

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Tuesday 2nd April 2013

Present: Councillor Mrs L Willis, (Chair)

Councillors, Mrs M Whitehead, T Fiddler, L Rigby, St J Greenhough, K McKay and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillor Mrs Delany (on holiday), Councillor T Threlfall (another meeting)

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

County Councillor Paul Rigby.

1. To read and approve the minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting held on Monday 2nd April 2012.

It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual assembly meeting, held on the Monday 2nd April 2012, previously circulated, be approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported that:

Over the last 12 months your Parish Council has:

Supported Rural Splash again, in order to help to keep Kirkham baths open.

Bought and distributed Golden Jubilee Mugs to the children of the village.

Appointed a new Contractor to deal with the borders and shrubberies in the Village. The Council is pleased with the work that has been carried out and the ideas for improvements that have been suggested. They are working closely with Freckleton in Bloom to ensure correct integration.

Continued to work with LCC to ensure the pathways around the Village centre and to the Strike lane and School lane schools were gritted during the winter months.

Taken over ownership of Tom Croft Car Park from Fylde Borough Council. Work has been carried out to remove some railings to make more parking spaces. The bottle banks have been removed since they were an added cost to the Council and there is recycling available in the Village and the Borough have provided a new wheelie bin system.

Agreed the transfer, from FBC, of the ownership of the Open Spaces areas on the Hawthorns estate, Richardson Close and the bottom end of Balderstone road

Replaced the chains and posts around the Cenotaph stone.

With agreement of LCC, we have taken on the maintenance of some Public Rights of Way in the Village.

Upgraded the Rawstorne centre with new boiler and disabled toilets.

Congratulations to everybody involved with Freckleton in Bloom as Freckleton was awarded Gold in the North West in Bloom town category and the Preston Plate for best in category.

This has led to them being chosen to represent the North West in Britain in Bloom in 2013

Well done and thanks to all the Freckleton in Bloom Committee and our Contractors John Garlick and Golden Leaf for all their hard work. I hope the Village will support their efforts this year and provide them with all the help they need in Britain in Bloom

And finally my thanks to Ken and Julie for the support they give to the Chairman and Council and all their hard work over the past year.

3. Chairman of Finance's report

The Chairman of finance reported the following:

Precept account (including Open Spaces).

The Councils expenditure for 2012/13 was within the budget of £96,797.

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 set up the following Reserve accounts:-

Memorial Playground Fund - £10k

Open Spaces new equipment fund - £3.6k

Capital expenditure

The following capital expenditure has been completed in 2012/13	
Donation to Rural Splash (for the running of Kirkham Baths)	- £2k
A donation to the Village Hall Memorial trust, to help build up a Maintenance reserve account.	- £1k
Balance due on the upgrade of Toilets at the Rawstorne Centre	- £2.3k
Purchase of Jubilee Mugs for the school children of the Village	- £1k
Purchase of new hand mower	- £467
Fees for Transfer of land from FBC	- £822
New Central heating boiler for the Rawstorne centre	- £2.5k

Proposed Capital Expenditure for 2013/14

Nil

4. Financial Statements – unaudited.

It was resolved that the unaudited Accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2013, be accepted.
– see Appendix A

5. Public participation.

A member of the public stated that the Council was failing to communicate properly with the public because the web-site was not always updated when meetings were cancelled and the Newsletter was not always issued in the months when the web-site indicated that it would.

The Council explained that it was not always possible to get the Newsletter out in the months that it was due but it would look into the procedures to see if improvements could be made.

The same person asked if the minutes of the meetings could be issued in draft form before they had been approved.

It was explained that this was not the Council’s policy, as the minutes should be approved before they are issued.

Another member of the public enquired why the Council’s Precept budget had increased by 14.6%, as indicated on the latest invoice from Fylde Borough Council.

It was pointed out that do to a change in the Governments funding of Local authorities, via a new Tax reduction scheme, the Tax base for Freckleton had been changed from £2,090, for a band D charge, in 2012/13 to £1,876 in the 2013/14. This has resulted in perceived increase.

It was pointed out that the Council had only made a minimal increase in the Precept budget, from £96,797 to £99,600, an increase of 2.9%.

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..... ..St J Greenhough, Chairman.....

Date.....13/05/13.....

Appendix A

Freckleton Parish Council

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2013

	2012--13	2011-12
<u>Income</u>		
Precept	£96,797	£96,767
Open Spaces		
Allotments	£1,530	£1,481
Community Dev.	£18,390	£23,785
Rawstorne Centre	£6,884	
Total income	£123,601	£122,033
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Precept	£97,495	£90,701
Including:		
Section 137 of the LGA Act 1972	£480	£480
Open Spaces	£62,727	£59,421
Allotments	£549	£622
Community Dev.	£19,341	£28,555
Rawstorne Centre	£5,104	
Total Expenditure	£122,489	£119,878
Excess of Expenditure over Income	£1,112	
Excess of Income over expenditure		£2,155
<u>Balance sheet as at 31st March 2013</u>		
Fund Balance at 1st April 2012	£87,834	£85,679
Less Excess of Expenditure over income	£1,112	£2,155
Total assets	£88,946	£87,834
Represented by:		
Total Bank Balances	£87,985	£86,451
Prepayments	£824	£1,383
Fund balance at 31st March 2012	£88,809	£87,834