



Council Offices, Dungeon Brow, Market Street, Hayfield, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK22 2EP  
Tel. 01663 744550. Email: [clerk@hayfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hayfield-pc.gov.uk)  
[www.hayfield-pc.gov.uk](http://www.hayfield-pc.gov.uk)

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012**  
at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Councillors Mrs E Hodgson (Chair), Mrs V Wieteska, Mr P Easter, Mr P Chapman and Mr M Jones,

**In Attendance:** Acting Clerk, Mrs S Fuller.

**Also Present:** 5 members of the public.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Councillor A Ramwell.

**2. To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011.**

Those present at the previous meeting resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

**3. Chairman's Report**

The Chair stated that it has been a difficult year for the Council.

This Council was elected last May amid the contentious issue of the proposed Heritage Centre - this and concerns over Council finances dominated Council proceedings.

It also became clear that many policies and procedures that the Council should have in place, were either missing or in need of review.

The Council has gained and lost 3 Councillors through the year and has 2 Councillor vacancies presently. Half the Councillors have never been elected before. The Clerk resigned in May.

The Council has endeavoured to be as open as possible in its dealings, encouraging transparency and accountability so that trust between parishioners and the Council has been strengthened.

Little Hayfield Advisory Committee continues to thrive. They are producing a Management Plan for The Clough (to present to Council) taking advice from the Peak District National Park Authority Tree Officer and Ecologist who both visited the site. They have also held a number of working parties to clear out rubbish and tidy up The Clough. They had another successful tree lighting ceremony at Christmas. The interactive road signs they campaigned for are up and running. However, traffic issues in Little Hayfield still remain the committee's priority.

The Youth Council has been poorly attended and Council are considering how best to progress interaction between the Council and its younger parishioners.

The Allotments continue to thrive with the Council working alongside the Hayfield Allotment Society. There are 43 tenants and a waiting list of 9 parishioners. Plots are well maintained and the site not only looks better kept but is much more productive too. Accounts for allotment monies have also been set up.

The Orchard Project is ongoing. Some planting has recently taken place but around 65 trees still need to be planted. Sustainable Hayfield are helping the Council to look after the trees and further the aims of the project.

With the help of Derbyshire County Council, Middlefields Path has been radically improved, Church Street is to be environmentally improved and it is hoped funding will be available this year for improvements to the verges along New Mills Road.

The Playgrounds were found to be in poor repair and financial constraints have delayed improvements but monies are now in place and equipment will be repaired and play bark restored as soon as possible. Residents are working with the Council presently on a proposed Pump Park in Valley Road Recreation Ground (this will be subject to public consultation) and the Council will replace the football posts.

Council is working with St Matthews Church to progress the proposed purchase of Bank Vale Field and is seeking ways in which this process can be accelerated. Council are also working more closely with Hayfield Community Sports Club in anticipation of the purchase.

The lights around the cenotaph are to be replaced this week, the cherry tree at Dungeon Brow has been replaced and 3 memorial benches are on order for the parish as we speak.

The Council is presently involved with organising jubilee celebrations alongside many other village organisations.

In Conclusion:

The Council have sorted out the Council's finances (having set up accounting / auditing systems in-house and forensically auditing previous years accounts for which a report will follow shortly), gone a long way to ensure correct policies and procedures are in place, been concerned to raise standards and have generally put down strong foundations on which the Council can, in future, operate more effectively, accountably and securely.

There is still more of the same to be done but the Council starts the new financial year on a sound footing with a clear knowledge of monies available and a workable budget in place.

Repair, maintenance and improvement of the playgrounds are a high priority as is the repair of stone walls around The Clough in Little Hayfield.

It is hoped this coming year, the Council will have a full complement of Councillors – all of whom have different ideas and opinions to contribute but who as a team can work closely with parishioners to proactively encourage and support improvements for the parish as a whole.

The Chair thanked the Acting Clerk, Councillors and parishioners for their support.

#### **4. Balance Sheet of Non-Ecclesiastical Charities.**

Income and Expenditure in respect of the interest accrued on the account was presented. The total balance of interest on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 was £379.66.

#### **5. Questions and Suggestions.**

Several members of the public queried why the balance sheet for the Non-Ecclesiastical Charities only referred to interest on the account and requested that a fuller account be given which would include the capital sum invested and that such accounts should be displayed in the Council noticeboard. It was also explained that the money was distributed - £10 per person presently - for clothes, coal or working equipment.

Several members of the public shared their concerns about Arden Quarry and asked the Parish Council to continue to press for action to alleviate the smell and the potential health risk from the quarry which may also have a detrimental effect on local house prices. It was suggested that a Councillor be appointed as 'Arden Quarry Representative' who could attend meetings regarding this issue on behalf of the Council.

The meeting concluded at 7.50 pm.