

MINUTES of GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at 8.30 PM on MONDAY 11 MAY 2015
In the PARISH HALL

Opened at 8.30pm

Welcome and record **attendance**

1 Present

Chairman	P McAndrew
Council Members	M Torrance, L Hopkinson, A Lee, H Forwood, R Collier
District Councillors	D Hammond

Also present

Clerk	C Marshall
Public	19

2 Apologies H Brudenell, M Kershaw – Council Members
L Gibbon, N Wright – District Councillors

3 Declarations of Interest none

4 Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 May 2014 were agreed at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on 7th July 2014.

5 CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ELECTORATE – 2014/15

Chairman's Vote of Thanks

I would like to firstly thank Caroline Marshall, our Parish Clerk for all her hard work in her first year in the post. We are very impressed how quickly she has been able to support the Council with sound advice and with great enthusiasm.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors who served on the last Parish Council for their support and for all that they have achieved on behalf of the local community over the past 4 years. All Councillors gave of their time freely above and beyond the requirements of their office and all contributed fully towards our achievements.

I would particularly like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to Bill Anderson, Bob Wilkinson and Peter Davies who have given outstanding service as Parish Councillors but decided to stand down at this election.

I would also like to record my sincere thanks to John Hickey for his excellent service as a Parish Councillor for the last 8 years. Sadly John was not elected and I know that the Parish Council will miss his expertise and knowledge especially in relation to planning issues. Thank you John for all that you have done.

I congratulate all the Parish Councillors on being elected to serve on the Parish Council for the next 4 years.

I give a particularly warm welcome to the Parish Council to Hilary Brudenell, Robert Collier, Hazel Forwood and Marie Kershaw who have been elected to the Parish Council for the first time and I know that they will make an outstanding contribution.

The Chairman's Report

Much has been achieved and we are delighted to have this opportunity to tell the electorate about our work undertaken on their behalf as elected representatives.

The Parish Council welcomes this opportunity to report back to the electorate on what we have achieved. The Council reports annually to all the electorate providing a comprehensive written report on the activity of the Parish Council. The Council invites feedback from the electorate on the performance of the Council. The Council commits to respond positively to all feedback that is received from the electorate and review plans where this is required.

The Parish Council had a strategy named 'Engagement, Participation and Action' which it strived to achieve over the last 4 years.

The Parish Councils Strategy 2011 – 2015

I thought it would be appropriate to comment on how the previous council had performed against its stated strategy and to report back to the electorate in this the Annual Chairman's Report.

The Parish Council aimed:

- ❖ To respond to some of the issues that was helpfully raised in the Parish Plan.
- ❖ To engage local residents in local governance and to hear their voice.
- ❖ To participate jointly with the electorate on meeting some of the challenges that faces our special Parish.
- ❖ To take action and move forward to alleviate the feelings held by some that the Parish Council does not achieve much.



Review of the Parish Councils Performance – 2014

The performance of the Great Budworth Parish Council was formally reviewed by Cheshire West and Chester as part of the Review of Community Governance Arrangements.

Cheshire West and Chester - Review of Community Governance Arrangements - 2014.

164 questionnaires were mailed to dwellings in Great Budworth of which 50 were returned – a response rate of 30% - respondents felt that:

- the Parish Council represents them and their interests (74%);
- the Parish Council represents the whole community (72%);
- the Parish Council has the capacity to respond to the needs and priorities of the local community and deliver local services (72%); and
- the Parish Council is easy to reach and accessible (80%).

Recommendations

The boundary of the existing parish of Great Budworth be redrawn to the west at Warrington Road, Cock Lane and the North Cheshire Way to transfer the properties of Brookside, Crownest Cottage, Ladieswood, The Belmont Smithy, Brownslow Farm, The Cottage, Sandicroft Mews, Sandicroft, The Lodge (Sandicroft), Box Hedge Hall Lodge, Box Hedge Hall, Parkwood and Kidbrook House from Great Budworth parish to Comberbach parish;

We successfully appealed the boundary changes on behalf of those members of the electorate who did not want these changes to take place.

Final Recommendations

Great Budworth Parish Council provides strong evidence of their work with and representation of the local community, including the development and implementation of a Parish Plan; a four-year strategy to steer the work of the council; the production of monthly parish Bulletin and bi-monthly surgeries through which local electors can meet and discuss issues of local concern. The parish of Great Budworth should not be abolished.

Great Budworth Parish Council Newsletter – November 2011

What could be achieved within the life of the Strategy?

The following have been fully achieved:

- ✓ Saturday Surgeries are provided by Parish Councillors.
- ✓ Village roads are safer. Speed limit reduced to 20 MPH.
- ✓ The Cultural Heritage of the Village is maintained.
- ✓ Planning applications are effectively scrutinised.
- ✓ Local facilities are maintained with a high level of care and maintenance.
- ✓ Historical Features of the village are restored.
- ✓ A well-managed Village website is fully implemented and contains up to date information on the Parish Council.

The following are all areas where there have been some developments but they are still on-going:

- The Parish Council is accredited as a Quality Council.
- Significant members of the public engage in the work of the Parish Council.
- Effective joint working and communication exists with statutory and voluntary agencies
- Good joint working exists with the Heritage Society.
- Parish captures significant additional funding for local developments which benefits the community.
- Large Events do not obstruct access and egress from the village or prevent residents from using off road parking.

The following have not been achieved:

- ☒ Public transport is available to local residents who need services.
- ☒ A caring local community is engendered.

And of course we have had to attend to many other matters that have arisen unplanned.

Overall we feel that we have done a good job.

We did the following:

We maintained the beauty and heritage of Great Budworth by:

- ✓ Purchased the telephone kiosk and we restored it to its former excellent condition into a Book Exchange
- ✓ Plan to refurbish the Upper Pumphouse roof and timbers
- ✓ Maintain the Lower Pumphouse
- ✓ Replace the lime trees in Noah's Ark
- ✓ Crown the trees which the parish council has responsibility for
- ✓ Purchase distinctive signage to highlight entering the village
- ✓ Maintain the Avenue.

We maintained strong collaborative links with:

- ✓ The Church of St Mary and All the Saints – Great Budworth
- ✓ Great Budworth CE Primary School

- ✓ Cheshire West and Chester and especially our Local Councillors
- ✓ Cheshire Association of Local Councils

We made roads safer and improved parking through:

- ✓ The speed indicator devices purchased and sited on the A559 Warrington Road
- ✓ The 20 mph speed limit introduced into the heart of the village
- ✓ The extended 30mph speed limit
- ✓ The Plan to reinforce the Parish Field to facilitate more off road parking for special events
- ✓ The Plan for Restricted Parking Zones in High Street and Church Street

I hope you agree that we have achieved a great deal.

Clerk's Financial Report for 2014/2015

Balance B/F 2014/2015	11851
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Income £

Precept 2014/2015	8254.00
Precept Grant from CWAC	246.00
West Kirby Rambling Group	22.45
Disney Filming Fee	500.00
HMRC VAT Repayment	669.16
Big Talk 'Oakfield'	3000.00
District Councillors Grant	3150.00
Clerk Training Bursary	140.00
Grant New Homes Fund	1701.00
BT Refund	57.00
Aviva Insurance	755.24
Rent	2.00
Total	18523.85
 Working balance	 30,374.85

Expenditure £

Clerks Salary	2983.16
Tax	43.40
Clerks Expenses	281.30
Insurance	620.39
Stationary/copying	205.39
Audit	50.00
ChALC/SLCC/CCA	243.29
Training	390.00
Rent	228.00
Website	210.00
Chairman's Allowance	50.00
Trees	935.00
Railings Maintenance	48.52
Mums and Tots Grant	250.00
Bulletin Grant	280.00
Churchyard Grant	250.00
BT	510.42
Parish Field	229.20
Lighting	99.90
Balance C/F to 2015/16	£22383.00

6. Public Forum

- i. It was suggested that it maybe helpful for one member of the Parish Council to be a funding champion for the Parish Council.

Action:

**Cllr Collier to look into alternative sources of funding.
Finance Committee to discuss this in more detail.**

- ii. It was suggested that the funding could be sought from the Heritage Society for the damage to the Top Pumphouse. However, members present from Heritage Society advised that this would be not be possible at this time given the Heritage Societies account balance.
- iii. Rev. Brown advised that he felt that the village was a very caring community and that the Chairman was incorrect in his assertion that the Parish Council had failed in its goal of engendering a caring community. Cllr McAndrew advised he was referring to providing additional resources for health advice within the community.
- iv. The question was raised as to why the Bowling Club and Tennis Club only pay £1 in rent/year.

Action:

Clerk to check whether the leases for these clubs allow for an increase in rent.

7. Dates of future meeting

9th May 2015

Closed at 9.15

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**Signed as true record by Chairman Cllr McAndrew
6 July 2014**

Caroline Marshall, Clerk to Great Budworth Parish Council
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