

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LITTLE EATON HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL, VICARGE LANE ON WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillors A Summerfield (Chairman) B Adams, J Easter, F Williamson, A Machell, Parish Clerk, 3 members of the Public, Councillor A Stevenson (EBC)

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 26 APRIL 2017**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 26.4.17 were approved and signed by the Chair.

**Chairman's Report for 2017/2018 – Councillor Alan Summerfield**

Another year has passed and although I am still here we are currently down to only six Councillors on the Parish Council. Over the year we have had to say 'Thanks and Goodbye' to four Councillors who have each resigned for personal reasons. These were John Dallison, David Hall, Jim Nicholson and Stewart Tranter. We wish them all luck and best wishes their and their families futures. These four vacancies have been advertised and since no one has applied we are now able to 'co-opt' interested parties without the need or cost of an election.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group became a reality during the past year. The basic idea is that a group of residents join up in the interest of the village to formulate a plan on how all the residents would like the village to 'look like' in ten to twenty years. Government legislation has enabled this and a large part of the work involves canvassing the residents to create a plan that all of us support. There is emphasis on this being the residents plan and not a Parish Council plan. The Parish Council is to act as a facilitator for this and is responsible to apply for the grants available to fund the work and also to oversee the spending of these public funds. After a slightly shaky start while we all adjusted to this new framework I believe that it is working well and I commend the enthusiasm of the volunteers. In the last week I note that the Resident Questionnaire has been distributed and encourage all residents to respond and have their wishes for our future included in the plan.

There have been forty eight planning application reviewed by the Council this year. The majority of them were minor alterations that passed scrutiny with no objections by the Council. The only two that we opposed were also refused by the Erewash Planners.

Over the year we have completed the review of all the Council Policies and procedures to ensure that they are all accurate, fit for use and reflect how the Council business actually works. There were a number of changes made and we now have a set of Council documents reviewed in depth, accepted at the time which will greatly simplify the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May when we are required to review and adopt all our policies and procedures for the following year.

Little Eaton in Bloom have been industrious again this year keeping the village colourful with their planting and upkeep of flower beds around the village. They also instigated the building of the new wall around the front flower bed at Croft Corner which is a great improvement to the area. This was self-funded with additional funds from public grants.

Little Eaton Carnival had another successful year especially as there was good weather on the day.

Finally I would like to thank our Councillors and Clerk for their work throughout the year and all of the various groups and organisations in the village that help make Little Eaton the great place it is to live in today.

**Park Working Group Report– Councillor Mulvey**

The Park Working Group continues to meet monthly throughout the year, including the Park Keeper, this has proved to be invaluable in identifying any issues and planning the general upkeep and maintenance of the Park, Churchyard and Millennium Way.

Over the past 12 months the following work has been undertaken:

**Park Benches**

A programme of renewing & refurbishing the Park benches has been undertaken over the last 24 months and we are extremely grateful to the Parishioners who have kindly donated benches.

One new bench has been installed on St Peters Park, kindly donated by Margaret Grundy in memory of Norman Grundy

**Public Toilets**

The Ladies and Gents public toilets have been fitted with an automatic locking system.

**Children's Play Area**

A weekly safety inspection of the Children's Play Area is carried out by the Park Keeper who is a qualified inspector and any findings are recorded in a log book with any issues being immediately addressed.

The annual independent inspection report has been received with no defects affecting safety, however there are some observations which have been addressed:

- Rubber stopper fixed to one gate
- Washer to be fixed to the climbing frame

The roundabout has currently been removed for repair / overhaul

**Wildlife Meadow**

The area continues to be managed as a joint enterprise with the Park Working Group and LEIB. Regular meetings are held with LEIB who have taken responsibility for the Wildlife Meadow on the Park which is located between the Tennis Court and Duffield Road.

## **General Park Maintenance**

A programme of maintenance has been ongoing all year including;

- The park steps leading from the car park have been repaired to make them safer with standard drops
- Broken tiles have been replaced on the mower store roof
- A new vehicle access gate has been installed at the Church Lane / Duffield Road entrance to the park
- A diesel metal storage cabinet has been installed in the Park Keeper store to conform with H&S requirements.
- The 'sit on' mower and the three rotary mowers have all been serviced
- The ivy on the Duffield Rd wall has been cut back to prevent an obstruction on the pavement
- The plastic covering on the handrail from the balcony has been repaired.
- Herbicide spraying of car park edges
- Herbicide spraying of Park perimeter, around trees, obstacles and park benches to reduce the amount of strimming required and making the mowing of the Park easier.
- Dog Fouling - Erewash BC are continuing regular surveillance on the Park
- Pedestrian park access from Church Lane is being reviewed for Carnival Day.

## **Parks Hire Agreements**

Park Hire Agreements are in place with all Organisations who use Park facilities to ensure that all Parties fully understand the conditions of hire and their responsibilities, including full public liability insurance.

A new agreement has been signed with Big On Bikes Ltd to allow bicycle training on the Park.

The Carnival Committee agreement has been renewed for a further 3 years.

## **Police Liaison**

The Park Working Group continue to liaise with the Police and the EBC Neighbourhood Warden to review and address any ASB issues. This is extremely useful in resolving a number of incidents and has resulted in increased patrols

## **Pavilion**

- A loft ladder has been installed in the Pavilion to provide easier access to the roof space storage
- The corridor and dressing room floors are to be repaired but this is awaiting a response from a funding grant

## **Church Yard**

The Church Yard is managed by a regular maintenance regime which keeps the grounds in a presentable condition. The contract is now undertaken by Fox Landscaping Ltd who have provided an excellent service over the last 12 months

## **Park Bank Maintenance**

The Park Bank Maintenance Contract is now managed by the Park Group and there are no issues with this contract

## **Millennium Way**

Millennium Way has been mowed regularly throughout the year and annual tree maintenance is undertaken of the three copses

## **Park Keeper Contract**

The Park Keeper contract has been renewed for a further 2 years

## **Youth café report– Councillor Machell**

The Youth Cafe` is still thriving with between 35 to 40 students attending each session.

Emma Smith is still the Youth Cafe` leader and is doing a sterling job with Liz Brown as her number two. They are both hoping to continue in their present rolls at least through to September. They have a good team around them who are mum`s to some of the students that attend.

Emma is an active member of the Village Hall Management Committee and was involved in the Santa switch on lights event on the park last Christmas. The Youth Café shopped for all the sweets that Santa gave out which was a massive help to all of us.

The Youth Café volunteers are putting on a BBQ on the night Wild Wet and Wacky is run on the park. They are also entering a team in the event which is always a tremendous night for both participants and onlookers.

The Youth Café are looking to buy a swing ball which can be used inside or outside the hall this summer. They are also looking at buying a soft table tennis table.

Year Six is being contacted at Little Eaton School to help drum up more support for the Youth Café and the hope is that more mum`s come out the woodwork to help.

The future going forward with the Youth Cafe` looks very healthy and we wish them every success and long may it continue.

Alan Machell

## Highways update– Councillor Williamson

- **Speeding** Community Speedwatch (CSW) was supported by a core of 4 resident volunteers continuing to perform Speedwatches around the village. 11 Speedwatches were performed during which it was identified that on average 30% (11 – 53) of vehicles are speeding with 9% (2 – 27) travelling at or over 35mph.
- **Vehicle Activated Signs** were not installed during 2017-18 as expected, however DCC have indicated that the Traffic Signals team is currently making arrangements for their installation
- **Community Speedwatch Group** met twice over the year to discuss safety issues relating to roads, verges and pavements in the village. The link with the PC and frequency of meetings was reviewed and going forward the Group will meet annually
- **Residents meeting** was held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 to identify areas of concern in relation to Highways, a summary of which was posted on the PC Web Page. Despite a very useful meeting with the officer the formal report on what action would or could be undertaken was disappointing. This report and relevant feedback from residents via the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire will shape forthcoming actions in 2018 and beyond
- **A38** the Derby Junctions Preferred Route was announced in February 2018. Representatives from Highways England are attending the May Parish Council meeting to update on progress, next steps and will be available to residents for questions
- **Parking** continues to be a problem throughout the village. There is confusing feedback from the DCC enforcement team which is being followed up, however the Police take action if offences are observed when in or passing through the village
- **Pavements & Verges** Work is ongoing with Erewash Borough Council Neighbourhood Wardens to help address concerns in relation to vehicular damage, Parking, Litter and Dog Fouling. Residents identifying dog fouling are encouraged to report it via the text hotline (07792701583) to make sure the issue is recorded and appropriate remedial measures can be actioned  
Overgrowing perennial planting on Morley Lane causing rodent problems was identified to DCC for action. Unfortunately, none has been undertaken
- **Moor Lane / Brackley Gate** Despite complaints from the Parish Council being upheld DCC has unfortunately not taken any action to drain the road making it impassable to all but 4 x 4 vehicles. Unsurprisingly, trespass, antisocial behaviour and destruction of the environment continues.

## **Better Kept Village** updated Councillor Williamson

Despite the in-year the resignation of Cllrs, planting around the village was again received positively by residents. Thanks are due to LEIB, WI and residents for their contribution to improve the aspect of the village which is appreciated by all who live in and travel through the village

Little Eaton in Bloom delivered their project to raise the long bed at Croft Corner which is undergoing a process of replanting, providing a popular space to relax and enjoy any good weather.

Little Eaton Women's Institute decoration of the Millennium Seat with knitted poppies as a tribute to the fallen was appreciated and commented on by many residents.

No concern has been raised with the performance of the Village Centre Maintenance contract.

Work has started on a preventative / maintenance programme for Parish Council property e.g. Retired Phone Boxes and street furniture. Going forward relevant feedback from residents via the Neighbourhood Planning questionnaire will be allocated to the Better Kept Village group for consideration and action

## **Neighbourhood Planning**

The success of the awareness session in March 2017 stimulated the progression of a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. A launch session, delivered in September 2017, identified the required number of volunteers and a successful grant application was made to Locality. The Parish Council, by majority, appointed the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group (NPSG) in December 2017.

The NPSG appointed Andrew Towler Associates, a consultancy experienced in delivering neighbourhood plans, to support and guide the process.

A Kick Off meeting in January 2018 set up four theme groups addressing Housing and the Built Environment, the Natural Environment, Leisure and Community Facilities and Businesses. A lunchtime meeting in March 2018 was organised to maximise engagement with businesses in the village.

A questionnaire seeking the views of residents has been developed and will be distributed to every household in April 2018.

Feedback is provided to the monthly Parish Council meetings and notes are posted on the NP Web Page. NP Steering Group and Theme Group meetings are open to the public and meeting dates are posted on the Neighbourhood Planning Web Page and Public Noticeboards.

It is anticipated that a draft neighbourhood plan will be available in early July and will be promoted at Carnival

## **Charities of Thomas Bates Annual Report 2017- Bill Hutchison**

**Trustees** : The current trustees are ;

Bill Hutchison (Chair) Tel. 831966 email bhutchison29@btinternet.com  
Rev. David Barnsley Tel. 585190  
Richard Bateman Tel. 831471  
Councillor Carol Hart Tel. 01159 322513  
Janet Love Tel. 842098  
Dr. Barbara Leyland Tel. 840707  
Peter Griffiths Tel. 558336

**Grants** : Grants are awarded to Little Eaton residents or organisations who may be in need of financial assistance and any requests will be considered by the trustees. In the last 12 months grants have been awarded to Little Eaton Pre School and the Friends in Harmony Choir.

**Almshouses** : The 3 almshouses in Church Lane are owned and maintained by the Trust and are currently occupied by 3 elderly residents. In the last twelve months a quinquennial (5 year) review of the properties has been carried out. No major problems were identified. Work is ongoing to rectify a number of minor issues.

**Contact** : Enquiries about grants or any information about the Trust should be made to the Chairman or any of the Trustees.

**Annual General Meeting** : The AGM of the Trust which any resident is welcome to attend will be held later in the year on a date to be announced.

### **Finance Group Report - Councillor B Adams**

The accounts for the year to 31st March 2018 are presented.

Parish services and facilities continue to be maintained and improved where possible.

The ongoing support for Little Eaton in Bloom continues with the improvements to Croft Corner now completed following an EBC Rural Grant Award of 50% of the cost and the rest funded by the Parish Council. Annual grants for winter and summer planting continue along with support for the wildlife area on the Park.

The steps from the Car Park to the Park have been improved with more even spacing. The Pavilion public toilet doors have been fitted with electronic door locks at a cost. Unfortunately, due to vandalism we have had to close them over the winter period.

A new park gate at the Duffield Road/Church Lane access was supplied and fitted last summer and improved pedestrian access to the Park at this point, requested by the Carnival Committee, is to be implemented by Carnival Day.

Refurbishment of the Sports pavilion corridor and changing room floors is to be undertaken this year as there are areas where the surface is breaking up creating a potential safety problem.

A change of supplier for the Newsletter printing and a change of Website management has led to cost increases for both services during the year.

Sports club rents for use of the Park remain unchanged for the year 2018/2019.

Whilst there is a further reduction in the concurrent function budget from Erewash Borough Council the Parish Council maintain the precept budget at last year's level.

Brian Adams

### **Little Eaton Parish Council Bank Reconciliation 2017/2018**

Opening Balance Natwest 203	1.4.17	29,830.91
Opening Balance Natwest 171	1.4.17	<u>10,462.91</u>
		<b>40,293.82</b>
Income		48,975.19
Expenditure	2017/2018	43,956.62
Closing Balance Natwest 203	31.3.18	29,838.55
Closing Balance Natwest 171	31.3.18	<u>15,473.84</u>
Closing Balance per cashbook/bank	31.3.18	45,312.39

## **Erewash Councillor report for the Annual Parish Meeting Councillors A Stevenson & A Summerfield**

As in previous years you should have received your Council Tax Demand by now

- Erewash Borough Council up 3%,
- Derbyshire CC, up 3%,
- Derbyshire CC, for Adult Social Care up 2%
- Police Authority up 6.6%.
- Fire Service up 3%.

Erewash Borough Council is the billing Authority and its share of the total tax collected is still only 11%.

The Police Authority have increased their precept by 6.6% which is the highest increase I have seen in the years that I have been producing these reports

Mary Hopkinson has been our Mayor for the last year with her husband Peter as Consort. They have been very busy doing excellent work representing Erewash both inside and outside the Borough boundaries.

Chris Corbett as Deputy Mayor for the last year is our candidate to be Mayor for the next year subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> May

The Erewash annual auditor is Ernst and Young and their inspection confirms that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money to the taxpayers. We note that the Borough is fortunately still debt free and therefore has no interest to pay out of taxpayer's money.

The Opposition Members of the Council have again criticised our annual budget as lacking vision but failed to provide an alternative budget either balanced or not.

There is still ongoing pressure to reduce spending due to cuts in our funding. The Council officers have successfully been able to shield the electorate from the full impact of this to ensure a fair and equitable arrangement for all. It has become increasingly difficult to find more spending cuts without impacting services and we have been obliged to increase the Erewash portion of the Council Tax by £5 a band 'D' property in the current year 2018/2019 as noted above.

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 Councillor Community Grant Scheme has been used by us to benefit worthy causes in our Ward of Little Eaton and Stanley and we were again able to give away all the funds allocated to us for the year.
- Borough car park charges have been frozen this year and some free parking is still in place. We recommend that you visit [www.ereash.gov.uk](http://www.ereash.gov.uk) for specific details.
- EBC Officers have begun a review of leisure service provision and will be investigating options to provide the same or better service at a reduced cost
- The Erewash in Bloom competition has proved to be popular across the Borough and will continue running this year

The Police have made some changes to the Rural Areas and we seem to be getting a better service now as the Police Officers are more visible. The 'fly-by' including a Spitfire that was organised by the Royal British Legion to commemorate the crash of a Wellington near Stanley during WWII was well worth attending. It was great to see and hear this iconic plane in the skies above Stanley Village.

Councillors Alan Summerfield and Abey Stevenson

## **Derbyshire County Council - Councillor Carol Hart**

As many will know there was a change of control at Derbyshire County Council at the elections last May. The Conservatives were returned with a good majority with quite a few new councillors but needless to say some faces that have been representing their areas for a good number of years, me being one, I was thrilled to be re-elected to represent the Breadsall/West Hallam ward and also equally thrilled to be offered a Cabinet post, that of Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities. The major part of the portfolio is of course Public Health but it also includes, in no particular order, Community Safety, Emergency Planning, Trading Standards, Coroners and Registrars, Equality and Diversity, LGBT, Travellers, Armed Forces Covenant, etc. etc. etc. I have to say that having spent the last four years as a shadow cabinet member there was and is so much to catch up on, unfortunately as a shadow you are very much kept in the dark, this is same in all portfolios so this first year has been pretty hectic. We have experience in the Cabinet in that the Leader, Barry Lewis and Deputy Leader, Simon Spencer and myself as a Cabinet Member have been around a fair while but we have 4 Cabinet Members who have not held these posts before, we have Alex Dale who is in charge of the Young People portfolio, Angelique Foster for Council Services, Jean Wharmby Adult Care and Tony King from Ilkeston for Economic Development and regeneration.

We made some changes early on in the year, we decided that we would delete the post of Chief Executive and also delete two of the Director posts, however we did create a new directorship area, one of innovation, this area is to look at the many things we do as a Council and to see if there are better ways of delivering, this is to make us more efficient but at the same time to help to manage the cuts in budget, DCC is a vast organisation with a budget of over £500M but we

need to run it as an efficient business, give good value for money and keep delivering our front line services. I would also add that we reduced the allowances to Cabinet Members and reduced the amount of Support Cabinet Members. The pressure was certainly on in the Highways Department in connection with potholes and lighting. Lighting, first we inherited something like 3600 light bulbs that needed replacing, we set extra staff on to try and tackle this and at the same time set about moving on with the LED programme, LED lighting is cheaper to run and also the bulbs last longer, this is now being progressed across the County but potholes are an even bigger problem, new systems were put in place to try and deal with the vast number of potholes and we used some of our reserves to help this programme along but just when things seemed to be levelling out came the bad weather, whether it be rain, snow or ice, lots of the highways have disintegrated and again more money has been pumped in to try and keep up with the problem, money from Government and even more from our reserves, the added problem is that the teams that deal with potholes also drive the gritting lorries so as you can see more problems, we have set on outside help to try and get as many potholes fixed as possible but it is taking time. At this present time something like an extra £7M has been allocated to this budget. We have decided that this year we will be asking for extra precept from residents but what we have said is that the extra we have asked for will be ring fenced for the area covering young people, the pressures are great in this area with foster children, children in care etc., and as with the ring fenced Adult Care budget we feel that residents will understand why we have asked for this extra in specific areas rather than just putting it into the big mix. There may be something similar next year but what we have said is that we are aiming for zero Council Tax rise in our last two years of this 4 year term. One of the things we promised in our Manifesto was £1M for grants for local organisations, we have recently launched this scheme and added £500K from the Public Health budget, the grants are for 750 Youth Activity Grants, 500 Community Safety Grants, 375 Community Activity Grants and 375 Physical Activity and Sports Grants, the amounts that can be applied for are small grants up to £500, medium grants up to £5,000 and large grants up to £10,000. We will be publicising these grants widely, hopefully these will be of interest to local clubs and organisations. Bus services are another area we are working on, we do subsidise a lot of routes but some of them are proving very costly meaning that some passenger journeys can be costing £8/9, this is unsustainable but we do realise how important these bus services are especially to our rural areas so we are looking at different ways of delivering these services but be assured we do realise the services are a lifeline for many residents. As for the Little Eaton ward the problems never to seem to vary much, traffic, inconsiderate parking, speeding and general day to day things, potholes, overhanging branches and lighting. Unfortunately even when it is agreed that something should be done to help in certain situations the budget is so tight that it can take a while to deliver on a project but I can assure you that when something is requested in my ward I will always do my best to follow it through and try to make sure it does not slip down the list of priorities. I would also request that when correspondence is sent to DCC by the Parish Clerk or any councillor that they copy me in, we, as members, have the advantage of being able to monitor requests and if necessary request officers to respond in a more timely fashion, one of the things we are trying to improve on is the response time from officers, they are under pressure but sometimes a quick response and acknowledgement is all that it needs to smooth the situation. As always I will do my best for my ward and am happy to respond to any queries whether it be from the Parish Council, councillors or residents.

**Public Speaking**

A parishioner asked if there were any improvements planned for the play park. It was reported that feedback from the neighbourhood plan is currently awaited.

A parishioner raised concerns regarding flooding on Bermuda Avenue. These had already been reported to Councillor Hart.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

24.4.19

Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....