

**MINUTES** of the Annual Meeting of Electors of Heapey Parish held 24 April 2008 at 7.30 pm in the White Coppice Rooms, St Barnabas Church, Heapey.

Present Parish Councillors J Ross-Mills (Chair), J Berry, D Berry, J Geddes, D Greenhalgh, R Smith and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor M Gray.

2. Chairman's Report

We began the year with a huge effort to apply for a Grant from the National Lottery for improvements to the Village Hall. Although this application proved not to be successful the plans drawn up will guide work on the Village Hall for many years to come. A smaller grant from Awards for All was used to resurface the rear yard and the gates were replaced. Thanks to all those who were involved in these projects.

Roadside signs continue to litter the local area but after liaising with County and Borough Councils we hope to see these removed shortly.

500 daffodil bulbs were planted in the Parish. These were donated by Chorley Borough Council and are now in flower, adding to the attractiveness of the neighbourhood.

The raised flowerbed put on a long-lasting show of blooms and attracted an Award from Chorley Civic Society.

Parish Council members are developing plans to upgrade the play area and provide a new notice-board at Heapey Chase.

New Christmas lights at the War Memorial were much appreciated by local people and Council Members are developing plans to add further improvements to the winter scene at this location.

It has been another busy and productive year for the Parish Council and I would like to thank the Clerk and Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the people of Heapey.

3. Financial Report

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008 was received.

4. Borough Councillors Report

Chorley Council has had an excellent year. Council Tax was held at the same level as the previous year and still some services were improved, and we a number of awards received. The "Get up and Go" programme has been built on, offering even more children and young people opportunities to take part in sport and leisure activities, and it will be rolled out to rural areas. There has been a 19% reduction in crime as a result of a stronger partnership with the Police and an increase of Police Community Support Officers.

The town centre has been brightened up and also villages, with floral displays, which have received many favourable comments. The Council won a North West Britain in Bloom award. A garden was entered into the Southport Flower Show, and the winning entry was designed by your very own Raymond Smith.

Investment has been made to upgrade of our Chorley Markets this year and much promotional work carried out during last year, to attract visitors from further afield.

Chorley Council also won recognition for the high quality of its customer services, our staff deserve our thanks for their efforts.

On the local scene, I have continued to press for a start date on the traffic lights scheme at the junction of Blackburn Road and Millennium Way. I saw the drawings when they were being

consulted on, and I did say again that I thought a roundabout would be the best option. LCC, who are funding the scheme, say this would be too costly.

A final planning brief has been agreed for the designated employment land at Great Knowley, which, should a planning application be submitted for development on this site, our planning officers will be able to ensure that it will be in keeping with this highly visible site.

I regularly attend the meeting of the Ryes Residents Association and have been able to offer help or advice on several occasions.

For the last two years I have been the Representative Member for the Town Centre. We have already started planning for the Christmas Light switch on celebrations, which will be even better than last years spectacular!

#### 5. Residents Points of Interest

Lengths of hedgerow are missing along Coppice Lane and an Ash tree by the picnic area appears to be diseased. Japanese Knotweed has appeared on School Brow and banking on Hollin Lane is being eroded by hens. The pavement on Chapel Lane is narrowing due to overgrowth from gardens.

A new Standards Committee Mentor has been appointed or the Parish Council. The local Standards Committee has been introduced at a local level, following on from recent scandals, to prevent abuses of office by Councillors.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.