco, but only after completion of work on the new cemetery field. Further quantities of both litter and dog-fouling bins are to be erected across the Ward, with the majority in Victoria Park.

The Town Hall is now being more widely used for the general public, with concerts, tea-dances, brass band competitions and concerts, open air concerts in Victoria Square etc

Congratulations are due to the St Helens Council Events Team on gaining the prestigious Tourism Award for the Borough and also for the Culture Awards, which were held at the World of Glass to show the Council's appreciation of the many voluntary groups that work tirelessly, across the Borough, with hardly any recognition. It was felt that this should be remedied and accordingly, the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport put forward the suggestion for the Culture Awards, which was duly approved by the Council.

The new buildings at Cowley School and the new medical centre in South Windle are on schedule and, when completed, should provide state of the art facilities for all.

The Police and Trading Standards report that there has been a marked reduction in anti-social behaviour since the ban on drinking alcohol in public places was introduced. Yet there is still great room for improvement as there still remain pockets of drunkenness and bad behaviour across the Ward. The Police intend to target the "red areas" as they now know where to look.

Cllr. Nancy Ashcroft concluded her report by thanking her colleagues Cllr. Ken Roughley and Cllr. Wally Ashcroft, for the shared co-operation and help shown in their work as Windle Ward Councillors, and also for the valuable input received from the residents.

d) LALC/NALC/MAPTC/SLCC

The Clerk reiterated the importance of these organizations in providing guidance on important issues.

It was noted that local Councillor Ken Cleary had completed his term of office as National Chairman of NALC.

e) Voluntary Organisations

St Helens CVS continues to operate in a most professional manner.

144. Public Comment

No comment made

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairman)