

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Monday 11th May 2015

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Memorial Hall, Kettleshulme on Monday 11th May 2015, at 7.00pm for the transaction of the ordinary business of a Parish Meeting pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972. All local government electors registered in respect of the Parish are entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting.

Dated 27th April 2015 – signed Mr Paul Harris, Clerk to the Council

At a meeting held in pursuant to the above notice (copies of which had been displayed through the Parish) the following business was transacted:

PRESENT: Jo Butler, Rachel Blood, Victoria Coward, Sara Geary, Ian Pulley, Roslyn Siddall, Grant Summers, 7 members of the public and the Clerk.

APOLOGIES: Received from Clive Greenwood, Chairman of the Council.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council, Jo Butler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19TH MAY 2014

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 19th May 2014 were accepted as a true record.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Report by Clive Greenwood, read out by Jo Butler.

Introduction

2014 / 2015 has been a very positive year for the Parish Council. I am pleased to say, that after many years of fund raising, the council has completed two major refurbishment programmes, with a third just about to commence.

We have replaced the old windows, where the wood was rotting with new energy saving double glazing units. Not only will these reduce our energy costs, but as these windows open, those 'humid' evenings we all experienced when the council held a dance or function, will become something of the past.

To enhance these the new windows, the Council also decided not only to replace the curtains that surround them, but also to replace the stage curtains, so that now when we have professional entertainers, the stage and its backdrop will be equally impressive. We are grateful to Cheryl Greenwood in locating a grant from Cheshire

East, and for all the hard work she has put in ensuring that this grant of £2,000 towards their cost has been finalised. Our thanks must also go to the Kettleshulme Entertainment committee who have kindly agreed to make a donation to cover the balance.

Finally, to complete the exercise, we have had the hall decorated. Hopefully, with this new pristine appearance, lettings may start to increase.

The project about to commence is the refurbishment of the kitchen. I am pleased to say that I have obtained a grant of £5,500 towards the cost from wren, and our preferred supplier, Buxton Woodworks have been notified, and we are awaiting a start date from them.

With grateful funding from the rose queen committee, we have installed an automated external defibrillator (**AED**), which is located to the front of the building. We have held two training sessions, and we are now registered with the NWAS. Overall, the council has worked well this year, with good communication and common sense leading the way. The councillors should feel proud of what they have achieved, and let us hope that the new council will continue not only to improve the hall, but to improve the facilities for the whole community of Kettleshulme.

Hall Activities

At the beginning of last year we created the entertainment committee, with sole responsibility to organise a varied programme of entertainment at the village hall. During the year we have hosted two Cheshire Rural Touring Art productions, 'Old Herbaceous' and 'From Berlin to Broadway', both were well attended, and enjoyed by all. In May we had a return visit from the Referb brothers, and in November, the Whaley Bridge Band treated us to a 'Bier Keller' evening. From the photos shown on the web-site, it was obvious that a good evening was had by all.

Highways and Road Maintenance

Kettleshulme forms part of the Poynton LAP, and my regular attendance has placed us firmly on the map, and to that end we have three projects pending.

Two projects relate to speeding through the village, and projects under consideration, they are the provision of rumble strips and gateways at the west side of the village, the upgrading of the school signs to generate driver awareness, and the extension of the 30mph zone. The other project is to repaint all the carriageway zig-zag signs outside the school.

We do have a long term project of having traffic lights at Reed Bridge on the books, but discussions are still continuing as to how this will be funded.

The highways subcommittee, whose purpose is to review what is happening to our village roads, drains, and where necessary resolve any issues that have developed, has met on a quarterly basis. The committee has marked out over the village where all the drains and gullies are, and Cheshire East has now uploaded this data into their system, resulting in all the drains being emptied when they perform this task in

our area. We still receive our winter gritting bags in preference to many other villages, during the winter months.

However, with the economic crisis still with us, Cheshire East is very reluctant to spend money, as can be seen with the pot hole in Paddock Lane. It would appear that there is a legal dispute between Cheshire East and their sub-contractor, as to who is liable for it. This is of little comfort to the residents, who experience the problems of gallons of water which flows out of it.

Gradually, we are getting to grips with street lighting. It takes Cheshire on average 31 days to investigate a faulty street light. Despite numerous calls and usage of their on-line fault system, from both councillors and residents, they would appear to be restrained to work any faster. A Street light out does not consume energy, and their policy of reducing costs means that the longer it takes, the greater the reduction.

With regard to the replacement of a lighting standard, as demonstrated by the standard opposite the hall, there is no time scale. In talking to Cheshire East, it would seem an impossibility to arrange for the energy provider to turn off the power, as well as to arrange for a team to replace the standard, and have an electrician all present at the same time! Something for our County Councillors.

My regular communication with the police force has resulted in a PCSO being allocated to Kettleshulme, albeit for a short period of time, and we are waiting for her replacement, again cost is a major issue.

Finally, I have had a meeting with the Parks department regarding the playing fields, and the pruning of trees and the removal of grass on the tarmac footpaths. I am pleased to say that this has now taken place, but continued pressure will need to be applied to ensure that this is an annual process.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT on the Parish Council's Accounts for year ending 31st March 2015.

Report by Clive Greenwood, read out by Jo Butler.

As we did for last year, we set out at the beginning of the year with the rationale of giving value for money, and to achieve this, our goal was to make the precept equate to the running costs of the hall, and I am pleased to say that we have achieved this, as can be seen below.

The precept for the year was £7,500, letting income was £3,347, a total of £10,847, and the Hall running costs are below:

Utilities £1,727; Cleaning £1,180; Clerking £2,850; Insurance £981; Sundries £2,269; a total of £9,007. Thus, a small surplus was generated.

Any Hall maintenance is met by letting income, and in the year maintenance costs were £1,826 against letting income of £3,347. Major improvements or capital works

will be met from donations made by the Kettlethulme Entertainment Committee from any surplus's generated from the various functions they hold at the village Hall, and by applying for any appropriate grants available. During the year, £8,400 was spent on the windows replacement. This amount was met by funds generated over the past years.

As I mentioned earlier, with regard to the funds we have raised to-date, we have proceeded with the full double glazing throughout the hall, which will reduce our heating costs, and also help alleviate the condensation problems we experience when we hold an energetic dance or functions. This expenditure is shown within the accounts, so that we are able to reclaim the vat incurred. A similar exercise will be done with regard to the replacement of the hall and stage curtains.

The forward precept for 2015 / 2016

Recently, we have had a few comments about the increase in the precept for the 2015 / 16 year, and I feel it prudent to make a few comments, to explain the council's rationale.

With hall lettings down, and with inflation increases on our costs, the Council decided to raise the precept to £10,000. Our budget for the year expects there to be a reduction in letting income of nearly £1,750, whilst we are showing a nil increase in costs, due to offsetting any inflation rises with more prudent reductions on maintenance. The other driver for this increase is based on the government proposed statement that any future increases in precept will be on a percentage basis of the previous year's value. The council deliberated on this point, and decided that by having a higher base value, should at a future date there was a requirement for an increase in the precept, then any future council would have room for manoeuvre. Thus as you can see, the bulk of the increase in the precept is mainly due to poor hall lettings. Let us hope that with the refurbishment schemes undertaken that are budget income can be improved.

It does not follow that by having a precept of £10,000 that an equal amount must be spent in expenditure. It is financially prudent to have the money in the bank, thus allowing any future council financial flexibility, and I am pleased to say that this is exactly what the council have produced.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE CHAIRMANS REPORT

Matters arising were raised with regards to hall lettings and the difficulties in competing with other venues. The challenge of car parking was also raised.

The website was also raised; it was highlighted that the Parish Council needed to put in place a website that was fit for purpose in order to comply with new transparency legislation.

A question was asked with regards to registration of the defibrillator with EMAS, this would be checked with Dion Cross.

PARISH MATTERS – an opportunity for residents to raise issues

Mr David Ross wished to thank Clive Greenwood, Cheryl Greenwood, Victoria Greenwood, Bill McQuinn and Tony Sheldon for all their hard work over the years.

Meeting closed at 19.25pm

Chairman

Dated