

**MINUTES OF THE BOLTON-LE-SANDS PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
ON THURSDAY 26th APRIL 2018**

Present: Cllr K. Budden (Chairman)
Parish Cllrs:
M Archer, T Bell, B Bond, M. Leak, S. Lomax, F. Ryan, P. Wilson
County Councillor Stuart Morris
13 Local Government Electors.

Introduction: The Chairman welcomed everyone present and introduced the clerk and members of the Council. Unfortunately, Cllr Gibbs resigned last year and was replaced by Cllr Wilson and due to work commitments Cllr Kay has recently left the parish council.

Minutes: Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on 30th March 2017 were accepted as a true record.

Attendance: The Clerk reported on the individual attendances of Councillors: Cllr Archer 92% Bell 67%; Bond 83%; Budden 100%; Craddock 83%; Gibbs 100%, Kay 36%; Leak 83%; Lomax 58%, Ryan 67%, Wilson 80%.

Chairman's Report:

The chairman spoke of the re-opening of the Library which was part of the manifesto of the new Lancashire County Council. He thanked Councillor Tony Jones, who unfortunately has had to retire due to ill health, for his assistance in making sure that happened. He introduced Councillor Stuart Morris, who has replaced Cllr Jones and expressed his thanks to him for his support over these past couple of months. Through Cllr Morris, the scouts have received grant aid for tenting materials and the bowling club has received money to replace a boiler in the pavilion.

Cllr Jones assisted the parish council with expediting the repair to the canal bridge at St. Michael's Lane which had been constantly hit by HGV wagons. Unfortunately, it has been hit once again.

He thanked City Councillors Sylvia Rogerson, Malcolm Thomas and John Wild for their support and always attending parish council meetings where possible.

The public toilet in Main Street had to close, as with constant reduction in financial support from the City Council they were simply not viable. So, after discussions with the Village Hall and by making certain modifications to the 'accessible toilet' that toilet is now accessible by all during the hours of daylight although with a RADAR key, they are accessible 24/7.

With the support of Cllr Rogerson, the residents at the Packet Boat are trying to resolve the issue of an access from Main Road to Packet Lane and it is hoped that a way forward to everybody's benefit may be on the horizon.

The chairman listed works authorised by the parish council: re-instatement of the car park at Red Bank, more wood chip and sand have been laid in the children's play area and a new PA system has been purchased for use on Remembrance Sunday.

The War Memorial has been refurbished to an extent but not quite finished. The lettering of the First World War soldiers is very worn, but the contractors will be returning in the next week or so to re-cut the names so that they are legible and grant money from the War Memorials Trust has been pledged for this work.

The parish council now has a Facebook page, which Cllr Wilson manages as well as its website and the council also writes in The Messenger to keep everyone up to date with the activities of the council.

The work of the Parish Lengthsman, Mike Ashton, was mentioned and his involvement with the Woodland Management Project as well as organising the annual Christmas tree for which the chairman thanked the Trustees and residents of Bolton Lodge for allowing it to be sited on their forecourt.

The Bowling Green's Committee has one again been successful in the sale of its permits and Alan Swindlehurst, the Greensman, was thanked for the work he does on the greens all year round including running a winter tournament which brings in additional money which has been used to replace the top pavilion. Bowlers have worked hard to raise sufficient money for the purchase of floodlights which should be installed in September of this year although the club will not play in the Floodlight League until 2019. The parish council has ring-fenced £1250 towards this project.

The chairman urged residents to support our Library, Post Office and all local businesses as due to local representation the Post Office refused to allow its outlet to move way from the village to Coastal Road and without local support, these businesses will disappear.

The parish council has been offered £14,920 from the developer on Coastal Road. In accordance with the terms of the S106 Agreement with City Council, a Trim Trail has been suggested as the money must be used for Young Peoples Facilities. There was a further sum, £9276, for Parks and Gardens but the City Council will be using this contribution towards the delivery of the Happy Mount Park Master Plan with current thinking favouring its use against the costs of the restoration of the Japanese Garden.

The Chairman then introduced Brian Crawley of the Thwaite Brow Woods Conservation Project who reported on the work of the group over the past year. Two new paths have been completed and several substantial dead trees have been felled. There has been some antisocial behaviour, a fire around the base of a large beech tree and an abandoned tent and chairs were removed from the top of the wood. The big event has been the approval of the Natural England Countryside Stewardship 10-year Woodland Management Plan that has been prepared by local woodland consultant Rebecca Oaks and will be managed by Brian. The Plan sets the format for major works over the next 10 years such as: management of the track and paths, removal of non-native and intrusive plants like snowberry and Spanish bluebells, installation of 25 new wildlife boxes, recognition and pampering of some mature and notable trees, removal of some large non-native trees to let more light into the wood to encourage some new growth. With two new volunteers in the last two months, the Group is working well but could always benefit from more.

The chairman thanked Brian and all the volunteers of the Group as well as all volunteers who support the village and declared the meeting open for questions and comments:

Mrs Bond – asked the chairman if a street light had been removed along Main Road from the Blue Anchor – *the chairman will investigate.*

Waste Bins – a request was put forward for a waste bin at the bus shelter St. Michael's Lane. Mrs Dennis asked if another bin could be placed between the seats at Wild Duck Hall. Cllr Craddock reported that signs have been put along The Shore asking people to pick up after their dog, a matter the Dog Warden will re-enforce.

It was reported that ceramic tiles have been fly-tipped at Morecambe Lodge – *Mike Ashton will remove.*

A complaint was made that water discharges across the footpath outside the car wash at Jubilee Garage which, when freezes over in the winter, is hazardous for pedestrians. It is understood that there is suitable drainage within the site for the water used in car washing but this runs off the vehicles when being dried.

However, it is a problem that must be resolved, and the chairman will speak with the owners in the first instance.

Chris Ingram – asked the council if the footpath between Mill Lane and The Shore could be extended with sleepers to assist those who walk along that public footpath. Cllr Craddock did point out that these sleepers are dangerous when wet, and it was suggested chicken wire might help people grip.

Mrs Sheila Pollitt – expressed her disappointment with the small number of residents who attended this evening's meeting. The chairman hoped that as shown in past years when there has been an issue of concern residents have turned up to protest, and therefore the parish council is working well.

A representative of the parish council was invited to the First Tuesday Hub which is hosted by Church. *Cllr Budden said he would attend.*

It was asked if the housing development on St. Michael's Lane will go ahead. *The chairman replied that an amendment has been made to the Approval to reduce the affordable housing element, but he had no further information of when the development would take place.*

There being no further questions or comments, the chairman closed the meeting. He thanked everyone for attending with a special thanks to the ladies of the WI for serving refreshments.