

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 4th April 2005

Present:

Councillor, L Rigby (Chair)

Councillors Mrs S Delany, Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs M Foster, Mrs M Dowling, Mrs L Willis, M/s D Morriss, T Fiddler, T Threlfall, St J Greenhough and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs. J Maguire.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman and it was agreed that because of the large number of public attending item 5, Balderstone road – grass verge areas, should be taken first.

1. Balderstone road – grass verge areas

Councillor Fiddler gave a detailed history on the development of this estate and how the play areas had been reallocated as the building had progressed. The conclusion was that both the grass verges had been allocated to "play areas", as part of the planning permission, when the final phase was progressed in 1994. It was a condition of this approval that both areas be landscaped with trees so that the adjoining fences and properties would be protected. It was also stated that this decision could be reversed if the residents approached Fylde Borough Council with a valid reason (e.g. road safety).

There then followed a general discussion and views both for and against the play areas use were put forward. It was felt that whilst areas were required for children to play on, consideration should be given to the residents in adjoining properties, particularly when balls come into their gardens and damage plants and properties. It was also felt that if children play on the land at the corner of Balderstone Road and Mill View then an accident will eventually occur with passing motors.

The following suggestions were put forward.

- a) The areas should be replanted with trees and shrubs to give protection to adjoining properties.
- b) A Sleeping Policeman should be installed as a traffic calming measure.
- c) Railing should be placed around the areas to stop children running into the road.
- d) Residents should be more considerate to their neighbours and ensure the children are properly supervised and do not play out at unreasonable times.
- e) Measures to prevent dog fouling in these areas should also be considered.

It was confirmed that the land adjoining Memory Close was an amenities area and not a play area.

It was agreed that the Council would consider these options at the next Council meeting (9th May 2005) and the residents would be informed.

2. Land adjacent to 2, Bunker St.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Mr. & Mrs. Airey asking for the plant pots to be removed from this land, as they owned it. He has checked with the Land Registry and this piece of land was registered with Mr. and Mrs. Airey in 1998. However, the Parish Council has maintained part of this land for the last 3 years, as agents for the Lancashire County Council and the County Council has maintained it for a number of years prior to this. County Councillor Whittle informed the meeting that he has arranged for the County's legal department to check their records to see if this land was part of the Highways, when Preston Old Road and Bunker St were adopted. They are currently checking the records going back to the 1840s. The Legal department has written to Mr. & Mrs. Airey informing them of this

search. Councillor Whittle agreed to inform the Clerk when further information was available from the Legal department.

The Clerk indicated that even if the land is registered by one person, if it has been maintained by another person for at least 10 years it can be considered to be owned by that person under the Land Registration Act 2002 (Adverse possession).

3. To read and approve the minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting held on Monday 5th April 2004.

Resolved: That these be affirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. M. Whitehead, seconded by Councillor Mrs. S Delany and unanimously accepted

4. There were no matters arising from these minutes.

5. Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported that:-

One of members, namely Councillor Trevor Fiddler, has been elected as Mayor of the Fylde Borough Council

Father Peter Clarke was appointed to the position of priest to the RC church, to replace Father Gibson.

Councillor Colin Robb undertook to take on the role of Chairman to the Parish plan Steering committee and we are very grateful for the excellent work that he is doing.

He was pleased to report that the Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Marjory Whitehead, has been invited to attend the Queen's garden party this summer.

He welcomed two new Councillors onto the Council this year, Councillor Liz Willis and St. John Greenhough and he felt they would make a positive contribution to the life in Freckleton

Our thanks go to Harry Latham for the splendid job in organizing the sixtieth anniversary of the air disaster.

The police are using a CCTV camera in the village, from time to time, to keep an eye on the hotspots and this should keep down the number of incidents of vandalism.

The Council, together with the C of E school governors, Fylde Borough Council and the Safety Partnership are working to make it safer for parents to drop off their children in the adjoining car park.

The Council has embarked on a programme of repair to all the buildings under its ownership. The Rawstorne centre has already had the windows, doors and fascia boards replaced. The band room will have a new emergency door, the Scout hut will have the flat roof replaced with a more permanent sloping roof and the Guide hut and the Gardener's storeroom will have the gutters replaced.

Last Saturday (2nd April 2005), he attended the creation ceremony for the fifteenth Parish Council in the area (St Annes on Sea Parish Council).

In conclusion, he thanked the Council for their help and support throughout the year and thanked the Clerk for all his help.

6. Financial Statements – unaudited.

The unaudited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2005 were approved.

Resolved: That unaudited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2005 be approved.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs. S Delany, seconded by Councillor T Threlfall and unanimously accepted

Chairman of Finance's report.

The Clerk, in the absence of the Chairman of Finance, gave a resume of the Income and Expenditure for the various accounts. He reported that a review of the financial procedures had been undertaken and new financial regulations, submitted to the Council in September 2004, have been adopted and implemented fully.

The new playground equipment had been installed, but because of a problem with the laying of the safety surface only three quarters of the monies had been paid. Whist the surface is completely safe and has been approved by Fylde Borough, it was not as originally specified and the Contractors have agreed to relay it.
The use of one gardener and sub contractors during the year ending March 2005 has proved successful and the costs were within budget. This procedure will be used during the next financial year.

7. Any other business.

There was no other business.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....T. Fiddler, Chairman.....

Date.....10/04/06.....