

Grindleton Parish Council

Annual Meeting held on
Monday 21st May 2007 at 7.30pm

At St Ambrose Schoolroom Sawley Road Grindleton

Present : Councillor J. Cowling (in the chair), J. Pye, Mrs C. Doherty, J. Towler, Mrs D. McEvoy and J. Marshall

In attendance- RV Cllr M. Ranson RV Cllr Mrs B. Hilton and Mrs M.A. Renton, clerk

1. **Minutes of the last AGM** held on Wednesday 3rd May 2006. These were accepted as a true record.
2. **Matters arising.** There were none

3. **Chairman's report.**

3.1 This was the first meeting of the Council following the recent local elections. Cllr Cowling gave newly elected RV Cllr Mrs B. Hilton a warm welcome. All Parish Councillors had been re elected except K. Hutton who had not put in papers due to an expected job move. This is not now likely and K. Hutton is to be co opted back on the Council if he so wishes. The Chairman thanked all the Councillors for the work they had previously contributed to all the meetings.

3.2 The Chairman commented on the usefulness of the lengthsman service to the village, particularly the superb field stiles. The recently appointed new lengthsman, Brian Kearsley had already worked well on the completion of the Green Lane drainage. The Ribble Way footpath remains unresolved, apparently due to nesting sand martins.

3.3 The first steps towards the Parish Plan had been taken. This will be developed in the next 12 months, using the grant monies and questionnaires to all households.

3.4 Cllr Cowling as the Parish Council's representative on two local charities felt the Annual Meeting should be updated with what is happening to Harrop Gate Farm, owned by **Grindleton Consolidated Charity**. The tenant and his spouse had both died. The land has recently been let at a good figure and the farmhouse is to be sold at auction as soon as the Trust's solicitor is ready to proceed. Delay has occurred due to the lack of deeds. The intention is to retain the barns for conversion to low cost housing when planning policies allow.

3.5 **Lane Ends Charity** is also considering selling the old school at Lane Ends. They have encountered a problem with its cesspool.

4. **Approval of Annual Accounts.** The Clerk circulated the Annual Accounts. These showed a similar pattern of payments to the previous 12 months. It was explained the £2000 for the Parish Plan had come in but not the £5000 grant for the Cherry Tree project. This will be payable when the work is completed. The lengthsman payments look small as the declining grant from LCC and the steady payment from RVBC are paid direct to Whalley Parish Council which administers the scheme and pays the lengthsman. In total, the payments requested were a little less than anticipated. This may be due to the first lengthsman coming to the end of his term.

5. **General village matters-** These would be covered in the next Parish meeting to follow.

6. **Any other business for noting/future action** None.