

**Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**Present:** Councillor, Mrs P Mulholland. (Chair)  
Councillors, T Fiddler, Mrs L Willis, Mrs N Griffiths, Mrs N Whalley, Mrs D Dickinson, A Smith,  
Mrs C Thomas, Mrs F Craig-Wilson, T Threlfall and K McKay.

**Apologies:**

None.

**1) Chairman's Annual Report 2024**

Freckleton in Bloom pulled out all the stops again this year and won Gold in the small-town category. Congratulations Freckleton in Bloom. A big thank you to the Contractors D & C Gardening and John Rhodes.

I would also like to thank David Taylor who, due to ill health, was forced to retire. The Parish Council send him their best wishes.

A big thank you goes out to Janice our volunteer litter picker. All weathers will see her pounding our streets.

I would like to thank the Club Day Committee for their continued hard work in making the Club Day weekend such a success. This year 2024 sees the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Freckleton Half Marathon.

The Rawstone Sports Centre is becoming a popular venue for private functions. I would like to thank the management committee for their input and a special thanks to the Chairman Mrs Carol Thomas. The sporting activities at the Centre are going strong with the Netball, Cricket, and Football teams, senior, junior and veteran in full swing, competing with the wet weather issues has been more difficult than the opposing teams at times. I would like to thank the management of these teams for their contributions in keeping these sporting activities going.

Unfortunately, the Christmas Eve firework display was cancelled due to bad weather. This was very disappointing as it is such a good start to the Christmas celebrations. I must thank Mr Peter Walton and his family for all the hard work organising the display that did not happen.

There was an excellent turnout this year for the Christmas Tree lighting. The tree stood proud; a beautiful tree carefully chosen for the village by Thomas Threlfall. I would like to thank the team of people that it takes to position the tree and set it up. David Kirby, Thomas Garlick, Dean Wilson and Thomas Threlfall.

The Coach and Horses hosted a Christmas market after the tree lighting ceremony and I thank them for co-operating with the Parish Council. The event was a great success.

I would like to thank Freckleton Band for their support at the Christmas tree lighting and the Remembrance Sunday service.

The Blue Plaque has been installed to mark the first Police house/station in the village on Kirkham Road.

County Councillor Paul Rigby has loyally turned up to our full council meetings and taken on board all our requests for LCC assistance for Freckleton. I would like to thank him for his support.

The rainfall this last year has had a bad effect on the animal allotments. It is flooding badly and excessive water is not draining away. As soon as it is possible, a dryer climate, the drainage of the allotments is being addressed.

This year sees the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Freckleton Air disaster. A Church service is being arranged and it is hoped that the Americans will attend.

I share the concerns of the villagers about the intentions of Morgan and Morecambe with regard to the Offshore Wind farms project. A Parliamentary Petition has been presented in the House of

Commons and 10 Downing Street on behalf of Freckleton, Kirkham and Newton with Clifton. A statement is eagerly awaited from Dalclow McClaren on their reflections from the consultations with regard to the opposition against the cable corridor. It has been observed that the National Grid is responsible for the siting of the Sub Stations.

To end my year as Chairman I would like to thank the Council for their support. Ken Armistead and Nigel Bibby for their professional management of Council business. I must not forget my Vice Chairman Trevor Fiddler who has supported me throughout this year.

Cllr. Mrs. P Mulholland.,  
Chairman of the Parish Council

**2) Chairman of Finance’s report 2024**

- 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 Councils expenditure for 2023/24 was over spent by £12,587 due to the increase in energy & fuel costs and repairs to the Buildings, Open Spaces areas & machinery. This will be paid for from the Council’s Reserves.
  - The Precept for 2024/25 has been set with an increase of 2.4%. This is the first increase in 9 years.
  - 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.

- Community Development Account
- Interest rates have increased on the Council’s savings Accounts. See below

• Capital expenditure

Repair to Electrics in Bowling Pavilion	£880
Work on the Bowling Pavilion after flood	£650
Kings Coronation Celebrations - Expenditure	£2,116
Install new sink & hot water system	£1,042
Blue Plaque for Kirkham road	£483
New Plaque for C Robb's seat	£114
Replace /repair toilets at the Rawstorne Centre	£12,800
Repair in front of green waste pen	£1,701

• Income

Interest on the Council's Savings accounts	£970
Rent from Hire of land	£955
FBC - Donation King's Coronation	£880
George Blackburn Trust – Donation towards RC roof	£6,580
Donation towards Queen's Jubilee	£491
LCC grass cutting contract	£3,951
Donations for Bench & SPID	£487

- Proposed Capital Expenditure for 2024/25 (The amount of expenditure to be agreed)

SPID machine	£3,500
New Roof for Rawstorne Centre	£35,000
Lights for car park	£1,500
New Laptop	£600
Drains for Bush lane allotments	£10,000

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**

No public were in attendance.

Signed.....Mrs. N Griffiths, Chairman.....

Date.....13/05.2024.....

**Appendix A**

<u>Freckleton Parish Council</u>			
Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended		31st March 2024	
		2023-24	2022-23
<u>Income</u>			
Precept		£107,932	106714
Open Spaces		£0	£0
Allotments		£1,215	£2,120
Community Dev.		£13,865	£9,387
Total income		£123,012	£118,221
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Precept		£120,519	£122,889
Including:			
Section 137 of the LGA Act 1972	£480		
Open Spaces	£82,068		
Allotments		£3,610	£1,425
Community Dev.		£19,914	£24,366
Total Expenditure		£144,043	£148,679
Excess of Income over Expenditure		-£21,031	-£30,458
<u>Balance sheet as at 31st March 2024</u>			
Fund Balance at 1st April 2023		£94,297	£124,755
Plus Excess of Expenditure over income		-£21,031	-£30,458
Total assets		£73,266	£94,297
Represented by:			
Total Bank Balances		£70,740	£92,712
Prepayments		£2,525	£1,585
Fund balance at 31st March 2024		£73,266	£94,297
The above represents fairly the financial position of the Authority at 31st March 2024 and reflects its income and Expenditure			
Chairman		Financial Officer.	