

**Annual Parish Meeting of Balderstone Parish held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
at Mellor Brook Community Centre, starting at 8.00pm**

**Present :** Cllrs. J. Evans (Parish Council Chairman), K. Barker, S. Brunskill, C. Everett, J. Greenwood, S. Shorthouse, P. Singleton.

Also in attendance: 2 members of the public & Interim Acting Parish Clerk

**1. To receive and approve apologies for absence**

1.1 Apologies had been received from Borough Cllr. N. Walsh (due to illness), LCC Cllr. A. Schofield and P.C. Duncan Park and it was

**RESOLVED that those apologies be accepted and approved.**

**2. To approve the Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting**

2.1 No Minutes had been located and no person present was aware of any earlier Annual Parish Meeting being held.

**3. To receive reports from Village Organisations**

3.1 Parish Council - Chairman reported on some of the challenges the Parish Council had faced over the previous year; noting that Councillors had resolved to undertake training. He welcomed a new Councillor, Colin Everett to the team, which is now stronger and moving forward.

3.2 Balderstone School and FOBS Group - Cllr. Greenwood reported on the school from his perspective as a School Governor. The school worked closely with Friends of Balderstone School, who have raised much needed funds for extra curricular activities, including a trip to the Ballet. Fundraising events are published on the notice board and the school website. Cllr. Greenwood agreed to follow up on the suggestion for traffic management especially speeding vehicles from Abbott Brow crossing A59 by considering a school traffic plan & Governors are considering leasing a minibus, for which they may request financial support from Parish Council. Cllr. Brunskill, as Ribble Valley Mayor invited the School to Council Chamber for a guided visit. All noted that the School is very pro-active regarding recycling.

3.3 Mellor Brook Community Centre - Chairman reported on some of the issues faced, including lack of involvement in running the centre by its user groups. The Trustees are concerned about their responsibilities; Acting Clerk agreed to send more information & Cllr. Shorthouse agreed to look into this further with Centre Chairman. The Centre is working with BAe Systems who wish to hold summer events and plans to hold artistic events aimed at younger people. An approved planning application adjacent to the Centre is creating access issues for the tenant of the flat. The aging demographic has meant that the Centre has lost three regular user groups & there are now some computers which need to be utilized.

3.4 St. Leonard's Church - Cllr. Singleton in his capacity as Churchwarden reported that the Church is part of the United Benefice with Mellor & Samesbury, and still in inter-regnum. The laity are asked to carry out more functions, due to a shortage of practising clergy. The Sunday School is strong and 4 regular services are carried out over the month, any fifth Sunday being a Joint Benefice Service. Walking Day Festival is held in summer and a Band Concert on the first Sunday in Advent. The Church building is sound and waterproof, however the churchyard needs more work to deal with 100 or so gravestones which are in need of attention. A budget of £10,000 per year is being spent to make 25 or 30 memorials safe each year. Any residents are eligible for marriages and funerals in the church and Parochial Church Council is grateful for the financial support from Parish Council. The PCC is looking into putting a noticeboard up for Church, School and Parish Council use.

3.5 Mellor Brook Beavers were not present and no report had been received.

3.6 Any other feedback or issues from residents - A resident asked for any update from Parish Council regarding Feildens Arms licensing, but there was no update.

**4. Close of Meeting** Parish Council Chairman then thanked all for attending and closed the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.40pm