

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE ELECTORS  
OF POTTO HELD ON MONDAY, 18 APRIL 2011 AT 7.15 PM IN  
THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillor Mr A Wilde (Chairman) Councillors Mrs E Griffin and Mr G Woodhouse

County Councillor Mr T Swales  
District Councillor Mrs B Fortune

3 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Mr S Dickins and Councillor Mr N Walters.
2. The minutes of last year's meeting had been signed as a correct record on 19 May 2010.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes.** None
4. **Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch.** Councillor Woodhouse said the Police have promised at a Neighbourhood Watch meeting to increase their rate of attendance at Parish Council meetings. The Chairman had printed out a review of Police statistics received for the year and it was noted that they showed an increase in incidents, crimes and road traffic accidents.
5. **Financial Statement.** The Clerk had prepared a statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011. Councillor Woodhouse proposed an acceptance of the accounts as presented, Councillor Griffin seconded and all agreed.
6. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman read out his annual report. A copy will be posted on the website.
7. **Annual Reports from County and District Councillors.** District Councillor Mrs Fortune praised the residents of Potto for their determination to get something done about the sewage system and the water levels at the bottom of the village. Changes and improvements were taking place and credit should go to the people who have worked with the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water to improve the situation. This will help the trout which spawn in Potto and we must protect our wildlife. She thanked the Parish Council for their work. She will always support the Parish on planning. She had been delighted to hear someone say at a large meeting she attended that Potto has an excellent Parish Plan. It is a living document and she complimented those who worked on it. The new title for Parish Plans and Village Design Statements is a Neighbourhood Plan. She thought the Potto newsletters were invaluable showing a community spirit and community links to include everyone. She thanked everyone for their support and if she was re-elected will be happy to serve again.  
  
County Councillor Mr Swales said it has been a hard year of budget cuts and there will be another £3 million cut from the highways budget so only safety work will be undertaken. He expects that a review of last winter will take place in July/August. Councillor Woodhouse queried whether safety work included the filling of pot holes. County Councillor Mr Swales said they will be filled if they are dangerous. Councillor Griffin asked if a member of the public can report pot holes. County Councillor Swales said they can but it is better if the Parish Council do so.
8. **Village Hall.** The Annual General Meeting is to be held next month. They have £5,327 in the Reserve Account and £6,424 in the Current Account.

9. **Views and Comments of Parishioners.** Mr Harper said there were rumours about gypsies moving onto the field at the corner of Black Horse Lane and Butcher Lane. The Chairman read out an e mail from the District Council Enforcement Officer on this subject. The Chairman said he had received calls from residents. A resident had spoken to the owner of the field who has not sold it and his plan is to put stock in the field. District Councillor Mrs Fortune gave the meeting the information she had and said residents can ring her about this. It is just rumour and conjecture at the moment. Councillor Woodhouse asked that some information goes on to the website such as the contact details of the Enforcement Officer. District Councillor Mrs Fortune said the District Council is very short of Enforcement Officers and she would not like her to be swamped with calls. Mr Harper asked who he should contact if he saw anything happening and District Councillor Mrs Fortune said he should ring her or the District Council Offices and a stop notice can be issued which will be enforced by the District Council. County Councillor Mr Swales said land owners can run events on 14 days per annum without permission. He said that rules are changing and gypsies will no longer have more rights than other people. Meetings are being held as the County Council have to supply sites but no one wants them. There are sites at Thirsk and Selby with others planned. The Chairman said we have to be vigilant and report through the proper channels.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.