

High Legh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **Monday 13 May 2019 at 7.30 p.m.** at High Legh Village Hall Upstairs Meeting Room

Present: W Hind (Chairman)
B Adams J Morton
G Coenen S Ruddock
M Cooper J Sykes
T Harrison R Wright
Borough Cllr K Parkinson

In attendance: D Walker (Clerk) and 5 parishioners

Apologies: Cllr Tuck and Lord Grey

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ruddock to the Council, Borough Cllr Parkinson and all present.

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2018 were confirmed.

2. **Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman reported on the year's activities (attached).

3. **Finance Report**

A copy of the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Report for year ended 31 March 2019 was circulated. Cllr Coenen presented the Finance Report.

The Council's accounts for 2018/19 show that spending exceeded budget by c£3500.

I want to start this year's report by praising the Community Association for the efficient running of the Village Hall. For many years the largest single expenditure of the Council has been towards the improvements of this important Village Community building. The successful renting of the Hall together with the lucrative fundraising events organised by the Community Association means the Village Hall remains self-sufficient, and able to self-fund minor improvement work.

This has meant for the second year running the full amount of monies available to the Council has been available to invest in priority areas such as road safety and moving forward with the finalisation of the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan.

We have acquired our second Vehicle Activated Reminder sign located on the A50 and invested in data collection capability to inform our future strategy in this area. The Neighbourhood plan team successfully applied for a £4750 grant in the year, enabling this important work to continue without impacting on the Council's reserves.

As a result of the immense work involved in the Neighbourhood Plan and HS2 consultation, staff costs have increased to £5600 pa, and it is expected this will be maintained at this level throughout 19/20.

Other major expenditure was £1300 for the purchase of iron railings to protect the historic 'Old Oak'. Fortunately, full restoration costs were recovered from the offending contractor.

School House costs remain low, with the current tenant undertaking small repairs themselves. It should be noted however that an old building of this type will require work in the future.

The Council starts 19/20 year in a good position with a general fund balance of £14965. In addition, there remains significant Section 106 monies from the Copper Beeches development allocated to the Parish, the majority of which will be utilised once the Neighbourhood Plan strategy is defined and agreed.

The finance committee met in November where it was agreed the Council set its precept at £12,500 meaning no increases yet again. This continues to be possible as a result of the income generated from the Old School House and successful grant applications. We believe this represents great value for money as High Legh is an extremely active Parish Council and provides a number of services to maintain the village to its current high standard.

4. To consider matters raised by parishioners – none

Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.

DRAFT