

Windle Parish Council  
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (or Assembly) of the Parish of Windle,  
Held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, at the Eccleston Village Hall, Kiln Lane

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

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

169. Opening of the Meeting - Cllr. W. Ashcroft chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a prayer.

170 Apologies: None received.

171. Minutes of the Annual Assembly, held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 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.

172. Chairman's Report: The Chairman, Cllr. Wally Ashcroft reported as follows " I would like to start my fourth Chairman's Report by thanking all our Parish Councillors for the support they have afforded me , and all the work they have put in to ensure that Windle Parish remains a place to be proud of. Also I would like to give a big thank you to our Clerk, Len Kilshaw, who has done a sterling job once again by organising our meetings, looking after our finances, and making sure that our various activities went off smoothly. I would also like to give special thanks to Cllr. Ken Roughley for all the time and work he has put in producing the Parish Newsletter over the years, and I was delighted to present him with a gift from his fellow councillors in appreciation. I hope Ken, that you can make a speedy recovery and get back to full health as quickly as possible. There is no doubt that we have struggled to get the magazine out without you. I am delighted that Cllr. Bligh has now volunteered to take on the task. May I thank everyone for getting the Newsletter out so quickly just before the Christmas Break? Perhaps Edna would like to tell us how she always delivers her quota in record time?

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes and thanks are due to Cllrs. Marie McNulty and Edna Uren for their work with AGE UK, and Councillors Ann Bate and Sheila and Richard Barton, for looking after our interest on the Ecclesfield Management Committee, and Councillors Steve Bligh and Ken Roughley for their involvement with the Police and community matters.

My first official duty as Chairman was to represent the Windle Parish at the Armed Forces Day Parade on the Town Hall Square. Following a short service there was a stirring march past led by a pipe band of the Scots Guards. A whole host of representatives of the Armed Forces and the Veterans, marched past and took the salute in front of the Town Hall. It was good to see that the whole square filled with

people waiting to show their support. After the ceremony the soldiers and veterans of the Second World War were all invited inside for tea and cakes. It was fascinating and humbling, to listen to the veterans reliving their experiences in the Second World War. It is right that we should thank them in this way – we owe them so much.

It is always a delight to present the annual Achievements Awards to the pupils of Bleak Hill School and it is no surprise that OFSTED has deemed the school as outstanding.

This can only be achieved by a combination of the Head Teacher, Staff, Governors and Parents all supporting each other and pulling together. I would like to thank both Councillor Sheila Barton and Councillor Nancy Ashcroft for the part they have played as School Governors.

Following a warm Spring the Garden Competition attracted record numbers and it was a pleasure to be part of the judging panel, alongside Councillors Ann Bate and Nancy Ashcroft. Cllr. Marie McNulty must be congratulated for, once again, organising the event.

This year we were able to obtain two tickets to the Southport Flower Show and my thanks must go to Alan Hull (North West Federation of Allotments Holders) for providing them as prizes. Congratulations must also go to Fred Bishop who has entered the competition for the past 21 years, and he gracefully accepted the "Chairman's Choice" award this time. It is so very important that we continue and encourage to look after their gardens- it makes such a difference to the Parish.

I was delighted to see such a large turnout to sort out the Jim Malone Memorial Garden. Many thanks to Cllr. Ken Roughley for planting a large number of daffodil bulbs and to Cllr. Ann Bate, who brought her husband Allan along to prune and remove all the rubbish, ably assisted by Cllr. Bligh. It looks so much better and even the Windle sign has been freshly painted.

At this point may I thank Roger Greatorcx, who worked so hard alongside Len in restoring the Millennium Bench, and also his wife Ann, for keeping us well supplied with cups of tea. It is very refreshing to see residents prepared to help.

The Lynton Way Play Area continues to be a major drain on our finances, but I am hopeful that the intervention by the Borough Councillors might prove to be fruitful. I would like to thank them for attending our meeting last January.

It is a little worrying that the play area in Dartmouth drive has become a meeting place for large numbers of young people, and I hope that it does not develop into a problem like Lynton Way.

Another cause for concern across the Parish is the increasing number of pot holes appearing in our roads. I did a count of my own within the Parish area and found 57.

Remembrance Sunday was as well attended and moving as ever. I was proud to lay the wreath on behalf of the residents of Windle Parish. This year the service was led by the Rev. David Eastwood (Parish Church) and prayers were said by Rev. Father Paul Caldwell (St. Mary's Lowe House and Holy Cross).

Following the two minutes silence words of commemoration were read by Christopher Reid's mother.

Prior to the laying of the wreaths, Cameron Ashall gave a wonderful solo rendition of Amazing Grace. The Valley Youth Brass Band played throughout the proceedings and the Haydock Male Voice Choir led the public singing.

The year would not be complete without the Christmas Tree Lighting Unfortunately our regular compere, Alan Hull was not available. He was celebrating his Ruby Wedding Anniversary cruising around the Mediterranean. We were very lucky to obtain the services of Bill Wilcock, who coped extremely well on the day. Lenny Lowe gave us his usual Father Christmas routine in his oversize suit, and ringing his tiny bell with great enthusiasm. The children from both St. Thomas's (Windleshaw) and Bleak Hill schools sang lustily, and the whole event went off without a hitch. My thanks must go to the three ward councillors, who contributed £300 towards the cost, from their Windle Ward Improvement Fund. Behind the scenes, our Clerk, Len, just managed to avoid a nervous breakdown, as the lights switched on at exactly the right time.

My report would not be complete if I did not welcome PSCO Katie Shepherd to the Parish and say how delighted we are to have a Police presence at our meetings once again.

I have found my tenure as Chairman this time, to be equally as enjoyable as my last three.

Thanks to all of you for your support and good humour." (Cllr. Wally Ashcroft)

#### 173. Financial Statement :

The Clerk submitted a financial report, summarised as follows:

	£
Balance at 01.04.13	7715
Plus Projected Receipts to 31/03/14	13462
	21177
Less " Payments " " " "	- 15013
Projected Balance @ 31/03/2014	6164

174. Reports: (a) Windle United Charities No report- ( meeting to be held in April)

#### (b) School Governors

Cllr. Sheila Barton reported that it is proving necessary to change all computers in the School, as the current ones are not compatible with Windows 7. Therefore a leasing agreement had been agreed with a supplier.

Mrs. Karen Davison, was progressing well in her new role as Deputy Head. Head Teacher Mr. Ian Wellens is deputising at Thatto Heath School on an ad hoc basis, to help the Deputy there whilst their Head Teacher is absent.

Next meeting of School Governors to be held in two weeks time.

(c) District Councillors : No reports received.

(e) NALC/LALC/MAPTC/SICC The Clerk informed that these bodies provide useful guidance and information on the current changes occurring in Local Government etc as well as excellent training courses for Parish Clerks and Councillors.

(f) Voluntary Organisations : Halton & St Helens VCA carry out an increasing range of diverse activities.

(g) St Helens Sports Council- A meeting was being held tonight. Roy Jones has retired.

(h) Public Comment: No public comment.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm

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