



Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2015

Date: 8th October 2015

Attendees: Committee Members

Stuart Ashcroft
Dave Sweatman
Bill Halkett
Odete Bell
Colin McMahon

Basil Stokes
Jo Ward
Jo Mould
Elizabeth McMahon

Apologies

Claudine McFaul
Councillor Helen Fairhurst
Alan McCabe
Tina Swaine
PC Benson

Jo Jones
Malcom White
Cathy McCabe
Gary Swaine

Parish Council Members:

Councillor Ian Bell
Councillor Gary Ward
Councillor May Blake

Documents Distributed at Meeting:

1. AGM Agenda
2. Statement of Accounts 2015
3. Minutes of 2014 AGM

1. Minutes from previous AGM were formally accepted.

Proposed Ed Mould, Seconded: Basil Stokes

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for preparing the Minutes for the last AGM and for the meetings held throughout the last year.

2. Chairman's Report 2015: Bill Halkett

Good evening and thank you for coming to the HCA's Annual General Meeting. I think we have had a pretty good year.

Hilldale Fair

The Hilldale Fair was another great day. People came, the sun shone - mostly and there were things to do and watch, the Fun Dog Show, cream teas, BBQ and Raffle.

Hannah Culshaw was our Rose Queen and she was crowned by Councillor May Blake who also opened the Fair.

The Fair is our major fund raising activity and this year we raised over £450. A big thank you to everyone who supported the day.

Our Fun Dog Show is always popular and goes from strength to strength drawing in dogs and dog owners from outside the Parish.

The coconut shy was new this year and was a success and we will try to increase the number of stalls.

One of the new delights was the bunting created and made by the pupils from Richard Durnings and the plan is to update it annually. All the children contributed but I'd like to thank Pam Hailwood and Barbara for project managing it.

My particular thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the shopping, setting up, cake making, raffle prizes, in the kitchen, running a stall and all of the other necessary tasks. And to the local businesses which continue to be very generous in their support of our fair by donating raffle prizes, milk and bales of hay.

I would like to thank the Parish Council for donating the use of the Hall and Field for the Fair.

Our Events

Party After The Fair

Our free Party was held at the Farmers Arms. The Soul Searchers provided the live music and everyone who went had a great time.

Parbold Flea Market

We were asked to run the kitchen – breakfasts and lunches. What a team! And we made about £350. Even better, we have been invited to do it again in April.

September BBQ and Music Evening

These were both free to residents and as last year were both well attended. The G-Spot Tornados played a great set in the evening.

Coffee Mornings

A Hilldale Coffee Morning is the place for a chat and catch-up whilst enjoying tea, coffee, home-made cake or one of Gary's delicious bacon or sausage butties.

Music Evenings

We've done very well for other music and entertainment this year. We had:

- Nick Hennessey
- Deeside Singers and
- Stephen and Pernille Quigg.

As always, if you have any ideas for events, please let us know.

A Quick Look Ahead

- The Beaujolais Nouveau evening on 21st November – I just happen to have tickets here. Wine is included and there won't just be Beaujolais Nouveau.
- A Christmas themed evening with Mark & Sid on 12th December. There will be hot pot!
- Stephen & Pernille Quigg will be here on 12th March and tickets are already being reserved!
- Easter Egg Hunt on 26th March

Grants

Grants play a very important part in our funding. We've done reasonably well.

- £950 from the Skelton Bounty which will be used to buy lightweight plates for the Hall kitchen.
- £300 from Lancs County Council. Councillor David Westley made an award from of his Local Members' budget.
- Also, West Lancs District Council Older Peoples' Champions
 - £125 awarded by Councillor May Blake
 - £100 awarded by Councillor Terry Aldridge

Using Our Funds

Jo Ward will present the accounts but I'd like tell you that from our funds we will contribute £1000 towards a new children's swing; £500 towards a Community noticeboard and about £240 to buy walnut and sweet chestnut trees for the Playing Field.

Website

The HCA website is up and running and it's updated quite regularly. If you have photos of Hilldale events which you would allow us to copy, we'll put them up on the website.

Thank you's

The HCA couldn't function without the help of many people.

I'll start with the Committee. Without their hard work over the year none of this would have happened. Please stand up and take a bow, you deserve it.

I would particularly like to thank Jo Mould as Secretary and Jo Ward as Treasurer – these are not the easiest of tasks.

To everyone who helped to make the Fair a success: I'd like to mention Gary and Jake for the BBQ; Malcolm for MC'ing; Sarah, Wendy, Dave, Gillian, Emma, Lynn and Steve for the dog show; Nicola for organising and manning the tombola; Ed for putting up the outside bunting – and taking it down again. Thank you to the Farmers Arms for donating the Function Room for the Fair Party and BBQ evening.

To Alan and Cathy for booking and making the arrangements for our Music Events.

To Jo and Gary for making the Coffee Mornings happen. It's largely their groundwork which gets it all done.

To Tina and Gary for stepping in to help out at the Flea Market and staying longer than they intended.

To Councillors May Blake and David Wesley for their support, attending our Events and for awarding us the grants which help to underpin the HCA.

To Councillors, Bell, Fairhurst and Ward for attending the monthly HCA meetings etc and promote cohesion between the Parish Council and HCA.

Thank you again for coming to the AGM tonight.

3. Treasurers Financial Report: - Jo Ward HCA Treasurer

Balance 31st August 2014: £4504.55

Balance 31st August 2014: £6,261.55

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for preparing the Financial Report and explained that as the HCA is a very small charity there is no requirement for audited accounts.

The Financial Report was accepted: Proposed: Jo Mould: Seconded: Stuart Ashcroft

4. Resignation and voting in of Hilldale Community Association Committee 2013/14

All members of the committee resigned. The following candidates were elected:

Chairman: Bill Halkett
Vice Chair: Stuart Ashcroft
Secretary: Jo Ward
Treasurer: Elizabeth McMahan

Ordinary Members voted and accepted;

Malcolm White Jo Jones
Odete Bell Claudine McFaul
Basil Stokes Colin McMahan
Jo Mould

2015/2016 Parish Council Observer:

Rotating: Helen Fairhurst / Ian Bell / Gary Ward.

Proposed: Jo Mould

Second: Ed Mould

5. Any other Business:

It was indicated that it was not the intention of the HCA to keep a large amount of money in the bank but there was still £2000 to come out of the 2015 balance plus £600 to keep the coffee morning running. The HCA would continue to stage free events and that we would need the balance to fund the Village Fair annually and that we need to be aware of this when looking at potential expenditure.

Village Fair

It was confirmed that the Richard Durning's stocks are no longer in use.

It was confirmed that the HCA did look at renting traditional games for the 2015 Village Fair and it was found that they were not only expensive to hire but we don't have the people to staff the stalls.

The HCA needs to look at trying to book more stall holders to fill the field up for more interest.

It was suggested that we could we ask the other local schools if they would be interested in sponsoring and manning a bouncy castle. The HCA need to check whether they would be covered on their own insurance.

Due to conflict with the afternoon teas, it was discussed that Richard Durnings should only sell the cakes in full, half or quarters to discourage visitors buying them to eat at the fair instead of buying them from the HCA kitchen.

It was suggested that the HCA could approach the uniformed groups to see if they would like to participate in the fair in 2016.

It was noted that the Morris Dancers moved to the middle/bottom of the field this year which seemed to work better. This should be kept the same for 2016.

Other Ideas

It was suggested that we could be involved in the Parbold Food and Music Festival in 2016. Gary Ward indicated that the event lost money in 2015 and may not run in 2016. The HCA need to investigate the event current status.

Other ideas were:

- Village Treasure Hunt
- Scarecrow Competition
- Easter Egg Hunt

Christmas Lights

It was discussed that there were 2 options:

Moving the sensor further up the pole so that they couldn't be switched off easily and buy another string for £20.

The Parish Council has agreed in principle to allow a tree holder to be fixed to the wall of the village hall and it was discussed that it would be more beneficial if the external socket was converted to a non-standard plug and adapters are used for standard plugs.

Playing Fields and Village Hall

It was confirmed that the only change to the swings was to have a new frame and keep the same swings.

It was suggested that as the swings were being damaged, would it be a good idea to put a notice on them regarding their proper use but Councillor Ward stated that the frame was only being replaced due to wear and tear and old age, not damage or vandalism.

Ian Bell confirmed that the council was paying £150.00 per 1000 bags and on average was using 4000 bags per annum. It was felt that park users were taking more than their immediate usage. Ian said they were looking at other dispensers to discourage this behaviour.

Gary Ward confirmed that West Lancashire District Council will be giving away 1 fruit tree per domestic household again as they did in 2015. These are going to be available online from 12/10/15.

It was stated that the fair was originally designed to be a more traditional type fair with lots of individual stalls but the HCA indicated that this would not be possible as we have a shortage of volunteers.

- a) The Chapel may have some games available that we ask about.
- b) Try to encourage more recruits by focussing on the help needed for the fair but the HCA confirmed that this already done via the newsletter.
- c) It was suggested that we look for a bouncy council that we could borrow in return for the publicity the owner would receive.

It was asked whether we could put a 'For Sale' section in the newsletter.

It was asked to promote that there are free children's toys and garden seeds at the coffee mornings.

Date of next HCA Committee meeting: Wednesday 4th November 2015, 7.30pm Farmers Arms, Bispham