

Wingerworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors Held on 22 April 2016

P	Cllr Diana Ruff (Chair)	A	Cllr Cecilia Harper
P	Cllr Dawn Hart (Vice Chair)	A	Cllr Chris Hutchings
P	Cllr Pat Antcliff	A	Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj
P	Cllr Colin Berry	P	Mike Taylor (Clerk)
A	Cllr Kevin Broughton		and 2 members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Diana Ruff, opened the meeting at 8pm by welcoming Members of the Council and members of the public.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Kevin Broughton, Cllr Cecilia Harper, Cllr Chris Hutchings and Cllr Anne Knyhynyckyj.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of Annual Meeting of Electors held on 24 April 2015 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Summary of Accounts

The Clerk presented a summary of the accounts for 2015/2016 and highlighted a number of points. Recurrent income was £189,231 which was almost £15,000 above the budget figure. This was mainly due to extra income for lettings against a budget figure that had been set prudently low given the uncertainties associated with lettings income at the time the budgets were set.

Recurrent expenditure for the year was £163,233 which represented a saving of almost £10,000 on the budget figure. Savings had been achieved in all of the major spending categories with the exception of spending on outdoor facilities which was overspent by just over £2,000, most of which was due to extra expenditure on the Council's allotments.

The Clerk highlighted a number of areas of interest and drew attention to the overall surplus on recurrent income over recurrent expenditure for the year of £26,000 against an almost balanced budget for the year. However it was noted that there were a number of adjustments for accruals and prepayments that needed to be made to the final accounts prior to auditing which would cause some changes to the unadjusted figures as presented at this meeting. .

In addition to the recurrent expenditure the Council had committed a total of just over £8,000 on capital expenditure during the year which was offset by credits of almost £4,000. The expenditure was mainly in respect of professional fees associated with the Neighbourhood Planning process and proposals to build a new Parish Hall.

The Clerk stated that once the final adjusted accounts had been completed and audited the overall reserves held by the Council looked likely to increase by over £16,000 at the year end to total some £177,000, most of which was in a reserve towards building costs for the Parish Hall with the balance of about £20,000 held in a general reserve.

5. Chairperson's Report

Cllr Diana Ruff opened what was her sixth report as Chair of the Parish Council by commenting on what had been a busy, interesting and sometimes frustrating year but overall a rewarding one. She regretted the resignations of three Members during the year, all for personal reasons, and expressed appreciation for their service while Councillors.

She outlined the three major areas of work during the year, with the production of a Neighbourhood Plan, examining ways of moving forward with a renovated or new Parish Hall and the successful collaboration with the Friends of Wingerworth Parks which had produced a new MUGA.

The Council had funded and helped to run the Well Dressing and associated Craft Event as well as the Christmas Tree Festival in All Saints Church. She expressed thanks to all concerned and also to Peter Rhodes for organising the sponsorship for the Parish Christmas Tree when then the switching on night drew a lot of people. The Council had also supported the Family Fun Day, the Scouts Bonfire and Fireworks Display, the Café WY which ran throughout the year and had organized a well-supported Craft Fair in November.

She complemented the various clubs and associations using Council facilities on their good progress during the year – allotments, angling, bowling, cricket, football and tennis. The good work with footpaths across the Parish by Mike Sims, David Selkirk and other volunteers was noted and she was pleased that the Rolling Arts programme and the Winter Neighbourhood Scheme were continuing to flourish.

PCSO Mike Coates had provided regular reports to the Council and the arrival of PCSO Hannah Disney was welcomed. The Safer Neighbourhood Team meetings were now well established although it was disappointing that they were not normally well-attended by members of the public. The "Clean for the Queen" litter pick day had been a success for which she thanked Mike Sims.

In closing, Cllr Ruff thanked everyone involved in the daily upkeep of the Parish and its facilities and thanked also the Parish Clerk, the Vice Chair and fellow Members for their support and commitment.

6. Reports of the County and District Councillors – there were no reports.

7. Discussions and Questions - there were no questions or comments.

8. Closure

The Chairwoman thanked Members and the elector for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.18pm.