

Windle Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (or Assembly) of the Parish of Windle,  
held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013, at the Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

- Present: Councillor Mrs. N. J. Ashcroft (Chairman)
- Councillor W. Ashcroft (Deputy Chairman)
- Councillor Mrs. K. S. Barton
- Councillor R. W. Barton
- Councillor Mrs. A. Bate
- Councillor S.A. Bligh
- Councillor Mrs. M. McNulty

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

162. Opening of the Meeting- Councillor Nancy Ashcroft chaired the meeting, and welcomed everyone, and informed Council of the sad recent loss of two St Helens District Councillors i.e. Windle Ward Councillor Mrs. Patricia Martinez-Williams and Mrs. Carol Cavanagh, and then opened the meeting with prayers.

163. Apologies had been received from Councillor K.D. Roughley- indisposed.

164. Minutes of the Annual Assembly, held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012, which had previously been made available to the Parish Councillors, were offered for confirmation, and, upon being accepted as a true and correct record, were signed by the Chairman.

165. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Cllr. Nancy Ashcroft, reported as follows;

“ I have to say that the eleven months, since I took office have flown by !It was with genuine pleasure that I welcomed the honour to represent the people of the Windle Parish, and I look back on my term of office to date, with much appreciation. The greatest satisfaction gained from being in the Chair is, without doubt, meeting with all the people of Windle and being made to feel so welcome.

The first time I wore the Chain of Office for an outside event, was early in June, on a glorious Summer's day (yes, honestly, we have had two or three!!) when the Olympic Torch came through the Parish, at the start of its journey through the Borough of St. Helens. The Parish Council had unanimously endorsed Cllr. Roughley's plan to have a large notice at the beginning of the Torch Journey, wishing all our Olympic athletes every success, and congratulating Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second, on her Diamond Jubilee. Both events were fantastic achievements for our Country- too many times do we talk ourselves down, when really we have so much to be proud of.

The next event, which I always love to attend, was the Awards Ceremony at Bleak Hill CP School. The achievements of the children are excellent, and as I remarked in my speech at the time, if you are fortunate to attend Bleak Hill School then everyone has been awarded a prize, because the results are always so good. I have to add, that as well as the children, this is down to Mr. Wellens, the Head Teacher, and all his dedicated staff too.

In July the judging of the Garden Competition took place. This year we had a bumper number of entries, due in no small measure to the organiser of this event, Cllr. Marie McNulty, who, despite having had some difficulty with walking, nevertheless carried on as normal. I would like to, personally thank both her, and also Cllrs. Ann Bate and Wally Ashcroft for doing the extremely difficult task of judging. The certificates and prizes were awarded at a "Wine and Nibbles Presentation" held prior to the September Council meeting. All those attending enjoyed the occasion.

The Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph in Victoria Square, was an emotional and awe inspiring ceremony again, and had a record number of people attending. The Haydock Male Voice Choir, Valley Brass Band, Pipe Band and Drums, and the singing of everyone and the reading of the Words of Commemoration, the Kohima Epitaph and the poem "We will remember them" made this one of the most memorable Remembrance Services that I have attended.

We were extremely lucky with the weather for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Bleak Hill CP School with a record number of parents and grandparents, and friends attending. My thanks go out to Alan Hull who, as usual, was an accomplished M.C. when talking to the children and enabling them to forget any shyness they may have had when he handed them the microphone. Once again, Lenny Lowe entered into the spirit of Santa Claus, with the children cheering lustily, every time that he spoke!

The Pre- Christmas Reception was also well attended with the refreshments, provided by the "P.C's Ladies Committee", up to the usual high standard. As one guest remarked the Christmas Parish Buffet is becoming legendary! My thanks to Councillors Ann Bate, Marie McNulty and Sheila Barton and also Mrs. Helen Bligh and Mrs. Eunice Roughley. Thank you all for your excellent contributions in making the evening such a success.

My thanks are also extended to my fellow Councillors for all the support I have received, and our Clerk to the Parish Council, Len Kilshaw, who always goes one step beyond what is required of him to ensure the smooth running of the Parish Council.

Last, but not least- my thanks go to my husband Cllr. Wally Ashcroft for supporting me throughout my term of office, and for his good humour, apart from when he is helping me to put on the Chain of Office, although his irritation with the fastening of it has mellowed somewhat over the years!!

May I reiterate that I have enjoyed being in the Chair this year and hope that that the Windle Parish Council will flourish for many more years to come.

#### 166. Financial Statement

The Clerk submitted a financial report, summarised as follows:

	£
Balance at 1.04.12	6232
plus Projected Receipts to 31/03/13	14327
	<hr/> 20559
Less " Pavments " "	13384
	<hr/> 7475
Projected balance	7475

Reports

(a) Windle United Charities

No report

(b) School Governors-

Cllr. Sheila Barton reported the number in the Reception Class was now 79 and alterations were required. Head Teacher Ian Wellens was now back full time at Bleak Hill, but a new Deputy Head was yet appointed. In the meantime Mr. Martin was filling the post very well.

(c) District Councillors – No reports, and as had been mentioned earlier one of the Windle Ward Councillors, Councillor Mrs. Patricia Martinez-Williams had passed away very recently after suffering for a long time with a serious illness. Sympathy was expressed for her family.

(d) NALC/LALC/MAPTC/SLCC

The Clerk reported that these bodies continue to give guidance and advice amidst the current sea of changes taking place in Local Government and provide useful training courses for both Parish Clerks and Councillors.

(e) Voluntary Organisations

Halton & StHelens VCA continues to flourish.

(f) St Helens Sports Council

Cllr. W. Ashcroft reported that the Sports Council would be holding a meeting in May, at the Town Hall and showing various organisations how best to access available funding.

168. Public Comment – No public comment made.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairman)

Date \_\_\_\_\_