

**MINUTES of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of GREAT BUDWORTH PARISH
COUNCIL
held at the PARISH HALL at 8.00 PM on MONDAY 4th April 2016**

Opened at 8.00pm

Part 1

1. Welcome and record attendance

1 Present

Chairman P McAndrew
Council Members A Lee, R Collier, H Brudenell, M Kershaw

Also present

Clerk C Marshall
Public 5

2. Apologies H Forwood, M Torrance L Hopkinson

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2015

Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11th May 2015 were agreed at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held in July 2015.

5. Reports from the Chairman and Clerk

(i) Chairman's Report for 2015/2016

The Parish Council thanked Cllr McAndrew for his hard work in his role as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr McAndrew gave the following report:

"This has again been a challenging year for the Parish Council with many important issues needing to be addressed. This was also the first year of the new Parish Council. Much has been achieved and we are delighted to have this opportunity to tell the electorate about the work that we have undertaken on their behalf as elected representatives. Firstly it is my great pleasure to publicly acknowledge and thank people for all their hard work.

Chairman's Vote of Thanks

I would like to thank Caroline Marshall, our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for all her hard work over the last year. The Parish Councillors and myself appreciate highly what Caroline has achieved in this challenging role and we appreciate it is not an easy task to make sure that the Council undertakes its statutory role in a legal, appropriate and effective manner. Caroline has brought an enthusiasm and freshness to the work of the council that is highly appreciated by all. She is also being supported to become fully qualified in her role. This has brought considerable extra value as she has developed a considerable

knowledge base on her role and especially the governance responsibilities of the Parish Council. I think we are being modernised!

I would also like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their support and for all that they have achieved on behalf of the local community over the past year. All Councillors give of their time freely above and beyond the requirements of their office and all have contributed fully towards our achievements.

The Councils 4 Year Strategy 2015 – 2019

What we want to achieve throughout all our work

- Greater openness and transparency
- Better communication
- Being proactive rather than reactive
- Planning for the future
- Working for our community
- Gaining recognition for the quality of our work
- Working with integrity in all we do.
- Practising good governance
- Measuring our effectiveness through audit.

The Parish Council have agreed 3 project areas:

- 1. Promoting the Village Community**
 - a. Getting to know our community better
 - b. Bringing the community together more
 - c. Meeting our community needs
 - d. Keeping our community better informed
 - e. Getting our community more involved
- 2. Maintaining the Village Environment**
 - a. Protecting what is special about our village
 - b. Protecting the conservation area and green belt
 - c. Promoting sympathetic development
 - d. Maintaining historic features
 - e. Maintaining the village's heritage
- 3. Maintaining the Village Infrastructure**
 - a. Strengthening Traffic Management and Road Safety
 - b. Providing Additional off Road Parking
 - c. Maintaining and Improving Village Facilities and Amenities
 - d. Maintaining and Developing the Village Environment

Achievements of the Parish Council in the Last Year:

- ✓ Parking in the village is being addressed and we have a comprehensive plan. The plan will be implemented throughout the life of this council.
- ✓ We are in the process of applying for the Parish Field to become a Field in Trust in memory of those who died in World War 1.
- ✓ Part of the Parish Field will be reinforced to provide extra parking for village events.
- ✓ We have agreed to fund an extensive 3 year plan to maintain the quality of the Lime Tress in the Avenue.
- ✓ We are doing a comprehensive review of the Parish Council's assets to make sure that they are protected.
- ✓ We are repairing and restoring the Upper Pumphouse.

- ✓ *We are addressing dog fouling in the village. New dog fouling bins have been installed in the Avenue. Clean up after your pet campaign is being implemented.*
- ✓ *The village website is now maintained by the Parish Clerk. The Parish Council has a Facebook and twitter account.*
- ✓ *High Quality Finials have been purchased for Westage Lane and will shortly be fitted.*
- ✓ *We have scrutinised all planning applications and made comments where appropriate.*
- ✓

The Major Challenges for the Future:

Two major challenges:

1. *The high financial costs associated with maintaining the quality of the village environment. We need more money!*
2. *Engaging and communicating more effectively with the public.*

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

A Final Comment

It has been a privilege to be the Chairman of Great Budworth Parish Council for the last 5 years. The position has been enjoyable, challenging and rewarding. I feel it is time to stand down and for somebody else to introduce new motivation and enthusiasm to the leadership of the Council.

I would like to use this opportunity to highlight my view that there is in some quarters a serious lack of respect, dignity and value shown to the work of the Parish Council. To me this has been a source of personal distress as these are qualities that I hold dear and are central to my professional life. To hold different opinions and views is a considerable strength and debate is a positive process. These should not be a source of hostile and personal argument that has been the case in some of our proceedings. I hope we can move into a new era."

(ii) Clerk's Report for 2015/2016

The Clerk updated on the progress made with Facebook, Twitter and the Parish Website and highlighted the grants received by the Parish Council.

Additionally the Clerk highlighted the key areas of expenditure and spend for the year against the budget set (Appendices 1).

6. Public Forum

Opened: 8.30pm

Concerns were raised regarding Great Budworth being identified as a Local Service Centre in the draft version of the Local Plan Part 2.

Action: Clerk to seek further information on this matter for the May Parish Council Meeting.

Concerns were also raised about the cancellation of the Warrington to Northwich Bus Service that is to be discontinued on the 24th April 2016 and the lack of consultation about this matter.

Action: Clerk to contact Antrobus Parish Council regarding the consultation they received on this discontinuation.

Closed: 8:45pm

17. Dates of next meeting:

9th May 2016 – 7.30pm Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Part 2

Items of a “confidential or other special nature” during which it is likely that the meeting will not be open to the public and press as there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

Closed 8.50pm

Signed as a true record

Chairman

16th May 2016

Caroline Marshall, Clerk to Great Budworth Parish Council
6 Massey Avenue, Hartford, Northwich Cheshire, CW8 1RF
Tel: 01606 259960 Email: greatbudworthparishclerk@gmail.com