

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 7th April 2014

Present: Councillor St J Greenhough, (Chair)

Councillors, Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs Delany, T Fiddler, Mrs L Willis, K McKay, Mrs G Cowell, Mrs. J Cartmell, P Walton and C Robb.

Apologies: Councillor T Threlfall (unwell)

It was resolved that the reasons for absence should be accepted.
County Councillor Paul Rigby.

1. To review the minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting held on Tuesday 2nd April 2013.

The minutes were noted.

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, the junior schools in Freckleton use the baths to teach swimming.

The Football pitches have had the long awaited maintenance completed. The senior pitch has been verti-drained, and the junior pitch has been levelled and reseeded. This winter both the junior and senior football has been played regularly on the pitches in spite of the rain.

The gardens' waste bays have been rebuilt to make recycling of grass and other green waste to be recycled onto the Council's flower beds, saving the removal by Fylde Borough Council.

Borders on the Car Park, the Memorial Park and Greenacres have been tidied up.

You will be pleased to hear that we have ordered a blue plaque in memory of all those who served in World War One which will be installed near the War Memorial.

We have continued to press LCC to install bollards on Kirkham road near the shops to stop cars and vans blocking the footpath, forcing mothers with prams having to go on the road to pass. This continues.

Freckleton in Bloom and Golden Leaf must be congratulated for a Silver Gilt in the Britain in Bloom. Planning and hard work goes into this award. **Well done Indeed!**

Due to concerns of people in the Village about hydraulic drilling in the neighbouring Parish of Clifton, the Council have prepared a report, available at Hughes & Fiddlers and Village News.

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 2013/14 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, as a result of the recession.

The Council has set up the following Reserve accounts:-

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Memorial Playground Fund | - £15,275k |
| Open Spaces new equipment fund | - £6.9k |
| Tom Croft Car park maintenance fund | - £5.27k |

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 a 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 2013/14

| | |
|---|---------|
| Donation to Rural Splash (for the running of Kirkham Baths) | - £2k |
| Upgrade the drains under the Bowling green | - £2.8k |
| Level and re-seed the junior football pitch on Bush lane sports field | - £1.8k |
| Purchase of new spreader for gritting and spreading fertiliser | - £619 |
| Re-build the waste recycling unit | - £2.3k |
| Upgrade the borders on the car park & Greenacres | - £2k |
| New Tables for the Rawstone centre | - £119 |
| Improving the lighting at the Rawstone centre | - £500 |

Financial Savings

The Council has saved £2k by not planting any winter plants.

The Council has reviewed the Open Spaces workloads and made savings on the litter picking and watering contracts.

During the financial year, the Council relocated the holding of the meetings to the Rawstone Centre, saving approximately £300 per annum in rent.

Due to the diligence of the Clerk to the Council, after negotiations with United Utilities, the water and drainage charges for the Tom Croft car park have been reduced from £3.1k to £69 per annum.

Proposed Capital Expenditure for 2014/15

Nil

4. Financial Statements – unaudited.

It was resolved that the unaudited Accounts, for the year ending 31st March 2014, be accepted. – see Appendix A

5. Public participation.

A member of the public commented that he was pleased with the Council’s performance over the past 12 months.

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..... ..L Rigby, Chairman

Date.....12/05/14.....

Appendix

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2014

| | 2013--14 | 2012-13 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| Precept | £99,600 | 96797 |
| Open Spaces | | |
| Allotments | £1,468 | £1,530 |
| Community Dev. | £22,322 | £18,399 |
| Rawstorne Centre | £9,177 | £6,884 |
| Total income | £132,566 | £123,610 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | |
| Precept | £98,644 | £97,495 |
| Including: | | |
| Section 137 of the LGA Act | £480 | £480 |
| Open Spaces | £63,690 | £62,727 |
| Allotments | £3,070 | £549 |
| Community Dev. | £16,970 | £19,341 |
| Rawstorne Centre | £4,619 | £5,104 |
| Total Expenditure | £123,303 | £122,489 |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure | £9,264 | £1,121 |

Balance sheet as at 31st March 2014

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Fund Balance at 1st April 2013 | £88,955 | £87,834 |
| Plus Excess of Expenditure over income | £9,264 | £1,121 |
| Total assets | £98,218 | £88,955 |
| Represented by: | | |
| Total Bank Balances | £96,726 | £88,130 |
| Prepayments | £1,493 | £824 |
| Fund balance at 31st March 2014 | £98,218 | £88,955 |