



CATTERALL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at 7:00pm at Catterall Village Hall

In Attendance: Cllr I Brayshaw (Chair), 9 Members of the Public (7 of which are Parish Councillors), Lancashire County Cllr S Turner and E Millington (Clerk and RFO)

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest nor any request for a dispensation for any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd May 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

4. Annual Report of the Chairman

Welcome to the 2023 Annual Parish meeting.

We have seen some changes this year, with our new Parish Clerk, Emma, who settled in very well and seems to be picking everything, with the elections just around the corner she has managed to get everyone's papers submitted successfully.

As usual can I personally thank each and every one of you for the hard work and commitment you have given over the last twelve months. We still have a number of vacancies, so if you know of anyone interested that fits the criteria, please encourage them to come along.

I mentioned earlier that Emma had joined us and I would formally like to thank her for her hard work and commitment she shown in the short period of time being with us. Can I record our thanks to Paul also for his continued commitment and hard work he has done around the village this year.

I would also like to record my thanks to the new Village hall committee that is pushing ahead with changes and bringing the village hall into its own.

We have seen some improvements to the area, the car park to name but one.

The Bloomers have continued with their hard work, and we are now seeing some changes to the 'beds' in and around the Queen Elizabeth II field, their continued commitment through the last year does not go unnoticed.

We have had a few challenges this year, and I hope that we have been seen to be using our funding appropriately and I thank you for all your support with those challenges.

This year see Councillor Sharples, achieve a fantastic milestone of 40 years as a parish Councillor, which I thank personally thank him for his commitment, not only to Parish Council but historically over to Wyre itself.

We are hearing that the Policing and Crime commissioner, has secured funding to wards Anti-Social behaviour, so let hope that he can tackle some of the issues we are seeing in the village let's hope their commitment to addressing anti-social behaviour will have a positive step in the area.

We look forward to the extra bank holiday this year in celebrations of the Kings coronation.

Once again thank you all very much for your support and I look forward to being able to support you and the Parish for the coming year.

Cllr Ian Brayshaw,
Chair, Catterall Parish Council

Members accepted this report.

5. Report from the Responsible Finance Officer

Year Ending 31st March 2023

Catterall Parish Council carried forward £178,126.64
Precept £91,000
Receipts £9,229.27
Staff Costs £40,839.43
Payments £164,563.93
Giving a balance of £72,952.55 to carry forward to 2023-2024

Precept: The Parish Council took into consideration budget recommendations and increased the precept by 10.97% in 2022/23. However due to the growth of Catterall, Band D properties only faced increase in council tax of 5.81% from £87.86 in 2021/22 to £92.97 in 2022/23.

Receipts: Bank interest increased due to a switch of bank account providers, from £45.09 in 21/22 to £224.33 in 22/23. The CCLA account opened in 21/22 also paid £470.06 in interest.

The VAT reclaim was lower than 21/22 but will be significantly higher in 23/24 following on from the large projects undertaken in 22/23.

Playing field rental income was up in 22/23 as Myerscough Junior Football club switched their match day from Sunday to Saturday.

Staff Costs: Staff costs have increased this year due to a pay award back dated to April 2022 and to an increase in the Lengthsman's hours from 1st January 2023.

Payments: The Parish Council made several big improvements to Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field this year including the installation of a new Multi Use Games Area, car park resurfacing and an improved pedestrian entrance to the playing field. The flowerbeds were replanted by Catterall in Bloom and made a big impact on the playing fields.

Some necessary tree work was identified in the Parish Council's annual tree survey and was undertaken.

A seat was purchased to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and a seat donated to the Parish by the family of Clifford Trickett.

Repairs were required on the children's play area to some of the equipment and to the wet pour surface. New hybrid grass was purchased for underneath the zip wire in an attempt to reduce the mud.

Both the leaf blower and the grass mower required some repairs this year, and the decision was made to upgrade the mower in 23/24 keeping the current mower as a spare.

Due to the recruitment of a new Clerk & RFO, training costs were higher this year. The new Clerk took the Introduction to Local Council Administration(ILCA) qualification and attended training sessions on planning and elections

The parish office was redecorated this year and new flooring installed.

Emma Millington
RFO, Catterall Parish Council

Members accepted this report.

6. Annual Report from Lancashire County Council

No report was given although comments were made about how fantastic Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field looked and how in the spring sunshine every part of the park was in use.

7. Annual Report from Wyre Councillor

None

8. Annual Report from Parish Councillors

a) Report of the Wyre Area Lancashire Association of Local Councils

The April meeting's guest speaker was Andy Pratt, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and Chair of the Lancashire Road Safety Partnership. Unfortunately, despite advertising this well in advance and knowing it is a topic of significant concern to every two and parish councils, the turnout was very poor. Nevertheless Andy updated the meeting on his role and that of the Road Safety Partnership and confirmed that he was happy to visit sites of concern.

In order to remind councils of the role of the Wyre Area Committee I wrote out to all member town and parish councils in August with a view to increasing attendance at the meetings.

The October meeting in normally the AGM but LALC had updated and circulated governance documents relating to Area Committees and these stated that the AGM should take place not later than 31 August in any year and the AGM was therefore moved back to the January meeting.

The meeting welcomed Steve Bergquist, Engagement Manager for the Canal and Rivers Trust locally. He explained the functions of the Trust and highlighted issues

affecting our area such as bridge strikes and their impact which caused serious disruption and were extremely costly to repair.

The AGM took place in January and I was elected Chair again. Cllr Sharples was elected Secretary for his 37th year in office. At that meeting we had a presentation from Steve Smith, Head of Planning and Regeneration, and Fiona Riley, Head of Planning Policy at Wyre Council. They updated the meeting on the work being done to refresh the Local Plan. The meeting also welcomed the new Sergeant for Garstang and Over Wyre, Laraine Lister who has taken over from Guy Hamlet.

Garry Payne retired as Chief Executive of Wyre Council on 31 March and his replacement, Rebecca Huddleston will attend the April meeting to speak about how she views the relationship with town and parish councils.

Cllr Jan Finch
Chair, Wyre Area Committee

Members accepted this report.

b) Report of the Catterall Village Hall

Catterall Village Hall has had another busy year with bookings for a wide variety of events.

2022/23 saw many improvements including the installation of a new lighting and sound system. New tables, chairs and noticeboards have been purchased with the help of grant money.

An online booking and invoicing system has been introduced with much success.

On behalf of Catterall Village Hall, I would like to pass on thanks to the Parish Council for resurfacing the carpark. It has made a big difference to users of the Village Hall. Finally I would like say thank you to the Village Hall committee for all of their support this year.

Cllr Simon Kirkman
Chair, Catterall Village Hall

Members accepted this report.

9. Matters raised by Residents

None

10. Any Other Business

None

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 7:15pm.