

# Freckleton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 4th April 2016

**Present:** Councillor T Fiddler, (Chair)

Councillors, Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs S Delany, St J Greenhough, T Threlfall, K McKay, Mrs P Holt, Mrs N Griffiths, Mrs. J Cartmell, Mrs L Willis, P Walton and L Rigby.

**Apologies:** There were no absences.

**1. To review the minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**

The minutes were noted.

**2. Chairman's report.**

- The Friends of the Memorial Park community group have secured the funds to re-vamp the Memorial park (£175k) and work will commence in late summer.

The Parish Council has pledged £20k and a number of other Organisations have also pledged to support this project.

£50k in the form of a grant from FBC

£15k from the planning section of FBC

£10k from BAE

This would not have been possible if it had not been for the energy, passion and hard work of the friends of the memorial park. I thank you Lyn and your colleagues on behalf of the entire Freckleton council.

- It has been noticed that there has been considerable reduction in the Policing of the Village with a marked increase in the number of crime related incidents. The Council has complained about this but has received no support from the Police authority.
- Freckleton in Bloom and Golden Leaf must be congratulated for:-
  - a) A Gold award in the North West in Bloom competition. Entry into the Britain in Bloom competition for 2016
  - b) In the Lancashire Best kept Village competition - War Memorial gardens award - Highly commended

A lot of planning and hard work goes into winning these awards.

On behalf of the Parish council and the entire Freckleton community I take this opportunity to thank the volunteers that constitute the Freckleton in bloom committee for all their pride, passion and hard work that makes Freckleton a lovely and great place to live. In addition we thank Golden Leaf for their dedication over and above their financial contract.

- Dog Fouling continues to be a problem in the Village. The Council was pleased to support an initiative by both junior Schools to run a posters competition to highlight the problem. The winning posters were put up throughout the Village. I send a message to all dog owners – Please be responsible and pick up.
- The Clerk – Once again I take this opportunity to thank the Clerk Ken Armistead for his enthusiasm and professionalism. A parish council of lay people is only as good as its Clerk. Freckleton is very fortunate.
- There has become a visual absence of Policing in the village. The concept of community policing sadly no longer exists. There has been a considerable reduction in the policing in the village accompanied by a marked increase in the number of crime related incidents despite repeated protests to the police authority the situation seems to be getting even worse.
- Concerns that LCC's impact on the village is becoming a major worry. In addition to the cessation in their subsidy to running rural bus routes they advertised a programme of library closures. The parish Council has organised a committee under the stewardship of Cllr Marjorie Whitehead to lead the campaign to protect Freckleton library from closure.
- The future of the Rawstone centre is causing concern. In the absence of an active football section its viability remains uncertain. Attempts to re-establish football has to be a council priority.

- Colin Robb. Sadly Colin is no longer with us. I would like to draw attention to all the good that Cllr Robb brought to this council and to the Freckleton community. He will be greatly missed and our sympathy's go out to his family.

### 3. Chairman of Finance's report

- **Precept account (including Open Spaces).**

- The Council's expenditure for 2015/16 was within the budget of £99,600.

- **Community Development Account**

- The interest on the savings, in this account, has been reduced considerably due to the reduction in interest rates. A new bank account has been set up with Nationwide that attracts a better interest rate:-
- The Council has set up the following Reserve accounts:-
  - Memorial Playground Fund - £20,000
  - Open Spaces new equipment fund - £ 6,012
  - Tom Croft Car park maintenance fund - £16,351

Part of the money for these funds came from the grant from FBC in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

In addition, the Council is in the process of selling to United Utilities part of the Bush lane allotment land where they built the overflow tank. This money will be "ring fenced" for future allotment developments, hopefully to include providing additional allotments for people on the waiting list.

- **Capital expenditure**

- The following capital expenditure has been completed in 2015/16

• Donation to Rural Splash (for the running of Kirkham Baths)	- £1,500
• Replace the Pick-up	- £7,676
• Feasibility study for use of AWS area	- £5,000
• Repairs to Scout hut doors	- £1,285
• Replace electrics in Cenotaph	- £1,055
• Repairs to AWS lights	- £460
• New signs for Tom Croft car park	- £534
• New Computer	- £358
• Replace the box for Chairman's chain & repair Vice Chairman's chain	- £705

- **Financial Savings**

Interest on the Council's new Savings account has attracted £650 in the last financial compared to £38 the previous year.

- **Proposed Capital Expenditure for 2016/17**

£20k to support the Friends of the Park re-vamp the memorial park.

COUNCIL FINANCIAL RECORDS ARE KEPT STRICTLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND ARE AUDITED REGULARLY BY COUNCILLORS AND ANNUALLY BY AN INDEPENDENT AUDITOR.

ACCOUNTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING FROM THE CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.

Signed.....T Threlfall, Chairman.....

Date.....09/05/106.....

## Freckleton Parish Council

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2016

	2015--16	2014-15
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Precept</b>	<b>£99,600</b>	£99,600
<b>Open Spaces</b>		
<b>Allotments</b>	<b>£1,945</b>	£1,846
<b>Community Dev.</b>	<b>£12,771</b>	£22,721
<b>Rawstorne Centre</b>	<b>£16,140</b>	£5,556
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£130,456</b>	£129,724
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Precept</b>	<b>£98,820</b>	£97,445
<b>Including:</b>		
<b>Section 137 of the LGA Act 1972</b>	<b>£400</b>	£525
<b>Open Spaces</b>	<b>£61,757</b>	£57,395
<b>Allotments</b>	<b>£1,828</b>	£634
<b>Community Dev.</b>	<b>£16,098</b>	£8,738
<b>Rawstorne Centre</b>	<b>£24,528</b>	£3,951
		£0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£141,274</b>	£110,769
<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>-£10,818</b>	£18,955
<b>Balance sheet as at 31st March 2016</b>		
<b>Fund Balance at 1st April 2015</b>	<b>£117,173</b>	£98,218
<b>Minus Excess of Expenditure over income</b>	<b>-£10,818</b>	£18,955
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>£106,356</b>	£117,173
<b>Represented by:</b>		
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>	<b>£106,738</b>	£115,728
<b>Prepayments</b>	<b>£1,159</b>	£1,445
<b>Unpresented cheques</b>	<b>-£1,541</b>	
<b>Fund balance at 31st March 2016</b>	<b>£106,356</b>	£117,173