

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
CHESTER ROAD, KELSALL ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Leather (Chairman), Cllr Hopwood, Cllr Armstrong, Cllr Mrs Lacey,  
Cllr Dutton, Cllr Mrs Berry, Cllr Mrs Caney, Cllr Mrs Cowell, Cllr Castle.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Unitary Councillor Deynem and two members of the public.

**A1/11 APOLOGIES**

Unitary Councillor Parker, Unitary Councillor Bailey.

**A2/11 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD  
ON THE 12TH APRIL 2010.**

**Resolved: That the minutes of the annual meeting held on the 12th April 2010  
be signed as a correct record.**

**A3/11 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Cllr Leather presented the Chairman's report:-

Welcome to the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Kelsall Parish Council.

Prior to elections next month, we look back on four very productive years with two large community projects completed, Kelsall's Parish Landscape and Design Statement published in December 2007, and the completion last month of the play area on Kelsall Green after three years of hard work. I congratulate all those involved in both these projects that will have a long term influence on the quality of life in Kelsall; in particular those members of the Recreation Committee who received awards from the Parish Council at a ceremony on Saturday for their outstanding contributions to the new play area, namely Natalie Read, Ian Lowden, Sharon Grover, Tara Edelman, Edward Nixon, Sharon Harley and Noel Dutton. In addition, our Design Statement has been cited as an example of good practice for community projects.

Once again we have fared well in community awards, being "Highly Commended" in the Cheshire "Community Spirit" competition. Our first "Societies Day" on Saturday was very well attended and demonstrates the health of clubs, societies and institutions in our small community. Once again, I take the opportunity to pay tribute to all those who give their time to running these organisations, clubs and societies for the benefit of others. I also welcome the success of the more recent initiatives such as Kelsall's second Beer Festival!

I should also pay tribute to the clever ladies of the Women's Institute for winning the County Quiz this year.

Among the volunteers within the community, I thank our Tree Wardens, Anita Powell and Maureen Caney for their advice during the year, and John Hammond for the many long hours he devotes to the management and maintenance of our much admired community website [www.kelsall.org.uk](http://www.kelsall.org.uk).

The Boundary Commission has reviewed our unitary authority, Cheshire West and Chester, and new warding arrangements come into force at the forthcoming elections; our new ward is called Tarvin & Kelsall and includes Willington, Oakmere, Duddon, Clotton Hoofield and Delamere parishes.

Looking to the future, the government's Localisation initiative will give parish and town councils more opportunity to influence the way that their communities develop. This will require communities to develop a broadly supported strategic view on issues such as housing, I hope this Council will take a lead on these issues by, for instance, the completion and extension of the Kelsall Parish Plan. Other shared aspirations that I hope will be pursued include the installation of power to Kelsall Green for lighting and for use at the Folk Festival, and the purchase of suitable land for a parish graveyard.

For some of us, this will be our last meeting as Kelsall parish councillors; I thank them and those who continue for their service to this community. In particular, I thank Ann Lacey whose service of over 30 years may well be the longest in the entire history of this Council. I thank our vice-chair, Noel Dutton for his support over the past 4 years and our Clerk Natalie, whose contributions to the smooth running of the community are above and beyond the call of duty. I also thank our Borough Councillors for the support and guidance they have given us over the past two years

I hope that the achievements of this Council will encourage other residents to put forward their names for consideration as parish councillors. I would especially encourage younger members of our community to take an interest, with the assurance that training can be obtained in most of the areas in which parish councillors work.

It has been a privilege to lead this Council over the past 4 years; I wish those who follow every success.

#### **A4/11 FINANCE REPORT:**

The Clerk presented the financial report for 2010/11:-

The Parish Council began the financial year with a balance of £9,576.62.

Once again it has been a busy year with large sums coming and going for the

playground but now work is at last complete the councils bank accounts should now go back to normal.

This year the Finance Committee recommended a precept of £28,298.00 an increase of £2,258.00. The increase is mainly due to the new street cleaning arrangements with Cheshire West and Chester Council; the Parish Council no longer receive a grant to employ Mr McKee with Streetscene taking over the cleaning of our streets. Unfortunately this does not include private land and therefore Kelsall Green. The Parish Council made the decision to employ Mr McKee to keep the Green and other small pockets of unadopted areas clean. It was also agreed to set aside £1,000.00 for the Kelsall Day Centre, if needed, after they lost the funding from Age Concern. The recommendations of the Finance Committee were agreed by the Parish Council during the meeting in January.

We finish the year with £18,183.52 in the accounts and this figure is broken down into the following:-

General Fund	12,034.53
Recreation Fund	63.00
VDS/PP	4,085.99
Kelsall Day Centre	2,000.00
	.....
	£18,183.52

The £2,000 Kelsall Day Centre fund is a grant awarded by Cheshire West and Chester Council to the Day Centre, which we are holding for them. The reason why we look so healthy in the General Fund is because we received the VAT reclaim for 2010/2011 for £6,109.57 just before the end of the financial year.

#### **A5/11 REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE KELSALL GREEN COMMITTEE:**

The Chairman of the Kelsall Recreation Committee, Mrs. Natalie Read, gave the following report:-

Once again since my last report we have had new equipment in the playground, the Queen Swing, Tower System, second Nest Swing and the Horizontal Bars. The Committee now consider the playground finished and have no plans for any further Installations, and as a result the Recreation Committee in its present form met for the last time on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March at the Farmers Arms. During the meeting Sharon Harley, Sharon Grover, Tara Edelman and I all retired from the Committee. During the Parish Council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> March I, on behalf of the Recreation Committee, formally handed responsibility and ownership of the playground over to the Parish Council and requested that the Committee be dissolved. This of course does not mean other projects on the land won't happen, but we do need new people to take on any ideas like a BMX/Skate park.

We started this project towards the end of 2007 and it has been one of the most rewarding projects I have ever been involved with. The feeling of satisfaction when the sun is shining and the playground is full is amazing. I don't think many people in the village could not agree that it has changed Kelsall in a very positive way. However I cannot emphasise enough this is a community project and it belongs to the community; it is the responsibility of everyone not just the Parish Council and certainly not the Recreation Committee to look after it. We must all monitor the behaviour of children on the playground and we are all responsible in trying to keep it clean, tidy and safe. Only by taking on that joint responsibility can we hope to avoid some of the anti-social behaviour we have had in the past and sadly, on occasion, continue to have. How are children ever going to learn if no one tells them to stop dropping their litter or not to ride bikes on the playground. If you witness anything more serious please report it to either the Police or the Parish Council. By a resident coming forward we caught the children involved in setting fire to the horses tails, they were made to repay the cost of replacing them. The system can and does work but we need you all to help.

Since we started in 2007 with nothing in our accounts we have managed to raise an amazing £158,983. That is a whole lot of cakes made and sold, bridge games played, small change put in the collection boxes at the Co-op and Chemist, donations from local groups and individuals and of course grants applied for. We spent £164,524 on equipment and installation. Though that looks like we have overspent, the Parish Council kindly offered to pay the VAT on the last three pieces of equipment which they will be able to claim back. As a result of this the amount spent by the recreation committee is £158,920.

This is the part of my report where I thank people involved with the project and of course the obvious people come to mind, but this year is special because this is my final act as Chairman of the Committee; so, rather than naming people like I have in the past, I want to thank Kelsall as a whole, because without everyone from the people who made us cakes, put their change in a collection tin, gave private donations, came to fund-raising events regardless of whether they enjoyed folk music or not, and helped in so many ways I cannot begin to list them, none of this would have been possible. So thank you Kelsall; you have given yourself a wonderful playground and recreation area - look after it and enjoy it!

## **A6/11 REPORT FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE TARVIN EDUCATION FOUNDATION:**

Cllr Dutton presented the Tarvin Education Foundation Report:-

The Tarvin Educational Foundation was established to manage the endowment of the old Tarvin Grammar School. The purpose is to assist in the educational needs of pupils of secondary school age and older, who live in the ancient parish of Tarvin, comprising the villages of Tarvin, Ashton, Kelsall and Clotton Hoofield.

During the past twelve months we have made awards to fourteen students, totalling £4,650.00. These covered a broad range of subjects and university projects, ranging through psychology, further maths, physics, zoology, medicine, fine arts and outdoor education.

Funds are generated through leasing of farmland owned by the Trust and by letting of the Grade 2 Schoolmaster's House and the schoolroom at Tarvin, both adjacent to St Andrew's church.

Applications for assistance with tuition fees, maintenance, books, musical instruments and travel on approved courses, can be made in writing to the Clerk to the Governors, Mr David Cotgreave, Brown Heath Farm, Tarvin.

**Cllr Dutton was asked what sort of awards were given, Cllr Dutton said anything between £100 and £700.**

## **A7/11 REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMUNITY CENTRE:**

Mr John Gray, Chairman of the Kelsall Community Centre Management Committee, sent in the following report:-

The Community Centre's finances continue to be in a very healthy condition in spite of the fuel price increases.

United Utilities finally gave in and reduced their charges to a more acceptable level. The Centre's ever vigilant Treasurer continues to source the best deals possible for fuel suppliers and to deposit the Centre's funds where they will attract the best interest most appropriately.

Bookings are steady and we are sometimes in a position where prospective hirers have to be turned away as there are no available times. Some years ago the previous committee agreed that there would be free bookings for charitable fund raising amounting to one event each quarter. Only a very few organisations took up the opportunity. At a recent management meeting it was agreed to discontinue this scheme from September this year. All village societies are entitled to a reduced hire charge and that will continue. At its last meeting the Committee reviewed the hire charges and

agreed that there should be a nominal increase from September this year of an average 5%. The new charges will add very little to the cost of hire and compare very favourably with other centres. The hire charges were last increased three years ago.

The original electricity consumer unit was replaced last summer with two new units each combined with an RCD (Residual Current Device). This is a safety requirement in all buildings used by the public and is designed trip-out any circuit virtually instantaneously when a leakage is detected. Beginning in August this year the ageing central heating system will be upgraded helped by a very useful grant of £5000 from our Council Members' Budgets with the remainder coming from Centre funds. All the new radiators will be provided with attractive punched steel guards to protect them from knocks and the public both large and small from sharp edges and hot surfaces. Hopefully they will be fiddle proof. Similar controls to those presently in use will be maintained. All exposed pipework will be boxed in and insulated where appropriate. It is also planned to improve the disabled toilet by redecoration, a new wash hand basin, an undersink electric water heater and a thermostatically controlled tap. A vanity unit will be added to house the basin and hide any pipework. Similar water heaters will be installed in the main toilets in conjunction with self closing taps on the wash hand basins so that they cannot be left running thus wasting water and electricity.

The Management Committee is of the strong belief that it holds the stewardship of the Centre on behalf of the village and has a duty to spend its funds wisely and well so that when the time comes to hand over to another group it will be seen to have been well maintained and in good order for the future.

**It was agreed to write to the Kelsall Community Centre Committee congratulating them for the work they have carried out over the past year.**

#### **A8/11 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS:**

1. Mrs Carol Watson, the Parish Youth Officer, sent in the following report:-

##### St Philips Youth Club

Youth Club is now co-ordinated by Ann Barnett, supported by a committed group of volunteers. Each session is attended by anything between 20 – 45 young people! A wide range of activities take place in the community centre, along with regular outings – such as ice skating and the pantomime.

##### Duke of Edinburgh Award

This Scheme continues to flourish under the leadership of Peter Moore, supported by

Daniel Gaskarth and Elaine Shakespeare. There is also a strong network of helpers. However, additional targeted support is needed e.g. admin assistant (computer literate), assessing skills (clubs/societies/voluntary sector), van owner, map reading etc. As this provision has grown, it has been necessary to source grant opportunities to purchase essential quality equipment and remain up-to-date with technology.

Reasons to Celebrate:

- About 10 certificates (Silver and Bronze) will be awarded at Chester Cathedral on 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- New group of Bronze participants started in September 2010.
- A range of leadership training is ongoing.

### Kelsall Youth Support Group

The group continues to fund the services of a detached youth worker (Treena Gilson) who visits Kelsall on a Wednesday evening. The youth worker's role is to encourage, support and challenge, the choices made by young people and to develop a positive relationship with all parts of the wider community. However, the Local Authority has agreed to fund the downsize of Connexions saving the company from administration. How this will impact on our provision is unclear at this stage.

The Youth Support Group relies entirely on grants or donations. Over the last 12 months all grants received have supported the Duke of Edinburgh provision and the services of a detached youth worker.

A provisional date has been set for the AGM 9<sup>th</sup> May in the social club. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

**It was agreed to write to Ann Barnett, Carole Watson and Peter Moore congratulating them all on a fantastic job with the various clubs and groups.**

2. Cllr Mrs Cowell gave the following reports:-

#### Kelsall Day Centre.

The Day Centre is staffed by 40 volunteers and caters for 10 – 12 members weekly on Mondays. Age UK will not run this facility after the end of May 2011. A new company 'Rural Community Services' will take over and the centre will be managed by a Local Management Committee (LMC) with the help of an advisor. Details of the transfer are being finalised. The LMC is confident that the Day Centre will continue as it does now as it has funding for 3 years.

The LMC is grateful for the support of the Parish Council.

Kelsall W.I

Kelsall WI has 67 members and a full programme of events this year.

War Memorial Charity.

In 2010 the £23,500 bequeathed to the Kelsall Memorial Charity Trust by the late Mr Clifford Davies was allocated to the 5 principal groups/organisations (Kelsall Community Centre, Social Club, Tennis Club, Bowling Club and Football Club) with the Football Club still to receive £1,500.00

**A9/11 DATE FOR NEXT ANNUAL MEETING:**

**9<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**