**Final Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

**held on 10 March 2014 at 7.00pm in the Preston Rooms**

Present: Councillor Mr H Buxton - Chair

Councillor G Saunders

Councillor N Coleman

Councillor Wiseman Councillor Miss S Hewitt

Officer Mrs S Hunt – Clerk to the Council

In Attendance - 11 Parishioners and County and District Councillor N Dixon

The Chair welcomed all attending and stated that this was not a Parish Council meeting but the Annual Parish Meeting. After the usual reports, parishioners could raise any matters of concern to them or the village.

1. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th March 2014**

Copies had been distributed to all attending by the Clerk, they were agreed to be a true record and then signed by the Chair.

1. **Police Community Support Officer Report**

PCSO Jeanette Boardman was unable to attend but sent the following report.

 During the last twelve months 16 calls have been made from Ashmanhaugh into the Control Room. There were two crimes recorded for this period. Theft, and Threats to destroy/damage property.

1. **Annual Report by the Chair of the Parish Council**

The Chair presented his annual report.

**ASHMANHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIR**

**01 APRIL 2014 to 101h MARCH 2015**

The Parish Council has met six times, public attendance continued to be sparse, but the Chair wished to express the Parish Council’s thanks to Cllr Dixon who attended each meeting to advise us of the bigger picture at both District and County level.

The Council maintained a full quota of members with Liam Mulhall joining the Council as replacement for the outgoing Chair, Mr Geoff Hunt. The thanks of the Parish Council were offered for Mr Hunt’s work.

Minutes of all meetings are published in the newsletter, on notice boards, and on the website. The chair offered his sincere thanks to Mr N Sharpe for his continued work on the newsletter, the Parish owes him deep appreciation for his efforts, and the Chair reminded the meeting that submissions for inclusion would be welcomed by the Editor.

A balance of £3,750.40 was brought forwards at April 2014, and the balance carried forwards this year will be higher. The Council has had to be prudent in looking forwards, but would now hope that the precept can either be frozen or have a smaller increase moving forwards. Mr & Mrs N Sharpe remain our internal auditor, both checking the finances and the internal controls of the Council for which we are all very grateful. They have found that the Council continues to meet its obligations.

The Parish Council is keeping its Quality Status for a further year, and this will be reviewed in June.

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday in May, July, September, November, January and March at 7.00pm in the Preston Rooms. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

This is an election year both nationally and locally, so if anyone would like to have a go and stand please contact the Clerk for the correct forms. If we have more than seven it would trigger an election – which would be excellent for a small village.

Initialled: Dated:

***Cllr Mr Harry Buxton***

Chair Ashmanhaugh Parish Council 10th March 2015

1. **Church Wardens Report.**

Mrs Anne Mulhall, Church Warden, presented her report:

In the last year 29 services had been held at St Swithin’s including special celebrations at Christmas, Easter and Harvest and 4 all age worship services aimed more at younger members. A Womens World Day of Prayer was also held and was well attended by friends from the benefice. Thanks were extended to Sandra Ellison and her team, Rob Hume, Barbara McGoun and Pauline Simpson and also several retired clergy who make the running of these services possible.

The church remains in a good state of repair and thanks were extended to those who maintain the churchyard and regularly clean the inside of the building.

Over £8,000 is needed a year to keep St Swithin’s open. Currently £2,000 of this comes from donations and collections at services and the remaining £6,000 has to be raised by the Parochial Church Council. To that end the Church Wardens are enormously grateful to both those who actively engage in the fund raising, and the parishioners of both Ashmanhaugh and nearby Parishes who give so generously at the events. Many local businesses and individuals donated prizes to the auction and provided sustenance at events within the last year.

Sadly Jill Sharpe has been too unwell to come to services, and she is sorely missed by everyone. Hazel Flavell and Richard Greenlade have to be extended thanks for stepping in for key events. Thanks also to Sarah Hewitt who has organised the flower rota, and to everyone who has been so kind as to donate or arrange flowers.

On a final note, a goodbye to Sandra Ellison, the incumbent at the end of September as she is retiring to spend more time with her family and to enjoy her first grandchild.

5. **Preston Rooms Report**

Report given by Mr Steven Newstead - Chair of the Ashmanhaugh & Beeston Preston Room Management Association.

Just under £10,000 had been spent refurbishing the Hall. This has resulted in a continual increase in bookings and a record £6,500 income for the year.

The next project is to resurface the car park, a drain survey has been recently undertaken to ensure that the works are future proofed. Hazel Flavell has joined the committee and is spear heading the fundraising for the project.

Mr Alan Wiseman has stood down from the Committee as the indoor bowls group has now disbanded. The thanks of the Chair were extended to Mr Wiseman for his work.

There are many plans at the Hall, including old favourites and new opportunities;

Poetry Evenings, Quiz Nights, an Art and Craft weekend, seed potatoes for bucket planting, music night, flowering arranging and a village show judged by Sally Church from Neatishead.

The election hire will be helpful again this year.

Book sales have continued to bring in donations, and the Waitrose appeal brought in £410.00.

The Poor’s Allotment in the village donated the blinds for the Hall, and new tables have been bought by the Trustees. A grant was received from North Norfolk District Council through the Big Society Fund of £1,750 which has been used to pay to secure the car parking area. The Chairman thanked the hard working committee for their ongoing support.

1. **Cricket Club Report.**

Report given by Mr Mark Pepper.

Mr Pepper is a new Chairman this year. They have restructured the management to work more efficiently and creatively. They have also restructured the teams to make them more attractive to players of all ages. Up to seventy youngsters are now members in the junior section. The Under 15’s reached the National Finals this year. There are now five senior teams, and the Sunday team has been promoted. On Saturday they are now fielding a ‘Dad’s and Lad’s’ team.

Women are being integrated into men’s teams as well. The aspiration to achieve membership of the East Anglian Premier League. They are now widely regarded as one of the best clubs in Norfolk.

Focus is being put on values across the Club based around mutual support and fun.

The Club is keen for the public to become more involved – at the centre at Barton Turf they are installing a television installed in the Licenced bar which serves tea and cake, there is a children’s play area, and a gallery is being put up for local artists to exhibit at.

Leaflets will be coming through doors.

1. **Ashmanhaugh Light Railway Report**

No report.

**8. Parishioners matters**

Councillor Dixon explained that his bi-monthly articles in the Newsletter kept the village up to date, but that he would happily answer questions. He attends all Parish Council meetings.

In response to a question from the floor Mr Pepper said that the cricket club would be distributing information about fixtures and matches to enable people to know when to attend.

There being no other topics, the meeting closed at 7.23pm

**Signed: Dated:**