

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE PARISH OF BREHERTON

DRAFT MINUTES of the **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING** of the **PARISH OF BREHERTON** held on Monday, 8th May, 2017 at Bretherton Endowed Primary School, South Road, Bretherton at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr Bertram, Cllr Farbon, Cllr Jackson, Cllr Wait, and Mrs. G Southworth (Clerk of Bretherton Parish Council)

In attendance; two members of the Public

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Vickers, Chorley Council

Minutes of Last Parish Assembly Meeting held on 9th May 2016

The minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting held on 9th May 2016 were accepted as being an accurate record of the meeting and the Chairman of the Parish Council signed the minutes.

Chorley Youth Zone

Michelle Graham attended the meeting and provided the following information
The Zone should open at Easter 2018
It will cost £5 per year to join, plus a 50p attendance charge
Open times have not yet been finalized, but will be in a 3pm-10pm time slot
A development group of young people is helping to identify the facilities which should be provided
There will be sessions for young people with disabilities
Schools will be able to use the facilities
Outside organizations will be able to hire the venue
There will be volunteering opportunities
The Zone is being funded by a combination of organizations and people
There will be some minibus facilities
Visit can be arranged

Annual Report of the Parish Council 2016/17

Cllr Wait presented the Annual Report of Bretherton Parish Council as set out in Appendix A

Public Forum

A member of the public requested information on the War Memorial and was informed that;
Fund raising is going well
Independent advice on the foundations had been obtained
Coping stones will have to be individually made
The chains will need to be cleaned
A planting area has been suggested
The inclusion of a poppy on the Lest We Forget Plaque was suggested.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Annual Assembly and declared the meeting closed at 7.59pm.

Signed:

Dated:

Appendix A

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

During the course of the year a major area of work has been the War Memorial, which is an important feature of the village, reminding everyone of the sacrifices made. In May an Extraordinary Meeting was held, at which offers of help from many village residents were received and a Working Group was set up. As a result it was decided not to pursue a grant application to the War Memorials Trust. A consultation exercise was undertaken to obtain the views of residents on how the area surrounding the War Memorial should be landscaped. A total of 192 votes were received, with the choice of a wall being the most popular. The Parish Council accepted the wishes of the village and plans are to be developed to include the building a stone wall around the existing monument and flagging the area. Donations have been received and are still being received from village residents and organisations. Chorley Council gave a grant of £2000 and pledges of substantial donations have been received from Lord Lilford and GA Pet Food Partners.

Concern was expressed at the diminution of the service at Chorley Hospital Accident and Emergency Department due to staff shortages and difficulties in recruiting suitably qualified staff.

Clean up days were held to improve the appearance of the village and the Bretherton once again entered the Best Kept Village Competition, with the cooperation of residents, local businesses and organisations.

The Parish Council gave a grant to support the village celebrations to commemorate the Queens 90th Birthday to enable the whole village to enjoy the event.

Karen Wait; Chair

Council Meetings and Membership

Bretherton Parish Council met for its Annual Meeting in May 2016 when Councillor Karen Wait was appointed as Chairman and Councillor Barbara Farbon as Vice Chairman.

Ten ordinary parish council meetings and one Extraordinary meeting along with one budget meeting were held. Membership was constant with six members through most of the year. All statutory notices and agendas were posted on the Parish Council notice boards and on the council's website.

Value for Money

The Parish Council annually set a Parish Precept to finance its activities and administration which is collected by Chorley Borough Council as part of the Council Tax. The Parish Council has now set its budget for 2017-18; the Precept for 2017-18 is £16900. This is an increase of £6370 from

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the 2016-17 financial year, and is due in the main, to the provision of a grant for the Cricket Club, which will eventually provide additional community facilities for the village. The grant is subject to conditions and will not be paid unless these are met. Whilst the Reserves at the end of the financial year were £20888 most of this amount relates to maintenance funds and special projects.

Engaging with Residents

Bretherton Parish Council has an active programme of engagement with residents by various modes of communication; such as its newsletter and website. The Parish Council Notice Boards also continue to be a vital source of community information.

Recreation Ground

The play area continues to be very popular with local and visiting families, particularly on summer evenings after school and the Parish Councillors continue to personally monitor the safety of the site on a weekly basis to ensure a high standard is maintained.

Transport Survey

A Transport Survey was undertaken last year and as a result, a path between the Blue Anchor and Recreation Ground has been created and Lancashire County Council is to provide a footpath between Bretherton and Croston. The Parish Council continues to give a high priority to the improvement of road safety in the village. Whilst, we continue to press for a 30 mph speed limit on the western end of North Road, the Parish Council continue to be disappointed at the lack of support and action from Lancashire County Council.

We are grateful to John Pigott and the SPID team for helping to deter irresponsible drivers.

With the demise of the Bus Service, information about Dial-a-Ride was provided to residents

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The Parish Council operates a controlled system for recording and presenting financial information. The Parish Council accounts are subject to both an independent Internal and External audit each year and Annual Returns are prepared and submitted to the Audit Commission. The audit for the year ended March 2016 was concluded successfully with no matters arising. As part of an annual review of Parish Council activities, a risk assessment is undertaken annually in line with reviewing insurance arrangements together with a review of the effectiveness of the internal audit. All financial and regulatory information is prepared and submitted in accordance with required deadlines.

Summary of 2016-17 Finances (*Not yet Audited*)

	£
Balance/Reserves B/F 1 April 2016	14703
<u>Receipts</u>	
Precept	
Top up Grant	10116-00
VAT Rebate	414-00
Investment Income	3159-61
Grant for War Memorial	7-77
Donations	2000-00
Total Receipts	3810-00
	34309
<u>Payments</u>	
Administration	
Audit	692-73
Best Kept Village Competition	150-00
Bowling Club Grant	15-00
Equipment Maintenance	1220-00
Employees	322-26
Election Expenses	2008-13
Grounds Maintenance	500-00
Insurance	3227-92
Room Hire	502-14
Training	275-00
Publications	25-00
Subscriptions	438-79
Wreath	123-58
Website	26-00
Play Area	204-00
War Memorial	770-50
Other grants	500-00
VAT	2047-60
Total Payments	1048-38
Balance/Reserves C/F	14672-21
	20888-00

Thank you;

The Parish Council is grateful to R and E Bamford Ltd who have kindly sponsored the Newsletter for a 12 month period and to all those who give of their time and materials to help maintain the village and its amenities.