

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

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

Councillors, T Threlfall, Mrs L Willis, Mrs N Griffiths, Mrs P Mulholland, Mrs N Whalley, Mrs C Thomas, Mrs F Craig-Wilson and St J Greenhough.

**Apologies:**

Councillors, K McKay & Mrs D Plant – Other Business.  
J Graham - Sick

It was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.

**1) Chairman's Annual Report 2022**

The year got off to a good start with the relaxation of the Covid restrictions which allowed a return to face to face meetings.

This was followed by post lockdown celebrations held at the Rawstorne Centre. An Event that was well supported in spite of the incessant rain. My thanks to all that contributed and a special thanks to Carol Thomas for her involvement.

Unfortunately, Freckleton did not enter the In-Bloom competition due to the lack of volunteers. However, this has now been rectified and I am pleased to see us back in the Competition.

For the first time in many years the Tree Lighting and Carol service was cancelled due to the inclement weather and the associated gathering in the Village Hall was cancelled due to Covid.

The Parish Council had recently been advised that the Memorial Village Hall and the land that it was built on was owned by the Parish Council. This was a surprise to the widely held view to the contrary. The confusion has now been resolved – it was false information – and the Council does not own the building or the land.

Preparations for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations are well under way. My thanks to all of you who are actively involved.

The Village has experienced severe flooding especially in Lower lane and Bush lane. The cause of the flooding in Lower lane has been identified and hopefully rectified. My thanks to Councillor Tommy Threlfall for his involvement and resolution.

Dog fouling, especially on the Bush lane Sports field, continues to be a major problem. Fylde Borough Council are being encouraged to improve enforcement.

The celebrations on Christmas Eve, including the Fireworks displayed was enjoyed by many of the villagers. My thanks go to Peter Walton, for organising the display and to Carol Thomas for arranging the event.

Finally – Boundary Changes.

The Boundary Commission put forward electoral changes that would reduce Freckleton's representation at Fylde Borough from 4 to 2 Councillors. This necessitated all properties to the north of the A584 to be transferred to Newton & Clifton ward (Fylde East). A proposal that effectively split the Village in to two.

The proposal for the Parish representation was to abolish the east-West wards only to be replaced by a single constituency – Freckleton Village – represented by 10 Councillors. Properties to the North of the A584 would elect 2 Councillors to the Parish Council.

The proposals were discussed at a public meeting. The discussions generated dismay and much anger. The meeting overwhelmingly supported a total rejection of these proposals, but to no avail as the Boundary Commission went ahead and adopted their proposals

I conclude by thanking the Council for their support and to Pam Holt, the Vice Chairman, for her support and encouragement.

A special thanks goes to Ken Armistead, our Clerk, for the professional way he conducts Council business.

**2) Chairman of Finance's report 2022**

Thank you to Mr. Ken Armistead, our Clerk, for all the help and guidance this past year which has been much appreciated.

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

- The Council's expenditure for 2021/22 was within the budget of £105,602.
- The Precept for 2022/23 has been set with no increase.
- Thanks go to all the Councillors for keeping a tight control on the budgets and ensuring it receives best value for the money being spent.
- This is the 8th year in succession that the Council has been able to set a budget with no additional cost to the Parishioners.

**Community Development Account**

Interest rates remain very low on the Council's savings Accounts.

**Capital expenditure**

The following capital expenditure has been completed in 2021/22

Re-surfacing Village Hall car park	£7,777
Re-surface & re-line part of Tom Crofts car park	£4,300
Re-surface part of the Bush lane Allotment track	£1,400
Major repairs to the John Deere tractor	£5,075
Cut back the trees on Bush lane	£3,000
End of Covid celebrations & Queen's Jubilee	£4,126
Printing Leaflets for FBC Ward boundary Changes	£ 235

**Income**

Interest on the Council's Savings accounts	£34
Rent from Hire of land	£135
FBC - Donation for Covid disruption	£2,000
FBC New Homes Bonus grant	£2,333
LCC grass cutting contract	£2,998
LCC – Donation towards Speed Indicator sign	£ 400
FIB – Donation towards Queen's jubilee Celebrations	£ 500

**Proposed Capital Expenditure for 2022/23 (The amount of expenditure to be agreed)**

Replace the Ransome Mower	£14,000
Purchase New Speed indicator unit	£ 2,700
Queen's Jubilee Celebrations	£ 7,500

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

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

**3) Financial Statement -Unaudited**

It was resolved to approve the unaudited Accounts – see Appendix A

**4) Public Participation**

None

**Appendix A**

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2022			
		2021-22	2020-21
<b>Income</b>			
<b>Precept</b>		£105,202	£104,755
<b>Open Spaces</b>		£0	£0
<b>Allotments</b>		£2,195	£1,875
<b>Community Dev.</b>		£7,900	£8,277
<b>Total income</b>		£115,297	£114,907
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Precept</b>		£106,122	£96,400
<b>Including:</b>			
<b>Section 137 of the LGA Act 1972</b>	£750		£750
<b>Open Spaces</b>	£69,725		£60,816
<b>Allotments</b>		£696	£1,128
<b>Community Dev.</b>		£25,412	£17,551
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		£132,230	£115,079
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>		-£16,932	-£172
<b>Balance sheet as at 31st March 2023</b>			
<b>Fund Balance at 1st April 2021</b>		£141,687	£141,859
<b>Minus Excess of Expenditure over income</b>		-£16,932	-£172
<b>Total assets</b>		£124,755	£141,687
<b>Represented by:</b>			
<b>Total Bank Balances</b>		£123,864	£140,422
<b>Prepayments</b>		£891	£1,265
<b>Fund balance at 31st March 2022</b>		£124,755	£141,687
<b>The above represents fairly the financial position of the Authority at 31st March 2022 and reflects its income and Expenditure</b>			
<b>Chairman</b>		<b>Financial Officer.</b>	

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

Date.....09/05/22.....

