

Washingborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held at Washingborough Community Centre on Thursday 15th March 2018 at 7.00pm.

In attendance: Councillor D Fothergill (*Chairman*) Councillor Mrs J Aspinall
 Councillor R Clark Councillor R Dowlman
 Councillor M Dyche Councillor Miss L Freemantle
 Councillor G Kent Councillor G Peck
 Councillor Mrs Y Pierce Clerk, Miss K Broddle

3 Parishioners were present

1988. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Cllr Fothergill opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

1989. NOTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING held on the 16th March 2017 had previously been circulated and were signed as the minutes.

1990. MATTERS OUTSTANDING

There were no matters outstanding.

1991. VILLAGE CHARITIES' REPORT

1991.1 PIKE AND EURE

The annual accounts were read out at the meeting. This charity awards grants to students and apprentices and had awarded £2100 during 2016. The George Walker Foundation, which is incorporated with this charity, awards grants for sporting purposes and had awarded £450 during 2016.

1991.2 WASHINGBOROUGH GARRATTS

The annual accounts were read out at the meeting. This charity provides small payments to villagers who may appreciate a gift at Christmas. Thirty grants of £15 each had been awarded during 2017.

1992. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Fothergill gave a report on Council's activities during the past year (appended).

1993. FINANCIAL REPORT

Cllr Miss Freemantle reported on the precept set for 2018/19 and the associated budgets. The full report is appended.

1994. ELECTORS' QUESTIONS

There were no questions

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

SIGNED

DATE

Chairman's Annual Report 2018

This year has been a difficult one for the Council with the sale of the village hall and dissolution of the Playing Fields Association (PFA) forcing the Council to take over the running the playing fields and pavilion in order that local clubs could continue to use these facilities. During this time, we have also had to deal with the sale of the Village Hall in Manor Road.

Playing Fields Association (PFA)

The PFA was a registered charity which had benefit of not having to pay Council Tax plus the ability to raise funds through organised events.

Unfortunately, the Council cannot legally become a charity and, therefore, has to pay tax on the playing fields and pavilion of some £4,000 per year plus all the utility bills and maintenance of the pavilion and cannot by law raise funds via organised events. To allow local sports clubs to continue to use of these facilities during the past year the Council had to absorb these costs as we could not increase the already approved precept for 2017/18 nor ask the clubs to increase fees to the Council and thus increase the subscriptions to their members without putting the clubs viability in jeopardy. I am pleased to say that all clubs that were part of the PFA are in the process of signing

agreements with the Council and continue to make good use of the facilities. The Councils policy is to encourage sporting activity in the village to make it a great place to live to the benefit of all and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Village Hall

I reported at the 2016 AGM that the village hall was held in trust by the Parish Council but not controlled or operated by us as this was the responsibility of its Trustees and should have been operated by a management committee.

There were no longer any trustees or management committee at that time and no parishioners had come forward to fill the vacancies.

Their responsibilities included full maintenance of the property, payment of all utility bills and obtaining hiring's for the payment of a peppercorn rent for which the Parish Council provided buildings insurance.

Because of the cost burden and the poor state of the building The Parish Council passed a resolution at its October 2016 meeting to undertake the disposal of the Hall. This action was authorised by The Charity Commission who advised the only course of action possible to facilitate this was for the Council to become Management Trustees, this was done with separate meetings held each month.

Any disposal had to be in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, part of which requires the property to be valued by a qualified Chartered Surveyor who must give not only the value but also any possible alternatives or actions to improve its value. Under the terms of the lease, a meeting had to be held for parishioners of 18yrs and upwards to finalise the situation, this meeting took place on 28th July 2017 where the resolution to sell the hall was put to the meeting followed by a ballot which when the result was revealed it was a unanimous decision to adopt the resolution to sell the hall

The hall was sold by auction on 20th September 2017. The proceeds of the sale have been passed to the Charity Commissioners who have yet to decide on the outcome of the charity and dispensation of any residual funds.

The flat roofs on the Community Centre and Civic Office had to be replaced as they had reached the end of their service life and were beginning to leak. This work was carried out during the summer within the budgeted cost.

Finally, we hope to see work started on the new housing development on land between Pitts Road and Church Hill which will provide a residential care home, affordable and private housing thus serving the whole community. Hopefully we will see an influx of young families to regenerate the community.

Financial Report

The Budget Requirement for the Parish Council to function for the next year is £.140,838.00. Some of this amount will be offset by money from Income and from the Reserves, however the Council have still had to ask the Precept for the amount of £128,089.00. This represents a 10% rise from last year (last year was 13% on the previous year).

The reason for the higher expenditure this year is mainly that the staffing budget has increased substantially due to the Parish Council having to implement the Government's mandatory pension scheme for their staff. Other than that our largest budget heading is still the £21,050.00 payment on the loan for the pavilion. We have amalgamated several budget headings into one category: Forward Plan. This is money for future projects/maintenance of the Community Centre. For example, this year the Community Centre will need a new flat roof and the IT equipment for the Civic Office needs to be updated. We budgeted £11,268 of which, we only asked the precept for £2,500 and we intend to make up the deficit through income over the year.

In addition to that there is an ongoing program of works to trees in the village which need attention. Money has been budgeted for this. We have also set aside £5,000 to pay for the Youth Club, and £2,400 for the Dog Warden and the emptying of the dog bins. £4,500 is needed for playing field maintenance and inspections, and £3,100 for Pavilion maintenance and service contracts.

All Parish Council expenditure is closely monitored to ensure best value for money for our parishioners.