

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LITTLE EATON HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, VICARGE LANE ON WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL 2014**

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Easter (Chairman) B Adams, B Shore, F Williamson, T Phillipson, J Crane, A Machell, A Summerfield, P Mulvey  
Councillor C Hart (DCC), A Stevenson (EBC), Mrs L Storey (Clerk)

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 10 APRIL 2013**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 10.4.13 were approved and signed by the Chair.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013/2014**

This year has seen the retirement of Doreen Roach, the Council Clerk, and we welcome Laura Storey as her replacement. Sadly, Norman Grundy, one of our stalwart councillors has had to resign on grounds of ill-health and has latterly been replaced by Peter Mulvey. Both Doreen and Norman worked extremely hard on our behalf and we give them our grateful thanks for their dedicated service.

The Village Hall is proving to be a success story; bookings continue to improve and user reports are very favourable. Traffic calming strips have been installed in front of the hall to aid safety and a heart defibrillator has been acquired and is sited on the front hall wall.

The surrounding park area is still a major feature of the village and well used by the sporting communities. One noticeable change is the erection of the youth shelter, paid for by a grant from the Co-operative Store. It is positioned to be alongside a future multi sports area for which funding is still being sought. There have again been complaints about dogs without leads attacking other dogs and harassing the public on the park. We remind owners that all dogs must be controlled and not allowed to run free without proper attention.

There have been an increased number of burglaries over the past year; as the village no longer has a functioning Neighbourhood Watch Group we would ask all to be watchful and ring the police if at suspicious. Speeding and parking are still problems and actions are being taken to improve the situation.

Our Best Kept Village Group has continued to flourish and improvements take place year on year – more daffodils, wild flower and poppy beds, exceptional baskets. Regular litter picks with ever more volunteers are showing we have a good community spirit.

The Toll Bar Telephone Box has been restored and featured a children's art exhibition.

**REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEES.**

**Better Kept Village**

In preparation for the WW1 Centenary commencing 2014 an area along Millennium Way was cleared and sown with a wild flower mix consisting of predominantly red poppies and corn flowers. Overall this was a successful trial and will be continued in 2014.

Refurbishment of Croft Corner was completed finally: improvements to disabled access and to the stone cobbled area have brought favourable comments.

The two annual litter picks went ahead and we had our best support from the community so far. Some areas were picked of litter that we have not been able to cover before. There are also individuals who have been supplied with litter pickers this year and are picking areas near where they live. After a plea for people to come forward to look after the strip on Alfreton road by the Book Exchange, three households came forward and were all given litter pickers.

The phone Box at the end southern end of the village was finally refurbished and first art display was well supported by the community and LEPC sponsored some prizes. It now contains an art installation entitled "My Favourite Place" and is based around a seaside scene. It will be used in June and July to showcase Little Eaton in Bloom and in August, images of poppies and Little Eaton in the First World War years.

Once again the programme of filling verges with daffodils which look absolutely splendid this year has continued. The planter by the Book Exchange and the area around it is now being cared for by volunteers opposite. This year we were able to announce that in support of the Little Eaton In Bloom group the village will be entering into East Midlands in Bloom in the summer of 2014.

## **Highways**

### **PARKING**

#### **SCHOOL**

Vehicles dropping children at school are still causing problems by blocking drives, parking in the bus stop and stopping in the road. These issues are being addressed by the local Police who have worked with the Headmaster to formulate a statement to parents asking for their co-operation

#### **CO-OP**

Issues remain with cars parking on the zig-zag lines and people parking inconsiderately on the frontage. Police enforcement is addressing parking on the zig-zag lines. The Parish Council have approached DCC to erect railings and demarcate an area to keep pedestrians safe and are looking at the possibility of a one way system.

#### **PAVEMENTS and VERGES**

The Parish Council is investigating what measures can be taken to address the growing numbers of people parking all or part of their vehicle on the pavements and grass verges around the village. There has been an appeal by the Parish Council to the parishioners, in the News Letter, to think before they park on our grass verges which does decimate the daffodils when in bloom and scar the grass verges considerably.

#### **VICARAGE LANE**

The Parish Council also raised concern in relation to the level of parking on Vicarage Lane – at the junction with Church Lane – and concerns that this may cause access problems for the emergency services. A site visit revealed that no problems were observed in relation to parking and Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service confirmed that they do not have any concerns regarding access to the Vicarage Lane area.

### **TRAFFIC**

Speeding remains a concern highlighted by the continued numbers of speeding cars recorded during speedwatches. Local Police are now conducting regular laser gun enforcement and this is supplemented by community speedwatches that are held every 4-6 weeks.

Work on Little Eaton Island started in early 2014 with the island being reduced in size, 24hour traffic light control and modification of the entry and exit roads to ease traffic flow. Road sensors have been installed on the B6179 exit from the village which will detect queuing traffic and alter the traffic light phasing to enable more vehicles to exit safely onto the island.

Traffic calming measures were requested to help address the general speed of vehicles through the village and when traffic is diverted from the A38, however DCC reported, it has limited resources available for road safety measures and therefore must target what is available to sites with a problem of speed-related collisions resulting in personal injury – and where there is a trend in those collisions – whereby any identified measures will achieve an improvement in the road safety record.

DCC must prioritise resources to locations with an actual speed-related injury problem; a key responsibility of any highway authority is to reduce the number of people being killed or seriously injured on its roads.

### **POTHOLES**

Potholes have been an increasing concern this year possibly due to the Council budget reduction and the weather. The Parish Council have been engaged with DCC to address these problems and residents are encouraged to report any potholes that they may see.

### **SNOW WARDEN SCHEME**

Although not required so far, The Chemist, Co-Op, Newsagents, Queens Head and Barry Fitch agreed to clear their frontages of snow and spread grit to maintain safe and easier access for pedestrians.

### **GRIT BINS**

Additional grit bins were installed on Whittaker Lane by the Parish Council and Amber Valley Housing installed 2 bins on Park Close. Stocks of grit were obtained from DCC and are stored at Cuckoo Wood Farm.

### **CROFT CORNER**

Remedial works were undertaken in March 2014 to address the damage caused by the roots of the old oak tree which had lifted the paving causing a potential trip hazard. The whole area now looks 100% better and will be a major feature for the Village in Bloom competition.

## Parks

### SEATS

Minor repairs carried out by the Park-Keeper.

### PLAY EQUIPMENT

All play equipment has been inspected and found safe. Some minor improvements have been suggested, but are not mandatory.

### CAR PARK & SURROUNDS

Safety features have been carried out and include white line marking at the Vicarage Lane junction and traffic calming strips installed in front of the hall entrance.

### CAR PARK BANK

Regular weeding and dead heading have been carried out.

### DOGS ON PARK

Dog fouling continues to be a major problem. We have requested the Erewash Warden to provide regular visits and take action when possible. There have been worrying incidents of dogs without leads attacking and harassing the public and playschool children. All dogs must be controlled and not allowed to run free without proper attention.

### GROUND

Football Pitch surfaces over seeded, rolled and mown. General surfaces are now recovered from disruption caused when providing the hall services. Regular mowing has helped in this respect.  
A youth shelter has been erected near the lower tennis court.

### HALL FRONTAGE

Park users are asked not to use the area as a football pitch. Damage to fascias and paintwork has been repaired and the whole area re-seeded.

### PARK WALL

Repairs carried out by Peak Dry Stone Walling in the Park Close and Church areas. Other sections are under repair.

## REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES WITH LEPC REPRESENTATION.

### School Governor Report - April 2014 – Tom Parr

Since the previous report, LE School have been working hard to build upon the success of the prior Ofsted result of "Good" with the aim of increasing even more aspects to be "Outstanding". This is monitored and supported by the Derbyshire County Council Link Advisor, Rod Morrell.

New staff and Governors have joined our School over the last year and their contributions are already showing clear benefits. One of the main issues for everyone now being understanding and delivery of the new National Curriculum.

An exceptional amount of building work has taken place in and around the School, some planned and some unexpected, but including:-

- Refurbishment of the kitchen.
- Work to remove and replace rotten timbers from the roof of the main building.
- Demolition and removal of the portacabin.
- Refurbishment of the boys' toilets in the top building.

And there is still more to do! Partnerships are very important ways of interacting with, and learning from, the wider community, and these include: Cluster meetings with Curzon, William Gilbert and Loscoe; Ecclesbourne; Derby University; and Derby College.

But as far as the children are concerned, probably the key points to mention are the trips out!

Houses of Parliament & Downing Street  
Adventure International, Bude  
Theatre to see Treasure Island  
Crich Tramway Museum  
National Space Centre  
Carsington Water  
RAF Cosford  
Sudbury Hall  
Jodrell Bank  
Conkers



Just a pity the Governors don't get to go on all of them too!

More information can always be found on the School website: [www.littleeaton.org.uk](http://www.littleeaton.org.uk)

Tom Parr  
Chair of Governors  
Parish Council Nominated Governor



COURAGE DETERMINATION EXCELLENCE EQUALITY FRIENDSHIP INSPIRATION RESPECT

### **Thomas Bates Trust Report 2014 – Bill Hutchison**

#### **Charity Trustees**

The current trustees are :

Mr Bill Hutchison (Chair), Dr. Barbara Leyland, Councillor Carol Hart,  
Mr. Frank Mitchell, Mrs Janet Love, Rev. David Barnsley and Mr. Richard Bateman.  
Mrs. Janet Easter is Clerk to the Trust

#### **Grants**

Grants are normally awarded to Little Eaton residents who may be in need of financial assistance. Under 25s may also apply for help to promote educational needs. No grants have been awarded in the last 12 months

#### **Renovation of No. 1 Church Lane**

During the last 12 months No 1 Church Lane, one of the 3 almshouses owned by the trust, has undergone a major renovation and a new tenant is now in residence

#### **Contact**

Anyone who feels that they may qualify for financial assistance from the Trust or would like further information should, in the first instance, contact Mrs. Janet Easter on 01332 880829

#### **Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust which any resident is welcome to attend will be held in the School on Wednesday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 2 p.m.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The audited accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 are presented. We are continuing to maintain Parish services and improvements are being made where a need is identified. During this year the Teen Pod Shelter has been installed on the Park. This is part of the project to provide a small multi-use area for sporting activities, mainly football with a goal and suitable side fencing etc. Although funding for the whole project is not yet in place it was considered prudent to install the teen pod. This is a Youth Café initiative and is funded by the Parish Council and several village organisations but still requires outside funding to complete. Work is ongoing to achieve this.

Improvements to Croft Corner are almost complete. The primary objective is to make good the walking surfaces, which had lifted and become a safety hazard, due to the root system of the oak tree.

A programme of repairing and rebuilding of the park boundary stone wall has started with the first section at the top of Park Close. Further sections will be done on a priority basis.

The footpath through the Park is overgrown and breaking up and work will start in the next few months to resurface this. We are currently trying to source a new mower for the Park. The existing one is over 20 years old and in need of repair at considerable cost. In the long term it will be cheaper to replace than to repair. Reserves built up over the last few years will be used to pay for these items. Park rents remain unchanged for this year after a small increase last year.

As expected the concurrent function budget provided by Erewash Borough Council is reduced by 5%, whilst the proposed precept is kept at last year's level, although under the council tax support grant we will receive approximately 5% extra of the proposed precept.

## DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

### Councillor Carol Hart (Derbyshire County Council)

From a personal point of view this last year has been a time of great disappointment, although re-elected with a strong majority to retain my position as the County Councillor for the Breadsall/West Hallam ward our Conservative Group lost control of the County Council and are now the minority party. Right across Derbyshire there was a protest vote about Europe and UKIP managed to put representatives up in all wards and unfortunately they took votes off many Conservative members, presumably a protest vote to give the Government an indication of their feelings. The only outcome was though that no UKIP member won a seat but it cost many of our members their seats and also lost us our majority. However, if everyone across Derbyshire had voted as residents did in Erewash we would still have retained control, in Erewash we lost a seat but also won a seat, the only gain from Labour across the Country. My disappointment was not only my group losing control but also the fact that although, as I have said, I had a healthy majority I lost around 600 votes to the UKIP candidate although he lived in Long Eaton, did not deliver one leaflet and, therefore, nobody knew anything about him, his experience, his background or his commitment. It would have been interesting if he had been elected to see just what work he would have done in this ward.

I suppose with losing my Cabinet position it does mean I have more time for ward work. I am still a Shadow Cabinet Member of Public Health so still have to do a fair bit of extra work but it is nothing like the 24/7 commitment looking after a budget worth millions of pounds.

As you all must know there have been large cuts from Central Government to local councils and we have all had to make savings but some seem to have coped better than others. The new controlling Labour Group at DCC seem to have vastly different priorities to when we were in charge and, in my opinion, seem to spend more time complaining about the cuts than actually getting on with the job of making the savings. We had our budgets and savings ready if we remained in control but most of these have gone out of the window because as previously said the controlling group have a different agenda.

The main areas that are causing major headaches are the state of the roads and Adult Care. Although most of Derbyshire has not had any significant snow falls this winter the real problem has been the rain, the wettest I think on record, although again Derbyshire was still lucky compared with other regions in the Country. However, the havoc the previous bad winters with lots of snow combined with this last year of rain has left our roads and even pavements in a really very poor state, huge potholes keep appearing daily and right across my ward I have had requests for help to get some work done on our roads. The Government has provided a special grant to councils to try and tackle this situation but it is a mammoth task.

Adult Care is another huge black hole, everyone is living longer (I am not complaining) but this is putting a huge burden on budgets. We had a plan to replace some of our older residential homes, working with the private sector, and bring them up to 21<sup>st</sup> century conditions but the new controlling group have abandoned many of our plans and patching up some of our present homes. Public Health money is now being administered by the County Council, in my last year as Cabinet Member for Public Health, we went through the transition period, but now they have control of this budget. Priority is being given to trying to keep people in their own homes as long as possible and a lot of preventative work is going on but it is very expensive .

Locally the issues remain very much the same as previous years, inconsiderate parking, particularly at the school, speeding and along with other wards too many potholes. As we all know considerable work is being undertaken at the Little Eaton roundabout and it has caused a lot of frustration with drivers trying all sorts of various routes to escape the traffic build up, hopefully with completion not too far away it will be interesting to see whether these 'improvements' do work, and in a year a two it could all happen again with the proposed flyover, but something did need to be done to ease the situation at this roundabout.

There seems to be quite a bit of activity from the Ramblers Association checking on footpaths, there are new regulations coming in the pipeline due to take effect in a few years and they are checking that all footpaths are on the definitive map, there have been several challenges in some of my wards but I have not heard of any yet in Little Eaton.

I have been pleased to help a few organisations in Little Eaton with my Community Capital Funding and if you know of any local organisations who could do with a little help please encourage them to contact me. Finally I would urge all Parish Councils in my ward to 'keep me in the loop'. There is no problem with things being sent to DCC direct from the Parish Council but if I am copied in it does give me the chance to chase officers if I do not think they are responding in the appropriate manner, but equally I am also happy to take things up on your behalf.

## **Erewash Councillor report Councillors Alan Summerfield and Abey Stevenson**

As in previous years, let's begin with the subject that affects all Council Tax payers. Council tax has changed this year. A band D rated house pays a total of £1503.29 (an increase of £26.04) made up as follows:-

- £165.91 (up 0% for the fifth year in a row) to Erewash,
- £1098.71 (up 1.99% (was 0% for three year in a row)) to Derbyshire CC,
- £170.22 (up 1.96%) to the Police Authority.
- £68.45 (up 1.9%) to the Fire Service.

All these services cost the taxpayer just £4.12 per day.

Erewash Borough Council's share of the total tax collected is still only 11% which works out to be 45.5 pence a day for the services that Erewash provide.

To put this into perspective my energy bill alone is now equivalent to about 98% of my Council tax bill but I did get a cheaper deal for the gas and electric.

Val Clare has been our Mayor for the last year and has done excellent work representing Erewash both inside and outside the Borough boundaries. Kewal Athwal is our candidate to be Mayor for the next year subject to a vote at the Annual Borough Council meeting.

The latest annual audit inspection shows that Erewash is still performing well and provides Value for Money. We note that the Borough is still debt free and therefore has no interest to pay out of taxpayer's money.

There has been a cut in the Government Grant to Erewash for the next year again which did affect the concurrent functions claimed by all Parishes. Our finance officers have been able to shield the Parishes from the full impact of this cut to try to ensure a fair and equitable arrangement for all.

The Boundary Commission has been running an exercise to reduce the number of Councillors from 51 down to 47 which we have supported. It has published its recommendations and is open for further comments or suggestions from the Borough residents. This is expected to be ratified by the end of April and be in force for the Borough elections next year. At a practical level there will be no change to the existing Parishes in this Ward however, your Borough Councillors will become responsible for four Parishes instead of three.

There have been many successful projects in the Borough over the past year and we had considerable success in obtaining external funding for many of them. Unsurprisingly these are predominantly in Ilkeston and Long Eaton being the most densely populated areas. Some of the highlights are:-

- The Erewash Core Strategy has been approved and was one of the first to be accepted by the Government
- Dog Wardens have visited 150 sites per month resulting in frequent prosecutions.
- Borough car park charges have not been increased. We have also introduced free 30 minute spaces in many car parks as well as free parking up to 10:00 am and parking tickets will be transferable so you will be able to move between car parks with the same ticket.
- The Borough vehicle fleet has been aging and replacement plan for vans and refuse trucks etc. is both budgeted for and is on target.
- The new college built on the old Magistrates Court in Ilkeston has opened.
- A free bulk waste collection has been introduced which will hopefully reduce the amount of 'fly tipping' especially in the Parishes
- A Morrisons supermarket is being built on the old college site.
- The new railway station in Ilkeston is expected to open by the end of 2014.
- We will be implementing a Member Grant Scheme similar to the County scheme. I understand that £500 per Councillor will be made available for worthwhile projects within our Wards and we are waiting for the fine details to see exactly what sort of projects will qualify for assistance.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

None

### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

22 April 2015.

Signed .....

Chairman

Date .....