

**MINUTES OF THE POTT SHRIGLEY ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY  
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON  
14th May 2018**

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Present Councillor | M Wray (Chair)  |
| Councillors        | D Basford<br>P Boulton<br>J Goodman<br>K Meecham<br>A Preston |
| Parish Clerk       | Mrs. J Burton   |
| Public             | seven members of the parish                                   |

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr. Barlow-Walsh

**2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.**

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

**4. FINANCE REPORT**

The Clerk presented the meeting with copies of the Income and Expenditure and the Balance Sheet for 2017-2018 and explained the following points.

**Receipts**

The accounts show that the income was £372 less than last year for the following reasons:-

The removal payment of a non-specific Parish Grant by Cheshire East Council.

A further decrease in interest rates on Council investments

A reduced VAT claim because of fewer purchases

A decrease in sales of footpath maps

The money paid for Operation Shield kits bought by the Parish Council from the police was refunded by the residents concerned and resulted in a small receipt of money.

**Expenditure**

The accounts show that the expenditure was £830 less than last year for the following reasons:-

There were no audit fees this year

No councillors claimed expenses

There was no grant to the Village Hall

There was a decrease in number of copies of Parish magazine sent out at Christmas

Very few items were bought

There were some repairs but no major purchases

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AND DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE YEAR**

**General**

The Parish Spring Clean was held on Saturday 7th April a large load of vehicle window droppings being recovered, including a couple of car tyres and a broken hedge trimmer amongst other things. Of additional concern is the now regular fly tipping at various locations of cannabis growers' spent compost in plastic bags, each deposit being a large car boot load. Fortunately, CEC and the Police appear keen to search the remains for evidence and pick up and dispose of them.

Thanks to Cllr Boulton for continued regular attendance at the Poynton Area Community Partnership meetings during the year.

Early last year we received excellent news that St Christopher's had appointed a new vicar and a very enjoyable event was held at Shrigley Hall in November to welcome the Reverend David Swales and his wife Kim to the village.

### **School**

After widespread support for the School within the community and a small number of dedicated volunteers stepping up to the mark, the School is once again an independent entity and is now on a much firmer footing than this time last year. Adjoining land has been successfully procured by the Village Hall from the adjoining landowners and EYFS provision has been implemented with further improvements being planned. A new Headteacher will be starting in time for the new school year in September as a teaching head, with sole responsibility for Pott Shrigley School. Pupil numbers continue to steadily rise and it is hoped to be at full capacity very soon. The Parish Council will continue to offer all the help and support it can in securing the school for the future.

### **Highways & Policing**

The SID deployment programme has run into some difficulties due to failure of the equipment. It is rather annoying that the two units we share with Adlington and Rainow, which were originally purchased by the Police and subsequently transferred to the Parish Council's ownership for a nominal charge, have now failed and been returned to the manufacturer. The repair costs are looking to be prohibitively expensive so the Councils need to jointly consider the expenditure and ongoing operating costs against the effectiveness of the SID devices. Another aspect of data collection from the devices, in addition to speed, is traffic count. However, this has recently been brought into question due to the erratic numbers produced.

The South Manchester Airport link road construction is in considerable delay with one of the joint principal contractors going into administration, plus major construction issues. The date for opening will now be in 2019 and I'm sure the planned dates for the Poynton Relief Road will be subject to a similar delay. The effect of both roads on Pott Shrigley's traffic remains unclear at this stage but the Council will continue to press for mitigation measures based on a predicted increase in traffic.

A spate of numerous stone thefts in adjoining towns and parishes during the early part of the calendar year finally reached Pott Shrigley during March / early April with Pott Hall Farm having many of its front wall tops taken, in the early hours of the morning. It seems the best deterrent is the deployment of CCTV and the Parish Council currently has a trial underway with a portable covert battery operated recording device.

During the year we received a request from the Police to contribute to the Rural Crime Officer for purchase of specialist equipment; adjoining Parishes had received the same and have agreed to contribute on a two yearly basis. This is considered by Pott Shrigley as a form of double taxation when every household's considerable contribution to policing already clearly appears on all properties' Council Tax bills but not wanting to be excluded, we reluctantly agreed to contribute a one-off small amount.

### **Planning**

A small number of planning applications have been commented on by the Council to both Cheshire East and Peak Park.

It is pleasing to note that after numerous applications covering many aspects of the property the main house at Normans Hall is finally being constructed after over fifteen years of being empty. Additionally the conversion of the outbuildings into properties has been approved in outline and will provide a considerable increase in residential properties in the Parish. This will be similar to the development of Birchcliffe around twenty years ago.

The Council's year came to an end with a very appropriately timed Civic Service. The event was very well attended and we even got the weather on our side. Many thanks to Joyce for making the majority of the arrangements, including provision of the excellent refreshments, which were enjoyed by all. Finally, many thanks to all the Councillors for their meeting attendance and work throughout the year and to Joyce for all her hard work in the dual role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

#### **6. PARISHIONERS' QUESTIONS**

- a. Mr. Wood was concerned about the whereabouts of certain graves because apparently in the past parishioners who were poor were buried without any headstones.
- b. He also thought that during every third Council meeting parishioners should be allowed to speak. Cllr. Wray informed him that after each meeting is closed, parishioners are able to ask questions and raise issues. During the meeting parishioners are not allowed to speak as it is a meeting for councillors.
- c. Mrs. Winstanley informed the meeting that she had been appointed the new chair of the committee of Community Liaison, a sub committee of the school governors.
- d. The issue of the poor quality of rural broadband was raised. Apparently a parishioner has had fibre broadband installed at considerable personal cost. It was pointed out that fibre broadband is available in some areas of the village. She wondered whether the PC could exert any pressure on BT to improve the system and increase the broadband speed.
- e. A parishioner reminded the Council of the poor state of Bakestonedale Road. She was informed that the Council was doing everything possible to address the issue. At its request the gullies had been recently emptied and the edge of carriageway near Bakestonedale Farm inspected and repair work was in hand.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.