



Meetings of Annual General Meeting 2007

Date: September 27th 2007
Present: Committee Members
Jo Mould
Helen Fairhurst
Jo Ward
Brian McGucken
Basil Stokes
Mike Hitchmough

Apologies: Sue D'Alton
Andy Massey
Jane Sheldon
Mike Olver
PC Hackney
May Blake

Documents Distributed at Meeting:

AGM Agenda
Statement of Accounts 2007
Minutes of 2006 AGM

1. Minutes from previous AGM were formally accepted.

Proposed: Helen Fairhurst.
Second: Basil Stokes.

2. Chairman's Report: Brian McGucken.

Village Hall Lease: The Parish Council informed the Hilldale Community Association that it would not be proceeding with the hand over of the Hilldale Village Hall. There had been issues with the lease agreement and it was not possible to separate the village hall from the village field.

The West Lancashire District Council own all Property and lease it back to Hilldale Parish Council. Due to the small turnover of revenue generated from the village hall they now receive a reduction in council rates which is equal to the reduction the Hilldale Community Association would receive as a registered charity, therefore there is no commercial benefit to the Parish Council by handing over the Village Hall to the Hilldale Community Association.

Gala Day: The event took place on 30th June. The date was chosen so it did not clash with any other local events. Although it rained heavily on the day, the event was considered a success as a large number of residents turned out to support it. Brian formally thanked everyone for their hard work and for showing support. The date chosen for next year is 17th May and will mark the return of the Hilldale Gala Queen who will be selected from the village, along with several attendants.

Hilldale Parish Council Elections: Brian McGucken and Helen Fairhurst decided to stand for Hilldale Parish Council in the May 2007 elections. Due to a conflict of interest they both announced their intention to resign from the Hilldale Community Association at the Annual General Meeting in September. They were successful and both joined the Council earlier this year along with new members Ian Bell and Gary Ward.

Village Signs: Brian is in discussion on behalf of the Hilldale Community Association with the owners of Horrocks Hill Quarry. The stone has been donated by quarry owner and is currently stored at Ormsbys in Scarisbrick. The cost of the signs has increased due to health and safety guidelines. It is hoped we will have some news soon on how we are going to meet the cost and hopefully have the signs in place by the end of the year.

Village working groups: In his capacity as a Council Brian McGucken outlined the way they were tackling some of the more enduring village issues. A group will be set up to tackle the ongoing problem of speeding and inappropriate traffic through Hilldale, in particular Robin Lane, it will be run by Helen Fairhurst. Another group will look at how to increase the usage of the village be run by Ian Bell.

3. Treasurers Financial Report:

Balance September 2006: £1400
Balance October 2007: £1,328.13

Thank you to Alan McCabe for preparing the accounts.

Acceptance of the Financial Report:
Proposed: Francis McGucken
Second: Ken Corbishley.

4. Resignation and voting in of Hilldale Community Association Committee 2007/08

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

Chairman:	Jo Ward
Proposed:	Helen Fairhurst
Second:	Anita Misson
Vice Chairman:	Basil Stokes
Proposed:	Jo Ward
Second	Jo Mould
Secretary:	Jo Mould
Proposed	Lynda Tither
Second	Claudine Roberts
Treasurer	Mike Hitchmough
Proposed	Francis McGucken
Second	Helen Fairhurst

Ordinary Members voted and accepted;
Sue D'Alton
Brenda Stokes
Jo Jones
Claudine Roberts

Parish Council Observer:
Brian McGucken:
Proposed: Helen Fairhurst
Second: Basil Stokes

5. Traffic Update – Helen Fairhurst

Two main concerns: 1. Speeding along Chorley Road
2. HGVs using Robin Lane.

Outcome of recent meeting held with Parish Council and Mr. Fairclough from District Council. Chorley Road is a C road and would need to be reassessed if the speed limit were to be reduced. There is a reassessment underway by the Lancashire

District Council but it is a huge task. Speed count undertaken in 2002 and was not found to be excessive or at a critical stage. Helen spoke about the need for this to be re-done at perhaps a different time of day and on a different part of Chorley Road.

There is a good chance something can be done about the signage as at present it merely indicates that the junction bears right and is not a T-junction. Helen will be setting up a user group and asked if people who were interested in joining leave their name and a contact number, hopefully the group would consist of residents, HCA members and Council members. There is a possibility a questionnaire may take place and could have some impact if more than 70% of the residents sign up.

Also a survey needs to be done on whether or not the vehicles using Robin Lane as a cut through are actually travelling to a business location between here and Tarleton. Although Huntapac appear to be the main culprits, Michael and Meryl Oliver did count over 50 different companies when they carried out a survey 5 years ago. Coaches were also discussed as being a problem and farm vehicles although it was generally accepted that due to the village being home to several large farms this was unavoidable. Parking on Chorley Road was encouraged by Mr. Fairclough to slow down the traffic and stop the road being used as a race track.

6. Any other business:

Discussion on widening the footpath by taking back some of the grass between the tarmac and the hedge so that bikes and push-chairs can travel safely down to Parbold.

Disabled access to the village field. There are 4 wheelchair users on Springmount/Beechfield and the point was raised that they cannot access Grimshaw Green Lane via the field. There is a worn path across the bottom of the field but due to the length of the grass it is inaccessible to wheelchair users. Apparently there are a number of grants available to make rural amenities accessible to all that need to be investigated. Brian McGucken said that the council were also looking at improving disabled access to the village hall.

If anyone sees the white post that have been placed on the corner of Robin Lane knocked over please can they report it to a member of the Parish Council as they are monitoring how often the HGVs have to go onto the pavement to get around the corner. Similarly with the kerb, it has been built up several times because it is constantly flattened by HGV's. It was decided a before and after picture would be taken.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 3rd October 8PM Rigbye Arms