

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, Bolton
Monday 15th May 2017 in Bolton Memorial Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm. A total of 34 persons were present, including six Parish Councillors, County Councillor Neil Hughes and District Councillor Joan Raine.

1. Welcome and introduction

The Parish Clerk, Shelagh Leyland welcomed those present and thanked them for attending. She pointed out that the Annual Parish Meeting is not a formal meeting of the Parish Council, but an opportunity for members of the community to give their views. Bolton community is to be commended for the support given to the Parish Council.

2. Election of Chairman for the meeting

Peter Griffiths was proposed as Chairman by John Cotter, and seconded by Councillor Peter Smith.

3. Apologies

Derick Cotton sent apologies

4. Bolton Willows Trust

The Chairman welcomed David Baxter, a trustee, and thanked him for attending. David explained the background to the Trust (full name Bolton Willows and Townland Trust) which has been in existence for many years. Two areas of land were left in trust to the community of Bolton: approximately 3 acres on the Colby road, just past the Bolton Lodge turnoff, and approximately 20 acres ("The Willows") further up North End. The Trust rents out the land for agricultural purposes at public auction every two years. Until about 12 years ago the income was divided annually between all residents of the parish, but the Trustees then decided that the fund could be put to better use as grants for projects that would benefit the community in general. The Memorial Hall, the school, the WI and the church have benefited from grants in the past, but recently there have not been many applications. David is unsure of the exact annual income, but it is usually around £2,000 per year, and there are a "few thousand pounds" currently available. Other trustees are Chris Butterworth (Chairman), George Ellwood, Harold Forrester, and Peter Dent.

David explained that there are no governing documents or guidelines for applications, nor is there an application form. Applications are made in writing to the Chairman and the Trustees decide if the cause is worthy of an award. New trustees are appointed by existing ones.

The Chairman suggested that David put together a brief explanation of the Trust to go on the parish website.

5. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2016/17

"This is my third annual report as chairman and it has been a full and interesting year.

As before, I will try to cover some of the main events briefly but, first of all, I must thank my colleagues for their support – particularly Roger, Vice-Chairman, Peter past Chairman. Shelagh, our clerk, has continued to fulfil her role with commendable enthusiasm and industry.

I should also mention the departure of two of our councillors, Frankie Hayton, who resigned in September for family reasons and Mark Holliday, who moved out of the village recently. I should like to thank both of them for their service, which, in Mark's case lasted twenty years. We have co-opted Alan Green as one replacement and hope to be able to add another shortly.

Taking events in turn, the Field Day last June was a great success, thanks to the efforts of Andy Stevens, Claire Hudson, Christine Taylor and all their helpers. The next one is due on Saturday 24th June. As always, everybody welcome.

In the Cumbria In Bloom competition, Bolton again gained four awards last year including 2 gold – A remarkable achievement. Great credit to Eleanor Hayton, Ann Shepherd and Sheila Summerscales, whose portfolio was especially commended, and all those involved. Sheila has been invited to join the Cumbria In Bloom Committee.

The Open Garden Day run by the Stathams benefitted from good weather and attendance, resulting in significant funds being raised for charity.

The bonfire party was also very well attended again, providing great fun for all present. It was very well organised by Frankie Hayton, Keira Booth and the PTA. We hope this will continue to be an annual event.

Close to my heart, the Litter Picking team including several new heroes collected a massive haul of eighteen sacks during the Great British Spring Clean. Thanks of course to the thoughtless people who kindly deposited on our verges and made the collection necessary.

A public meeting was held with Highways which enabled residents to express their concerns, particularly regarding the A66 junction.

A meeting was also held recently to discuss ideas for the redevelopment of the playing field and play area. This was well attended, producing a number of suggestions and sufficient interest to form a steering group to take the project forward. This will be a major initiative for the village, entailing a lot of work and substantial cost. I attended a Grant Funding Event ten days ago which indicated substantial funding is available if we can put together a convincing proposal and demonstrate community involvement. We are looking for volunteers to join the committee and help with fund raising. Andy will speak more about this shortly.

In relation to the field, Shelagh was successful in obtaining a community grant of over £800 towards maintenance equipment.

A new walking group, Bolton Wanderers, has been established due to the initiative of Jim Sellars and has already undertaken a number of interesting walks.

Bolton Exchange itself continues to flourish, providing a valuable service and a meeting place for the community, thanks to the efforts of all the volunteers who keep it going.

In terms of entertainment we continue to benefit from the Film Nights organised by Paul and Pat Wilson, which have been a big success with an interesting programme and good attendances.

We have also had several live shows in the Memorial Hall performed by Highlights Productions organised by Cathy Smith.

The Bolton's Got Talent evening demonstrated the truth of the title, making an interesting and entertaining event.

Our speed camera is now in regular use managed by Alan Green with the cost being shared with Temple Sowerby and Great Asby.

High Speed Broadband has at last arrived in Bolton and is fully functioning.

The village website continues to go from strength to strength and provides a valuable means of communication for residents, the council, local businesses and societies. In fact, most of my report will have appeared on the site at some time. I hope you visit and use it.

John Tomlinson and Neil Austin established the site and have maintained it since the start. John has recently moved out of the village and so is giving up the role and our thanks go to him for all the work he has done. Neil will continue with new assistants.

Shelagh has developed her round robin email system which now comprises some 130 users, more than double last years' circulation, and has proved really helpful in conveying practical, up to date information.

Eden Grove – The status quo is that the owner, Mr Bhailok, has succeeded in gaining planning permission to develop up to 35 units., following the signing of a Section 106 agreement with the EDC. However, he has not gone on to develop the site and instead has put it up for sale for £2 million, The final outcome remains to be seen.

Neighbourhood Plan – Hard to believe but we submitted our draft plan to the EDC for scrutiny and formal examination in September 2015. It was delayed as a result of staff changes and an error on the part of the EDC. Subsequently we have been advised to await the outcome of the new EDC Local Plan as our plan

has to tie in with the Local Plan. This has also taken forever but is due to be finalised shortly when we intend to press on with updating our own plan and seeking approval. Incidentally Bolton is no longer considered a Key Hub in the new EDC Plan, which means that no large-scale housing will be allocated here.

I am sorry for this long ramble but this is because so much has been going on in Bolton. I also apologise to anyone I have missed out. I would like to finish as I did last year. Bolton is very fortunate to have so many people who are willing to give freely of their time for the good of the community. As always, they are a minority of the community but our minority is much more substantial and active than most. This is something of which we should continue to be proud and grateful.”

6. Other Councillors' reports

Alan Green reported that the SID did seem to have a deterrent effect on speeding motorists and asked for suggestions about future placement. One suggestion was closer to the western entrance of the village but it may not be suitable due to angles and road direction.

7. Financial report

The Parish Clerk presented the annual accounts, copies of which were available to the meeting. The report is attached. The accounts have been internally audited (without charge) by John Cotter. They will be posted on the parish Web-site in due course as required by law. From next year, Bolton Parish will not need to submit an external audit return as long as the turnover is less than £25,000. However, all the information that is usually submitted for external audit will have to be in the public domain on the web-site.

8. Up-date on the Play Area Improvement Plan

The Chairman of the Hall Committee, Andy Stevens, reported on plans to up-date and extend the fenced play area near the Hall for young children, and possibly extend recreational facilities for older children into the field. Areas of the field that are potentially available have been mapped out. The “bacon buttie” morning generated useful ideas for improving the facilities. Andy explained why two of the ideas (the pond and the embankment slide) would not be going forward. He emphasised that any plans would need to have the blessing of the Hall Committee, and also EDC. A Steering Committee is in the making, having held one initial meeting, with another planned on 23rd May. The EDC officer in charge of Playgrounds will be visiting Bolton to assess the site this Wednesday, and will also attend the next meeting. The experience of Morland playpark steering group will be drawn on. Plans for fundraising are in the early stages. There was discussion about the age range to be catered for, with suggestions about an outdoor gym for adults: SL offered to explore the level of use of such facilities in other parishes. A plea was made for anyone interested in taking the project forward to get in contact, as a variety of skills will be required.

Public Forum

Jim Sellars, leader of Bolton Wanderers Walking Group, asked whether the Parish Council insurance would cover the walking group: at present people walk at their own risk. SL will ask the insurers.

Queries were raised about the portaloo next to the Methodist Chapel. SL reported that the Chapel authorities will have to apply for retrospective planning permission. EDC has indicated that it is acceptable for the PC to apply on their behalf to take advantage of the reduced rate (the Chapel will pay), but no paperwork has yet been received. The portaloo will be painted and screened from the street, and as far as anyone knows, will not be open to the public.

The owner of Eden Grove has agreed that the Parish Council can sell items from the buildings, with proceeds being used for the benefit of the parish. It was agreed that the play area project would be a suitable recipient. Possible ways to go about the logistically difficult sale were discussed, but nothing agreed on.

9. Date of next Annual Parish meeting: Tentatively Monday 21st May 2018

BOLTON PARISH COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2016-17

INCOME 2016-17			
date	Source	Precept account	Project account
28-Apr-16	Vat refund	813.40	
29-Apr-16	Precept	5,420.00	
	CTRS	82.00	
6-Jun-16	Interest	0.58	
19-Jul-16	CALC transparency fund grant		276.00
19-Jul-16	Proceeds from open gardens		254.07
5-Sep-16	Interest	0.83	0.83
24-Nov-16	Heart of Eden Dev Trust	196.05	196.05
5-Dec-16	interest	0.68	0.68
23-Dec-16	proceeds from bonfire night (cash)		909.35
13-Jan-17	proceeds from bonfire night PTA		50.00
17-Feb-17	CC Community grant		847.00
21-Mar-17	CALC transparency grant		349.37
	TOTAL		9,199.33

Expenditure precept account	2015-16	2016-17
Clerk salary	2,288.48	2,631.70
office expenses	-	101.91
Audit	120.00	120.00
CALC sub	157.00	157.00
Insurance	364.09	360.88
Fellrunner contribution	200.00	200.00
grass cutting	1,680.00	1,548.00
Celebrations	155.45	58.99
Training	15.00	81.50
meetings	121.00	132.00
Election	70.00	0
Bolton in Bloom	172.98	186.70
Contingency	622.97	20.74
TOTAL	5,966.97	5,599.42

Project Account Expenditure 2016-17		
26-Sep-2016	B&Q vouchers for school	60.00
21-Nov-2016	Fireworks	614.95
20-Mar-2017	compost bin	334.00
	paving slabs for shed base	35.42
	Petrol multi-garden tool	149.99
	wheelbarrow	44.99
	Tool storage shed	322.49
	B in B supplies	129.12
	Dell laptop for PC	413.88
		2,104.84

BOLTON PARISH COUNCIL, FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017

FINAL RECONCILIATION		
Prepared by Shelagh Leyland, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer		
Date 12 April 2017		
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/16		
Business Current Account 50276162	50.00	
Business Savings Account 60834513	2,629.95	
Community Account (project) 03750396	1,675.43	
		4,355.38
Less unpresented cheques		
100425	305.28	
100426	114.4	
100427	22	
100428	30	
		471.68
Net balance 31/3/16		3,883.70
Balance per bank statements as at 31/3/17		
Business Current Account 50276162	50.00	
Business Savings Account 60834513	3,094.76	
Community Account (project) 03750396	2,232.38	
		5,377.14
Unpresented cheques	0	
Reconciliation of net balance with receipts and payments		
Opening balance	3,883.70	
Add receipts	9199.33	
Unpresented cheques	-	
Less payments	7,704.88	
Overpayment to SL	1.01	
		5,377.14

Signed as correct

..... Peter Griffiths, Chairman

Date.....