



## ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

AT 8:00PM ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021

CRICKET CLUB, BLAGUEGATE LANE, LATHOM

### MINUTES

Present: Parish Councillors Carol Blackledge, Roger Clayton, Andy Sanderson-Thomas, Andrew Beeston, Rich Neale, resident Adrian Smith and County Councillor Rob Bailey.

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillor Andrew Chanter and Borough Councillor Ian Rigby.

Parish Vice-Chairman Carol Blackledge chaired the meeting.

#### 1. To sign as a correct record the minutes of the last Parish Assembly held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Two years had passed since the last Annual Parish Assembly due to government restrictions on meeting during the Covid 19 pandemic. The Minutes were taken as read.

#### 2. Financial Report of the Parish Council

The following overview of accounts was distributed.

##### INCOME breakdown

Parish Precept	£	10,900.00	
Council Tax Support Grant	£	406.00	
Concurrent Grant	£	630.00	
LCC for footpaths	£	500.00	
Bank Interest	£	164.86	
Admin Payments	£	500.00	Bank switch payment
	£	360.00	Refund from Landmark
	£	30.00	returned cheque
Community Infrastructure Levy	£	56,959.93	
VAT	£	2,585.67	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>73,036.46</b>	

Expenditure			
staff salary, includes pension payments	£	6,548.10	
Admin, includes bank charges	£	196.54	
Room hire	£	30.00	one meeting
Audit/Insurance/ICO reg	£	632.48	
Subscriptions, CPRE, SLCC, OPSTA	£	130.65	
Information boards installation	£	382.00	WLBC Capital Grant used
Noticeboards	£	100.00	
Newsletters	£	178.00	
Section 137 grant	£	800.00	Stop Parbold Hill refill group*
Community Infrastructure Projects	£	4,136.49	Improvements to PROW
Footpath clearance non-CIL monies	£	200.00	supported by LCC grant
VAT	£	300.00	Refundable
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>13,634.26</b>	

\*LCC granted permission to reopen landfill site at Parbold Hill. This affects residents who travel this direction, as well as knock on effect of quarrying/landfill, increasing lorry traffic through the parish and possible smell, and pollutant effects. Therefore, a Section 137 Grant was deemed appropriate to seek legal opinion on the LCC decision, which was overturned following ARROW (Action for Recycling and Reduction of Waste) and Stop Parbold Landfill challenging the decision.

Section 137 Local Government Act 1972, authorises a local council to spend money for the direct benefit of its area or part of its area, for all or some of its inhabitants.

### **3. Report of the Parish Council Years - 2019/20**

The organisation of this meeting under Coronavirus restrictions has been difficult and the Parish Council is grateful for the Cricket Club for helping to set the meeting in a safe environment, complying with current government guidelines.

Parish Council Meetings have continued using Zoom, which was a new experience for many but we have managed to get a number of things underway.

Tree Warden work continued to be busy with the community orchard at Westhead and walking gaining a new found popularity. As people walk around, they see tree issues and report back. Getting out and about in the fresh air has been seen as more important than ever for mental as well as physical health during this time. As soon as possible, a guided tree walk will be organised again as those in the past were enjoyed by those attending. Very exciting prospects opening up with the acquisition of Jacobs Wood: donated by the Jacobs family to provide an oasis of tranquillity. During Lockdown, Working Woodlands were employed to survey, and do some stripping back work. Negotiations with Trelleborg to carry out some works on their land have been successful.

Information Boards have been installed, one at the community orchard. These are to guide walkers and encourage them to stay on the route. The usual annual litter picking was commissioned again to keep the roadsides tidy. Planning matters were also considered throughout the year, particularly latterly involving the Firswood Road developments.

Andrew Beeston, Andrew Chanter and Bill Wareing are thanked for the rebuilding of the bridge on Footpath 16.

Two new Parish Councillors joined the team during Lockdown, Rich Neal and Andy Sanderson-Thomas, bringing a new impetus to the work of the Council.

Community Infrastructure Levy money is currently being used to enhance public rights of way, including supporting the creation of more woodland.

#### **4. Matters Raised by Members of the Public present**

The lack of public bins continues to cause concern. One member of the public has spoken with Steve Bissette at WLBC who has agreed to installing two bins in the Firswood Road area.

#### **5. Forward Plan**

Jacobs Wood was offered out of the blue and we were lucky that the family responded when approached by the Tree Warden about Japanese knotweed encroaching upon it. We will continue to look after this land and create a breathing space for resident and visitors. It is really difficult to strike the balance between legitimate use of this space though and quad bikes and vandals, so installation of kissing gates are being considered. We need residents to stay vigilant and report anything to the police.

In the coming year we expect the Local Plan to rear it's head again and local government reorganisation reducing the number of Councillors on the Borough Council.

The new Parish Councillors are looking to reach out; a re-vamp of the website and possible use of social media. Perhaps organising social events for the parish, promotion of locally-grown produce and/or local music bands.

As ever thank you for all your help, we always need more volunteers so please continue to help and recruit your neighbours.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

**Carol Blackledge**  
**Vice-Chairman**

**11<sup>th</sup> May 2022**