

HEATH & HOLMEWOOD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN ST ALBAN'S PARISH CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY THE 11th OF MAY 2011 AT 6.30 PM.

In attendance:

Cllrs Stone, Bettney, Bond, Chapman, Cornwell Ball, Hall, Hardy, Slater, Smith, Williams, Acting Clerk and RFO Joanne Taylor, incoming Clerk Karen Kennan.

1. Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members

The Clerk invited Councillors to propose or volunteer a Chair. Cllr P Williams proposed Cllr L Stone and Cllr S Cornwell Ball seconded.

The Clerk invited Councillors to propose or volunteer a Vice Chair.

Cllr S Cornwell Ball and Cllr K Bond both volunteered. With 4 votes for Cllr K Bond and 3 votes for Cllr S Cornwell Ball, Cllr K Bond was appointed Vice Chair.

Councillors agreed that the HR Committee of Cllr L Stone, Cllr S Cornwell Ball and Cllr K Bond would remain the same. Councillors agree the newly appointed Risk Assessment Committee of Cllr Bond, Cllr Hall, Cllr Slater and Cllr Smith would remain the same.

2. Apologies for Absence

None

3. To confirm minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting 12th May 2010

This had already been done in June 2010 parish meeting

4. Chairman's Report 2010/2011

See attached.

5. Presentation of Parish Council Award for Exceptional Services to the Community

The Chair of the Council announced that this year there were two well deserving award winners, Pat Kirkwood and Betty Merrick. Cllr Stone made a speech saying he had met with both Pat and Betty, he then outlined both Pat and Betty's contribution to the many groups they are involved in. Cllr Stone presented the certificates to both winners for their exceptional services to the community along with a cheque each for £50, and a gift of 6 wine glasses for Betty and a book token for Pat. An audience of approximately 50 people attended and both Pat and Betty thanked everyone for their kind words and gifts. There then followed a buffet before councillors returned to their annual meeting of the Parish Council.

Chairs Report to the Parish Council 2010-2011

This year again sees a busy year for the Parish Council. While we have lost some Councillors, we have also gained some new ones - Cllr Steve Hall and Cllr Chris Hardy have joined the Parish Council recently. We have also seen a change of key staff with both our RFO (Responsible Financial Officer) and Clerk leaving us.

Mike, our RFO has decided to retire from his Council duties after seven years service. Kay Steele our Clerk has also decided on a career change. After spending eight very productive years with the Council, Kay moves on to her new job and we give both her and Mike our best wishes for the future and thank them for their years of dedicated service to the Parish Council.

We have appointed a new RFO who has already joined us, Jo Taylor and a new Clerk, Karen Kennan, who will be joining us from early June. Both are welcome additions to the team and we are looking forward to working with them for many years to come.

Heath & Holmewood pulled together again last year to support the completion of the war memorial. We had a superb day celebrating the addition of the names of our fallen soldiers to the memorial and this event was attended by over 150 people, some coming from hundreds of miles away. With the Army in attendance and a brass band, we were fortunate to have nice weather and the day was a great success.

As you know, the bad weather, sub zero temperatures and heavy snow falls earlier in the year played havoc with services and many people were cut off for several days. The Parish Council didn't escape the bad weather and the Pavilion suffered major damage as a result of frozen pipes and burst water tanks. This has meant that a major refurbishment of the facility has had to take place with the office, meeting room, kitchen and changing rooms being completely gutted and refinished. We are very pleased with the results and we hope that those of you who use our facilities will also notice the difference.

You will also be aware that this year has seen many deep cuts for all of us, personally and within the budgets of local authorities. We have managed this year to maintain our budget meaning no increase from the Parish Council on your Council Tax bills. Cuts are affecting all of us, but hopefully we can maintain our service levels throughout 2011-2012.

Our 'Annual Award' this year will be awarded to two people who have both served the communities of Heath & Holmewood with distinction. Our Section 137 grants continue to be popular and this last year we actually over spent a little by providing local groups with funding for all sorts of projects, supporting local groups and organisations. I continue to encourage people to come forward if they are looking for a financial contribution to help with a local club, team or group.

Our website www.heathandholmewoodpc.org.uk continues to generate interest in our area and is accessed by more and more people each month. If you're on the web, please check out the website for up to date information on events and projects, meeting minutes and other items of interest.

Our efforts to maintain a clean and safe Parish continue, but we still have to work

very hard to combat litter, dog mess and fly tipping. Hundreds of bags of rubbish are cleared every month by our staff and we work in partnership with the District Council to combat fly tipping. I would again ask all Parishioners to take advantage of litter and dog bins provided and emptied by the Parish Council, please help us to make sure Heath & Holmewood is a clean and pleasant environment for us to live and work in.

2011-2012 is going to be a busy year for your Parish Council. Please contact us if you have any ideas for projects or items you would like the Council to discuss. We work for you, our Parishioners and it's important that we have your input which will enable us to work towards what you want for Heath & Holmewood.

Lee Stone
Chair, Heath & Holmewood Parish Council