

MINUTES of the Annual Meeting of Electors of Heapey Parish held 5 May 2009 at 7.00 pm in the White Coppice Rooms, St Barnabas Church, Heapey.

Present Parish Councillors J Ross-Mills (Chair), J Berry, D Berry, P Church, J Geddes, Borough Councillor M Gray and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies

None received.

2. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 24 April 2008

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

This has been another year of progress for Heapey Parish Council with more planting of spring bulbs, an additional parish noticeboard, and recognition of our efforts by the judges in the Best kept Village awards. I was very proud to accept the Lancashire Federation of Women's Institutes silver cup for the Most Improved Hamlet.

We were sorry to accept the resignation of Raymond Smith from the Council but welcomed Peter Church who has already made a number of valuable contributions to meetings.

Although not within the parish boundary, new traffic lights on the A674, long campaigned for by Heapey Parish Council and others, seem to have been effective in slowing down traffic and hopefully will make the roads a lot safer through our area.

The Village Hall has had a number of improvements and this years Village Fete looks set to be a bigger and better event than ever. This is all thanks to the efforts of a small number of determined people who are willing to give freely of their time and skills and our thanks are owed to them.

I would like to thank the Clerk and Council Members for their efforts this year.

4. Parish Council Financial Report

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 was received.

5. Borough Councillor's Report

Chorley Council won two Beacon Awards in the past year which brought in over £80,000 to spend on services. The £2.5m project to restore Astley Park has been completed and the new Coach House Café opened. The two new play areas are ready for use and there will be a Chorley Smile Picnic on 28 June 2009 to celebrate the opening. The Market refurbishment, at a cost of £330,000 is almost complete and is already bringing in new customers and stall holders.

We have taken up the Government scheme to provide free swimming to the under 16's and over 60's, and this has proved highly popular with residents. The new blue recycling bins have been well received and are expected to increase our recycling rates.

A Ward Walk was undertaken with Borough Council Officers which identified areas for improvement. There will be another similar Ward Walk in the near future.

Finally, after five years we now have traffic lights in operation at the junction of Blackburn Road and Millennium Way. Following a request from a resident of Ryefield, who is a wheelchair user, dropped kerbs were installed at Victoria Street and Blackburn Road.

6. Community Issues

Assistance with a suggestion to provide a sign board advertising businesses in the village was offered.

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