

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 6th April 2009

Present:

Councillor Mrs S Delany, (Chair)

Councillors, Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs M Foster, Mrs M Dowling, Mrs L Willis, Linda Burn, T Threlfall, L Rigby, St J Greenhough, P Quinn and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillor T Fiddler (holiday).

It was resolved that the reason for absence should be accepted.

1. To read and approve the minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting held on Monday 7th April 2008.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual assembly meeting, held on the Monday 7th April 2008, previously circulated, be approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported that:-

A Dog Control Order has been introduced from 01/03/09, on the Bush lane playing fields. The Order bans dogs from the northern side of the field, except when they are on a lead and within 2 metres of the fence. This is to eradicate dog fouling on the playing areas, where the cricketers, footballers and children play. A separate dog exercising area has been set up on the south side of the playing fields, (where the fair is held). This area will be swept, cut and rolled before the fair arrives.

Fylde Borough Council will shortly be considering introducing a Dog Control Order for the Memorial park and all the highway areas (i.e. footpaths and grass verges) within the village, to ensure that dogs are kept on a lead.

These new Orders will replace the existing bye-law and ensure that anyone not complying with the Order can be issued with a fixed penalty fine.

The Council is to apply for Quality status now that the Clerk is qualified, by passing the Certificate in Local Councils examination. The Clerk has attended courses and put in extra time to pass the examinations, in order that we, as a Council, can apply for Quality status. This has been necessary to make the Council procedures and the running of the Council more professional.

The Council has agreed to take over the Open Spaces land owned by FBC, in order that they will be maintained to the same high standards as the other areas in the village. The transfer is expected to be completed later this year

The Parochial Church Council has asked the Council to provide additional burial ground. The area being considered is the Memorial gardens, adjacent to the Bowling Green. A decision will be made later this year. Although it must be stated that FBC are currently responsible for providing burial ground, the Parish Council have the power to take over the responsibility for burials, within the Village. This would be extremely costly and would have to be taken out of the Precept rate, consequently a great deal of thought needs to be given to this.

The Council has agreed to support the "Rural Splash" committee with a donation of £2,000 to help get Kirkham baths open again. The committee's intention is to provide other sporting facilities at this centre as well as swimming.

The Council has made representation, at the recent public enquiry, to object to the proposed retail park development on land owned by BAE, off Mill lane in Warton.

Councillor Trevor Fiddler made representation on behalf of Freckleton. It was necessary to seek professional advice and although there was a cost involved, the Council are hopeful that contributions from Kirkham and Lytham will be made.

The Council are considering upgrading the pathways and lights in the Cenotaph.

The Council thanks the Freckleton in Bloom committee for all the work that has been done to make the Village look so colourful throughout the year. Councillor Tommy Threlfall puts a great deal of time and effort and we all are very grateful to him and his team for the tremendous work.

It has been agreed that the All Weather Surface area will be re-surfaced. It is hoped that some of the costs will be met by a grant from the Lancashire Environmental agency. The Council would like to see the new area being used for other sporting activities such as tennis and netball. Anyone interested in forming a new section please contact the Chairman of the Rawstorne sports centre.

The tree lighting and Carol service event has now become so popular that the Council will be reviewing the procedures before this year's service. It is thought that the procession has become too long and there were too many people in the Cenotaph gardens.

As most people are aware, the Council consists of twelve members, elected and co-opted. Three are also FBC Councillors. We have a number of committees, each chaired by a different Councillor and they all work for the good of the Village and with the very best of intentions.

I am proud to have represented the Village for the past twelve months and wish to thank Councillor Mrs. Marjorie Whitehead for her help and confidence boosting, as my Vice Chairman. Also, to Kenneth, our Clerk, who has been a considerable help and "behind the scenes" worker. Finally, thanks to all the Councillors for the help and work that has been undertaken for the Village of Freckleton and for keeping Freckleton Parish Council a united Council.

3. Chairman of Finance's report

The Chairman of finance reported that:-

Differential taxation

This is the first year when the differential taxation procedures, introduced by FBC, have been implemented. Under this arrangement, Freckleton's Open Spaces expenditure was paid for out of the Precept budget. FBC dropped the Open Spaces "standard charge" levy and this meant that the residents of Freckleton paid less Council tax than other areas in the Borough.

Precept account (including Open Spaces).

Out of a budget of £90,951 the Council overspent by £1,073, due mainly to the increase in the Insurance premiums (£926) and additional costs for training (£140).

Allotment accounts

There was an overspend of £500 on the Croft Butts allotments, due mainly to the clearance of allotments that had been given up and had been left untidy.

Community development account

The interest on the savings in this account has been reduced considerably due to the reduction in interest rates as a result of the recession. The Council has reviewed the banking procedures and will investing the deposits in more than one bank.

The account was overspent by £1,022, due to planning consultancy fees (to assist with the representation at the Inquiry into the proposed retail development at BAE) and the legal requirements for the introduction of the new dog control order.

Proposed Capital expenditure for 2009/10

The following capital expenditure is proposed for the next financial year.

Replace the existing tractor £16k – It is hoped that a grant will be available from FBC.

Resurface the All Weather Surface area. £10.25k - It is hoped that a grant will be available form Lancashire Environmental fund.

Removal of trees on the western side of Bush lane playing fields (already completed) - £2,5k

Upgrade the paths and lights in the Cenotaph - £2k.

Upgrade the water supply on the Croft Butts allotments - £3.2k

4. Financial Statements – unaudited.

The unaudited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009

It was resolved that the unaudited Accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2009, be accepted. – see Appendix A

5. Public participation.

There were no questions from public.

The Chairman and Vice chairman were thanked for all the work they had put in during the past 12 months.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....Mrs. M Whitehead, Chairman.....

Date.....12/04/10.....

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2009

	2008-09	2007-08
Income		
Precept	£90,952	£9,750
Open Spaces		£69,051
Allotments	£1,776	£1,108
Community Dev.	£14,544	£27,612
Playground fund	£2,173	£2,036
Total income	£109,445	£109,557
Expenditure		
Precept (includes £980 spent under section 137 of the LGA act 1972).	£33,930	£10,078
Open Spaces	£57,752	£70,513
Allotments	£1,430	£2,093
Community Dev.	£15,565	£22,765
Playground fund	£1,637	
Total Expenditure	£110,314	£105,449
Excess of expenditure over income	-£869	
Excess of income over expenditure		£4,108
Balance sheet as at 31st March 2009		
Fund Balance at 1st April 2008	£99,398	£95,290
Less Excess of Expenditure over income	-£869	
Plus Excess of Expenditure over income		£4,108
Total assets	£98,529	£99,398
Represented by:		
Total Bank Balances	£96,420	£98,925
Unpresented cheques C/F	-£92	
Prepayments	£2,201	£473
Fund balance at 31st March 2009	£98,529	£99,398

The above represents fairly the financial position of the Authority at 31st March 2009 and reflects its income and Expenditure

