

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Town Council held on  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 at 6.30pm, St. Thomas's Church Hall, St. Thomas's  
Church, St. Thomas's Road, St. Anne's on the Sea FY8 1JL.**

Present: Councillors    E Nash            Chairman  
                                  C Akeroyd  
                                  A Ford  
                                  G Goodman  
                                  K Henshaw  
                                  C Lanyon  
                                  A Jacques  
                                  D Prestwich  
                                  V Settle

Officers                    S Taylor            Town Clerk

Fylde Borough Council  
                                  Councillor    B Nash

Members of the Public    2

### **1. WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cheryl Little, Councillor Barbara Mackenzie and Councillor Viv Willder.

### **3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 be approved and signed as a correct record.**

### **4. COUNCIL ACTIVITY**

The Chairman advised how pleased he had been to have attended many events both locally and outside of the town as a representative of the Town Council and townspeople.

Councillor Nash discussed his Mayoral year that had been exceptionally busy with a hectic mix of engagements in support of the community of St Anne's on the Sea. Aply supported by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Gail Goodman and his Consort, Barbara, he attended a great variety of events, welcomed new clergy, supported the Carnival Queen, judged competitions, awarded prizes, opened new shops and restaurants, presented Awards to Lancashire Authors and attended two fashion shows to name just a few.

2014 was a special year as the commemoration of the centenary of the start of WW1. There were many events; the Mayor was particularly touched to open the war graves trail at the Parish Church and lay flowers on the grave of Burton (Plum) Critchley, son of the first Mayor of St Anne's who gave his life in the war.

Other such events included;

- a candle lit vigil at our War memorial in Ashton Gardens in August, the unveiling of a plaque in Lytham to commemorate the Territorial Volunteers of Lytham St Anne's, Remembrance Sunday (with a very large turnout) and Armistice Day along with a host of children from local primary schools.

The lead up to Christmas was a busy time, with many events running – some of which were on the same day. On the day of the Christmas Light Switch On there was 4 events culminating in the switching on of the new extended Christmas Lights. The event was run by the Town Council for the first time and what a triumph it was!

The Mayoral Carol concert took place the following week and was another great success; funds raised for the Mayors charity - Veterans4 Fylde totalled £521.

Recently the Mayor was delighted to reopen the Victoria Hotel after a major refurbishment. It was particularly satisfying after fighting a successful campaign against its potential demolition. All were urged all to go and support 'The Vic' in its new family friendly venture.

The Mayor reported that the Mayoral year has been both exhausting and exhilarating with lots of happy memories. It had given the Mayor a particular pride and honour to have served his home town. The Mayor said, "Veterans4 Fylde is a local charity that supports all who have served in the Armed Forces to overcome disadvantage including disability by military service".

### **St. Annes in Bloom**

St. Anne's on the Sea gained GOLD in the best Large Coastal Resort category in the North West In Bloom Awards. This award was a great credit to the volunteers of St. Anne's In Bloom, Fylde Council parks staff and other organisations who had all contributed to this fantastic achievement.

Six active community organisations in the town also picked up 'Its Your Neighbourhood' awards and a 'Clean Sweep Award' was also added to St. Anne's tally at the presentation in Southport in October 2014. This award was for tidiness and lack of litter, graffiti etc. and is quite an achievement when you consider that the judges arrived only a few hours after thousands of people had attended the town's carnival.

The Town Council initiated a revamp on the previous St. Anne's In Bloom organisation. The new In Bloom group have been well supported both financially and 'in kind' by the Town Council and these awards show that empowering local people does pay off. In 2015 the Council provided a grant of £1500 to support the work of this volunteer group.

### **Public Rights of Way**

In 2014-15 the Town Council has been very active in improving the bridleway and footpath network located to the rear of Heyhouses Ward. Completed projects included clearance of 1000m on two footpaths and the laying of hard core. Six additional signs had also been installed across the network, with early spring wild flower planting also completed.

The Town Council was passionate about protecting the public rights of Way within St. Anne's and has also included the provision of the footpaths in the draft Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Shepherd Road Allotments**

These are the larger allotment gardens owned by the Town Council, a total of 140 plots. The budget was ring fenced for Shepherd Road which meant that every penny in rent received was invested back into the improvement and development of the site. Improvements this year include fencing and drainage.

It was managed by members of the community, the Allotment Association, all volunteers who work closely with the Town Council. They were a highly active group, holding a successful 'Open Day' in August and a Halloween/Bonfire Night Event in November.

The Town Mayor advised that he had attended the 'Open Day' and presented prizes; it was a fantastic day. The site looked marvellous and everyone enjoyed themselves at this event.

In 2014 Shepherd Road was entered under the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' award and won OUTSTANDING, a fantastic achievement first time around.

### **Blundell Road Allotments**

These were the smaller allotment gardens that the Town Council had developed from an overgrown section of land. The site comprised of 28 small plots, which were available to encourage Community groups and residents to take up growing fruit, flowers and vegetables on a small scale. It was managed by members of the Community, held regular social events and was supported financially by the Town Council.

In 2014 Blundell Road was awarded OUTSTANDING for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' category. This award could not have been achieved without the enthusiasm and hard work by the plot-holder volunteers.

### **Newsletter**

The Town Council reviewed the Newsletter process in 2013-2014. The outcome was that the Newsletter design was revamped, costs were reduced and the delivery process was changed.

The Town Council Newsletter now goes from strength to strength. The total production costs are down by around a quarter, with feedback received getting better and better for each issue. However, the best part is that more people are reading about what the Town Council is achieving.

### **Public Offices**

The public offices remained for sale; the Town Council undertook a full review to establish if it was able to support a bid to purchase the listed building. Due to the financial implications, it was reluctantly agreed that the Town Council not pursue the purchase of the Public Offices at this time.

### **Neighbourhood Planning**

The Town Council were still busy, actively producing a Neighbourhood Plan for St Anne's. The Neighbourhood Plan set out policies that (if approved by Referendum following an independent examination) would help shape the future of St Anne's. Alongside the Neighbourhood Plan, there was a Design Guide. The Design Guide would enable people to influence future developments for St Anne's, so any future planning application would need to meet the criteria set out in the guide.

The Town Council had already held a consultation period which meant both Officers and Councillors could get out and talk to the people of St Anne's, to find out how they wanted the Town shaping for future generations. From this the Steering Group were able to collate all the information and evidence, having now completed a draft copy of the Neighbourhood Plan. To ensure this is what people wanted in their Plan, it was a going out for consultation once more. This would be happening in May/June 2015; the details, would be published on the Town Council's website when confirmed.

After this the Plan would be amended to include the outcome of the consultation. The Plan would then be agreed and sent to Fylde Borough Council and an external examiner, then a referendum. Once this process was completed, the Neighbourhood Plan for St Anne's would be adopted.

### **Christmas Lights Infrastructure**

The Town Council took over the management and ownership (from Fylde Council) of the existing Christmas Lights within the Town Centre from 2014., whilst extending the lights into Park Road, Orchard Road and Wood Street for the first time with funding received from the Fylde High Street Innovation Fund, match funded by the Town Council. This was the largest monetary project that the Town Council has ever undertaken.

Improvements included fairy lights installed on all lighting columns in Wood Street (9 in total), 3 in Park Road and 3 in Orchard Road; larger trees in Wood Street were also lit up, with several sets of

white fairy lights fitted. The existing design in the square was updated, with six new lighting pole mounting features and a festoon of lights across lighting columns to add a bit of sparkle.

People welcomed the scheme extension, including the use of an existing pine tree as the Christmas tree, planted in the Square's gardens as opposed to using a cut tree.

### **Town Centre Signs Project**

In February 2015 five new street signs were installed in Wood Street, Orchard Road and Park Road. This was another Town Council project, match funded from the Fylde High Street Innovation Fund. The aim of the signs was to promote businesses off the square, notifying pedestrians that there is a plethora of unique shops within this area.

These highly attractive signs were double-sided so each shop name appeared on one side of the signs. The project cost over £14,000 and was the result of a successful working partnership between the Town Council, Fylde Council and Lancashire County Council.

### **Town Centre Lamppost Banners Project**

During the summer of 2014 there were 8 lamppost banners installed in the square. These depicted images of flags including the town flag and people enjoyed the additional colour brought to the town centre. Funding was received from the Fylde High Street Innovation Fund, match funded by the Town Council. Challenges were overcome regarding how long the banners could remain in situ for. Discussions were held with Lancashire County Council and the end result was that banners could be up for 12 months.

The lamppost banners were installed again in March 2015 and would remain in place for the summer months, adding colour and interest to the Square.

### **Street Reps**

The Street Representatives scheme has also been revamped, a partnership run by the Town Council with Fylde Council. The scheme is now being extended to include the reporting of Anti-Social Behaviour, including dog fouling, with the Police now part of this working partnership. Because the reps were working at a 'grass root level' they could identify quickly when problems arose. Due to one of the 'Street Reps' noticing that an additional litter bin was required on St. Andrews Road South, one was requested by the Town Council and provided by Fylde Borough Council. The Street Representatives were people who went out in all weathers and worked very hard to make life more pleasant for the people of St. Anne's.

### **Youth Council**

St. Anne's Youth Council had been very active within the last 12 months, they had a standing dedicated agenda item at Town Council meetings where they could report on what they have achieved.

In April the members agreed to support the Fylde Food Bank and now brought contributions to each of their meetings. The first handover of the donations took place in June and this was an ongoing process. The group have also raised £62.77 for St. Anne's RNLI, which was presented to this organisation in January 2015.

Other activities include a visit to Blackpool Magistrates Court, involvement in St. Anne's Neighbourhood Plan, additional support at the Carnival and Mayor's Carol Service and the setting up of their own Instagram account. The Mayor advised that the group were a very busy and enthusiastic bunch and the Town Council was proud to support them.

### **St. Anne's Enterprise Partnership**

The Town Team has recently been revamped and was now a partnership between the Town Council, Fylde Borough Council and local traders. The aim being to promote St Anne's as the charming seaside town it was. Local businesses were keen to bring more events into the local

economy so there is always something going on in the town. Some suggestions were to make use of the grand assets we have such as Ashton Gardens and to utilise these further.

St Anne's has an abundance of different eateries and restaurateurs were keen to work together to provide something for residents and tourists alike to be able to sample all of the different delicacies available.

The partnership was still in its building blocks stage but if anyone had have any suggestions or would like to get involved they were asked to contact Councillor Tony Ford on 01253 713885 or Councillor Ed Nash on 01253 713839.

**Kite Festival**

On the 26th and 27th July 2014, the Kite Festival was held on St. Anne's beach for the third successive year. The kite flying attracted thousands of people into the town, with this year was busier than ever.

The Town Council gave £1500 to support the Festival and has a nominated Councillor who sits on the St. Anne's Kite Festival Committee that runs the event.

**RNLI**

The Town Council ran the Lifeboat Concert as a standalone event in 2014. The aim of the event was to raise money for the RNLI with a free concert performed by the Fylde Concert Orchestra. The Town Council organised the event, which was held on 7th September 2014. It was hugely successful, with £225.76 for the RNLI raised from donations on the day.

**5. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Members of the public raised the following points;

- The first class support that St. Anne's received from the Town Council
- Thanked the Town Council for all their support and advised that they should continue to build on their hard work

**6. FINAL REMARKS**

Councillor Carol Lanyon congratulated the Mayor on his very successful year. It was reported that the Mayor had delivered a speech to the Town Twinning delegation from Werne in perfect German.

It was noted that the next meeting would be at **6.30pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

The meeting was closed at 6.45 pm.

Signed.....

Chairman  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2016