

**Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on the 21st April
2010 In Brigstock Village Hall commencing at 7pm**

Present

Mrs D Solesbury, Mrs S Wilks (Chair), Mr. W Millen, Mr J Harca
Mr S Briggs. M J Steward, Mrs T Towns

1 Public Forum

1 member of the public present, the chair welcomed those present

2 Apologies

P Shaw and District Councillor Hughes

3 Minutes of previous meeting and issues arising

The previous minutes were read and signed as a true record of the meeting

4 Chairman's report

This year has been another busy one for the Parish Council.

The big news was the installation of the bridge from the village hall carpark to the Meadow. All went well in spite of the atrocious weather, and the bridge was opened by Robert Spencer on 14th February. It has been well used ever since and is proving to be a real asset. I should like to thank Chris Allen and Stephen Calnan and all the others involved for all their efforts in driving this project forward, and the members of the Parish Council for supporting the enterprise, and of course Nigel Searle for ably overseeing it all and not complaining about all the extra work it caused him. It was truly a team effort.

Last year the Parish Council was pleased to support Operation Pied Piper which saw the village transformed for a weekend into the Brigstock of 70 years ago. Once again Nigel kindly steered us through the grant application and administration and a very good time was had by all. It was a real village event and enjoyed by all those who joined in. A great deal of work but everyone agreed that it was worth it.

The precept was once again set at £18,000 which gives us an acceptable cushion against unforeseen expenses. We have been very fortunate in our grant applications which has meant that the Parish Council has not had to fund any large projects. Apart from those mentioned before, a grant has also allowed us to make improvements to the cemetery.

The Parish Council is funding improvements to the village green. The trees have been pollarded and new posts and chains are shortly to be installed.

As far as planning is concerned, all has been quiet on the Brigstock Camp front. The saga of the Swan Avenue footpath continues, and there are a few concerns about over-development in the centre of the village. The main issue at the moment is the proposed wind farm development north of Catshead Farm to which the Parish Council objected. A useful meeting was organized by the Parish Council which gave residents the chance to air their views.

Once again William Millen has organized a village litterpick. Thanks to all those who make an effort to keep the village tidy, particularly Janet and George Cooper our Cemetery and Churchyard Maintenance Operatives who do a splendid job.

Brigstock remains relatively crime free. Last year a meeting was organized to expand the neighbourhood watch areas in the village which was well attended. Our community policemen continue to keep an eye on the village and will take up matters of concern on our behalf.

At the start of the year the Parish Council produced a village newsletter which went to all households in the village and which was well received. The village website continues to be a useful means of communication in the village as is the "Down your way" column in the Evening Telegraph. Thanks to Bill Simon for attending Parish Council meetings and staying until the end and who continues to report village matters so effectively.

Once again we enjoyed having a Christmas tree on the green and thanks go to Harry Ainsworth for carrying on the tradition. He even managed to persuade Father Christmas to visit. Thanks must also go to Harry for his part in getting the post office back in the village.

I must thank Nigel for keeping us all in order again. Hopefully he will have a quieter time this year. His quiet efficiency is much appreciated.

I have enjoyed writing another positive report about things achieved for our lovely village. The forthcoming election may bring changes but none of them I hope will be detrimental to our lives here. Thanks to all the parish councillors who have given up time, not just to come along to meetings, but also to involve themselves actively in the working of the Parish Council and who have supported me once again this year.

5 Brigstock Consolidated Charities Accounts

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| Receipts | £2,424.75 |
| Administration insurance etc. | £0,701.01 |
| Grants | £1,781.23 |
| Cash in Bank | £8,899.11 |
| Investments | £25,893.31 |

6 Any Other Business

None

7. Date of next meeting

April 2011

The meeting closed at 7:20pm