

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF LITTLE EATON HELD AT THE
VILLAGE HALL, VICARGE LANE ON WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2015**

PRESENT: Councillors A Summerfield (Chairman) B Adams, J Dallison, J Easter, D Hall, S Fogerty, F Williamson, A Machell, J Nicholson, P Mulvey, Councillor C Hart (DCC), Councillor A Stevenson (EBC), 6 members of the public, Parish Clerk

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 22 APRIL 2015

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 22.4.15 were approved and signed by the Chair.

Little Eaton Parish Council Chairman's Report

First I would like to pay tribute to Glenda Harrison who has spent decades as the Parish Clerk and the Editor of the Village Newsletter. She has recently decided to move on in her retirement and has now left the Editorial and printing of the newsletter in the hands of the Parish Council.

Thank you Glenda for your work and support over the years

I would also like to thank all the Parish Councillors and our Clerk for their input and work in the running of the Parish Council over the past year.

On the Finance side I see that we are slightly under budget on the Precept, slightly over budget on Concurrent and still have a healthy balance in reserve.

Little Eaton in Bloom have done sterling work throughout the year and have again won awards for the Village.

A highlight of the year is always Carnival Day which was also blessed with good weather on the day. I did walk through the park one evening and wondered what all the white was that covered the grass before I realised that it was the kids really enjoying the wild wet and bubbly race night.

The Village Hall is still a roaring success with ongoing high usage rates and numerous complements about the facility. The Village Hall Committee is largely responsible for this with the background work that they do to ensure that it is kept clean well maintained.

The coloured lights around the Village Hall have proved to be a welcome addition to the Christmas decorations around the village.

The CCTV system has also proved to be valuable in limiting graffiti and vandalism on the park and on one occasion was instrumental in identifying the perpetrators to the Police.

Speeding and, to a lesser extent, inconsiderate parking is an ongoing issue in the Village as it is in all the surrounding villages as well. There has been some speed watch activity that has identified some culprits but with the 'best will in the world' it is not possible to get the manpower to eliminate it completely.

It has been noted that Derbyshire County Council is financially strapped and unwilling to do much more than they must for any requests that we make to them. However our County Councillor is always willing to take up our issues with the authority with variable levels of success to date.

Councillor A Summerfield (Chairman)

Park Working Group Report

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 and other open spaces.

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

Park Benches

A programme of renewing & refurbishing the Park benches has been undertaken, we are extremely grateful to the Parishioners who have kindly donated benches

- 4 new benches new installed in the Children's Play Area (1 Parishioner Donation & 3 Parish Council)
- 1 new bench in front of the Monument (Parishioner Donation)
- 2 new benches on the Park bank adjacent to Vicarage Lane (both Parishioner Donations)
- 2 new benches adjacent to the Park footpath (both Parishioner Donations)
- 1 older style concrete bench was re-located at the Pinfold to replace a parishioners bench that was stolen
- The remaining Park benches have been refurbished

Public Toilets

- The Ladies and Gents public toilets have been painted and new toilet roll dispensers installed.

Children's Play Area

- A weekly safety inspection of the Children's Play Area is now being carried out by the 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
- As well as installing new benches the following work has been undertaken:
 - The roundabout has been refurbished
 - The soft tarmac areas around the tunnels and see saw have been improved
 - A new soft tarmac area has been installed around the slide
 - New small swing seats have been purchased to replace the existing seats
 - The play equipment is being painted
 - The railings around the play area and the pre-school are being painted

Wildlife Meadow

- Regular meetings are held with LEIB who have taken responsibility for the Wildlife Area on the Park which is located between the Tennis Court and Duffield Road.
- This is a long term project and an information board has been erected in the Wildlife Meadow to explain the project to Parishioners. The original park gate has been integrated as a feature into the information board

General Park Maintenance

A programme of maintenance has been ongoing all year including;

- Painting of the fencing in the car park
- Repair of mower store door
- New waste bin in the car park
- Steam cleaning the showers in the Pavilion
- Tree maintenance
 - a. The 6 lime trees on the park bank adjacent to Vicarage Lane have been pruned and dead wood removed
 - b. The dead cherry tree on the Park adjacent to Church Lane has been removed and another cherry tree planted in its place
- 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.
- The drain outside the lower store underneath the veranda has been inspected with a camera and cleaned using a high pressure jet.
- Dog Fouling - Erewash BC are now undertaking regular surveillance on the Park
- Waste Bin – replacement waste bin for both litter & dog waste has been installed at vicarage road entrance
- The overhanging vegetation in car park has been cut back

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.

Police Liaison

- The Park Working Group continue to meet on a regular basis with the Police and the EBC Neighbourhood Warden to review and address any ASB issues. The meetings have been extremely useful in resolving a number of incidents and has resulted in increased patrols

Pavilion

- The lighting around the pavilion has been replaced to provide brighter illumination and security
- The path at the bottom of the Pavilion Stairs have been repaired as they had sunk and become a potential trip hazard
- The CCTV system is being reviewed with a view to improving the picture image & upgrading the system

Church Yard

- The Church Yard is managed by a regular maintenance regime which keeps the grounds in a presentable condition
- The area behind the Parish Rooms has been cleared of all overgrown vegetation and sprayed with herbicide to reduce any further growth.
- The Conifer in the Memorial Garden has been pruned to prevent damage to the lawn area
- The trees by the Lych Gate have been pollarded

Millennium Way

- Millennium Way is mowed regularly throughout the year
- Annual tree maintenance is undertaken

Councillor P Mulvey

Footpaths Group Report

- During the course of the year the PC has received no representations from parishioners in respect of the condition of footpaths in the parish.
- We have begun a comprehensive review of the condition of footpaths within the parish.
- At the time of writing this report the review document is approximately 50 % complete and completion is anticipated before the end of May 2016.
- The Purpose of the review is to identify wants of repair to the physical elements of footpaths; primarily to ensure that they remain safe and accessible for public use on an ongoing basis.
- Having established the need for repairs it is the intention to use the document as a basis for seeking funding for repairs to footpath elements as necessary [eg stiles,gates steps etc].
- The success of such funding requests at a time of significant austerity within public finances, remains to be seen ; but you can be assured that your Parish Council will try our best to secure maintenance funding for this important parish amenity.
- On an ongoing basis the Footpath Group welcomes comment or advice of footpath defects from parish residents.
- On completion of the review document it is intended that it will simply require updating [images and script] on an ongoing basis.

Safer Neighbourhood

PC Russ Crooks moved on to Police another area after many years of service to the village. PCSO Rob Stanesby (12766) has taken over and is already actively supporting activities in and around the village

ROADSAFE report the latest road casualty statistics for 2014 showing there were 1,775 fatalities, an increase of 4% in the number or reported road deaths, almost three-quarters of this increase in fatalities were pedestrians.

The Little Eaton Community Speedwatch Group continue to perform Speedwatches once a month around the village, however speeding continues to be a problem. A total of 12 CSW were performed, one watch was cancelled by the Police. 273 vehicles were recorded travelling over 35mph. Due to a significant increase in vehicle numbers the group now records the total number of vehicles passing during the watch period. On 20th April a total of 767 vehicles were recorded passing the CSW location between 17.00 – 18.00.

The Community Speedwatch Group meets quarterly to discuss safety issues relating to roads and pavements in the village and will again consider participation in the annual BRAKE Road Safety Campaign. Ongoing issues being investigated by the Parish Council are i) regular Laser Gun Checks ii) installation of Visual Activated Signs iii) Pedestrian Refuge around Morley Lane / Alfreton Road iv) pavement extension to properties on Morley Lane v) pedestrian safety around the shops vi) installation of a Red Light Camera on the Puffin Crossing

Derbyshire County Council have refused to a) install rumble strips on Morley Lane near the A38 fly over due to noise to local properties b) install Road Narrowing / Road Deviation chevrons at the summit of Morley Lane near Drum Hill Scout Camp

Highways

Verges Presumably due to cost pressure Derbyshire County Council has refused to repair verges unless the problem constitutes a Health and Safety issue. The Parish Council is therefore investigating possible ways to limit or restrict vehicular damage to verges

Alfreton Road Despite reseeding the area several times throughout the year vehicles continued to drive over the verge to park in the lay-by opposite the school. To prevent ongoing damage the Parish Council obtained permission and had four oak posts installed

Morley Lane / Alfreton Road – erosion and damage by vehicles cutting the corner by driving over the verge has also placed pedestrians in danger. The Parish Council is working with Derbyshire County Council with the aim of identifying a solution to protect pedestrians as well as maintaining the verge

Alfreton Road The Parish Council obtained a Cultivation License for Alfreton Road and Radleigh very generously funded and arranged planting. The plants are small at the moment, however will grow into substantial perennial planting

PARKING There is concern about the availability of parking in the village and inconsiderate parking continues to cause problems in and around the village. The area around the School, on the zig-zags, in the bus stop opposite the Queens Head, on the Co-Op / Newsagent Frontage and blocking drives off Alfreton Road are the main areas of concern. Police enforcement is being carried out and going forward Derbyshire County Council enforcement of the area around the shops and bus stop is being progressed.

Overhanging Vegetation and Parking on pavements and verges continues to be a problem the Parish Council will progress with Derbyshire County Council leaving pavements for people

Moor Lane / Brackley Gate Fly tipping, theft and antisocial behaviour is causing extensive damage to the road surface and 4 x 4's off roading through the woods are destroying vegetation, causing deep ruts in the banks, exposing and driving over mature tree roots. The Parish Council is working with Morley Parish Council, Breadsall Priory, Derbyshire Scouts and Brackley Gate Neighbourhood Watch with a view to requesting Derbyshire County Council support Erewash Borough Council and the Police and consider what changes could be made to address these concerns

Going forward it is to be anticipated that the Greenway proposal and A38 developments may impact the village, potentially detrimentally, in relation to parking and volume of traffic respectively. It is hoped that Derbyshire County Council will support residents, however the Parish Council should make use of all possible powers to take action to address and resolve issues and protect the environment of the village

Councillor F Williamson

Finance Report

The audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 are presented.

We are maintaining your Parish services and continuing to identify and implement improvement programmes where possible.

The Park bench replacement programme is nearly completed and we appreciate the generosity of those parishioners who have donated several seats in addition to the ones supplied by the Parish Council.

Also on the Park, night time security has been improved by the fitting of a movement sensor controlled spot light over the children's play area. Further improvement in this area is being investigated.

The public toilets have been re-painted and secure toilet roll dispensers fitted.

An EBC grant has been secured for refurbishment of the children's play area which has started and will be completed in the next few months.

Repairs and painting of the two telephone boxes in the village, the Book Exchange and the Paint Box, have been undertaken.

Substantial timber posts have been installed opposite the School to deter wayward motorists from parking on the grass and further measures are being considered.

On a brighter note, the Croft Corner Christmas Tree lighting was substantially improved resulting in a canopy of light over the festive period. Similar enhancements were made on the Village Hall on the Park. These will remain for the foreseeable future.

The annual maintenance work around the village, which is a substantial part of the budget, continues with, in particular, tree work on Millennium Way to improve pedestrian's visibility when crossing the B6179.

The Tempest Charity which is administered by the Parish Council is to be wound up and the proceeds given to the Senior Citizens Club, which is within the conditions of the constitution of the charity.

The Parish Council have recommended no change to the precept for this year whilst there is a decrease in the EBC concurrent function budget.

Councillor B Adams.

Charities of Thomas Bates Annual Report 2016

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

Following her recent illness Janet Easter (Tel. 880829) is no longer Clerk to the Trust but remains as a contact for enquiries

All the clerk's duties are now carried out by the Chairman.

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 no grants have been awarded to individuals but the OAP Hall fund and Little Eaton in Bloom have received payments.

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 12 months a major repair to part of the footpath around the houses has been carried out and a new maintenance contract for the heating systems in the houses has been taken out.

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 in the OAP Hall on Wednesday May 4th at 2 p.m.

Annual Report – Derbyshire County Council Councillor Carol Hart

This is my last year of this 4 year term of office and elections for Derbyshire County Council will be taking place next May, I have decided to put my name forward again next May, all things being equal, and hope to continue representing the Breadsall/West Hallam ward, with apologies to those villages not included in the title of the ward, unfortunately the Electoral Commission do not like the titles of wards to be too wordy!!!

Again as I have said for the past 3 years it is so frustrating to be in opposition, I do still hold the position of Shadow Cabinet Member for Public Health which covers Health, Community Safety, Derbyshire Sport, Trading Standards, Libraries amongst other things but I am afraid although everyone knows there have been cuts in the DCC budget I get so upset with some of the cuts that have been proposed over the last year in particular, the first couple of years there were many areas that could be trimmed down and made more efficient and, of course, it does get harder as time goes on and still savings have to be made but it is all about priorities and I am afraid my group have many different priorities to the controlling group.

We have had many cuts in different services areas, mobile libraries have had their deliveries cut back but I think most areas are still being served even if the service is reduced and the visits are less, school crossing patrols are being cut, some schools are losing their 'lollipop' persons and I can accept that if they have puffin or pelican crossings this might be acceptable but where there are no puffin/pelican crossings I think it is essential that this facility is kept in place, it has been decided that when a 'lollipop' person resigns they will not be replaced, what a pity that DCC has not worked with schools or even the local parish council to see if there is a way of still providing this service. One of the biggest cuts that has been announced is the cut in funding to Community Transport, along with this is now the consultation that is happening about withdrawing all subsidies from bus companies, this would have a massive impact on particularly rural communities including the villages in my ward, some of these services are not heavily used but for the people who use them they are essential, whether it be older people who do not or cannot drive, people working shifts, people wanting to get to hospital for appointments or even visiting, we cannot isolate our communities. Hopefully I have managed to get the message out to the parish councils in my ward about the consultation on bus subsidies and I am hopeful that there will be a good response from my ward area and many people putting forward their reasons for wanting to keep their precious bus service. The Community Transport organisations across Derbyshire delivered a petition to a Full Council meeting recently asking the Cabinet to look again at their decisions to cut funding, the petition was the largest ever received by DCC, some 22,000 signatures, unfortunately although it was debated and supported by my group the Cabinet and back benchers of the controlling Labour Group turned this down. There is also consultation going on to close some of the Children's Centres, again it seems as though the most effect will be felt in the rural areas rather than the urban areas, I think everyone appreciates that some of our most deprived areas need extra help but it should not always be to the detriment of the rural areas.

Still lots of complaints about the state of the roads and pavements, the Government has given councils some extra funding for getting the potholes repaired, I believe it the amount was, I believe, £1.6 M. DCC say that this is a drop in the ocean, what I cannot understand is that although we have not had a bad winter over Derbyshire there has still been an overspend on this budget, goodness knows what will happen if we have a bad winter!! The frustration again is that I have just been handed a list of work that will hopefully be carried out in my ward on roads and pavements but unfortunately this is a 5 year plan and there is no indication as to when any of these projects might happen, I understand that all those roads and pavements listed will be inspected and placed in priority order, I can only keep monitoring and lobby if there are areas that are in urgent need of attention.

As you will have probably seen from your recent Council Tax bills DCC have set a precept of 3.99%, there did have to be a referendum called if they wished to precept more than 2% but this year the Government have said that Councils could precept an extra 2% as long as they ring fenced it for Adult Care, because of the pressures on Adult Care basically because most of us are living longer, thank goodness, this was something my group could support.

I have been pleased to help some local organisations in my ward with a grant from my Community Capital Fund but for some reason no organisations in Little Eaton have applied this year, but for the first time since I became a County Councillor I spent all of my year's allocation of £4200 (this has to cover all of my ward of course) but I am pleased to say that the fund is now open again, unfortunately due to the cuts the amount I receive will be £3,800 as the amount has been top sliced by DCC to give to the many Luncheon Clubs that deliver a service across Derbyshire, they cut their funding so are now taking it from the Member Grant Scheme to compensate.

Little Eaton is really no different to many of the villages in my ward and across Derbyshire in that traffic, whether speeding, inconsiderate or even dangerous parking seems to be the biggest problem, and again what upsets people more than anything is the fact that officers seem very reluctant to address problems that local residents are really concerned about, I realise there has to be some way of judging where and how safety measures can be carried out but I know how upsetting it is to hear that many areas are not given priority because there have not been deaths, I very often hear residents say, does there have to be a death for something to be done, and as horrible as it is that is taken into

consideration. My real concerns are to do with the collection of data on accidents, unless there is really serious injury caused it seems as though many accidents are not recorded, even though 'there but for the grace of God there could have been fatalities'.

Again it is unfortunate that the school, shops and a junction are all clustered together, most villages have trouble with school parking but you have additional problems in Little Eaton, I did recently work with Mr. Bateman, the Headteacher and residents who live at the rear of the school to try and solve a problem, hopefully things have improved after some minor alterations and joint working.

As always I will try and do my best for you at Matlock, I know the Council and Councillors sometimes prefer to deal direct with DCC which is fine but always remember if you do need me to follow up problems for you I am here and certainly with the problems just surfacing about the local bus service I am more than happy to get involved after having a similar problem in West Hallam.

Annual Report Erewash Borough Council Councillor Abey Stevenson & Councillor A Summerfield

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 £1584.33 (an increase of £54.55 (3.57%)) made up as follows:-

- £170.91 (up £5 (3.01%) after 0% for six year in a row) to Erewash,
- £1165.17 (up £44.71 (3.99%)) to Derbyshire CC,
- £177.07 (up £3.46 (1.99%)) to the Police Authority.
- £71.17 (up £1.38 (1.98%)) to the Fire Service.

All these services cost the taxpayer just £4.19 per day.

Erewash Borough Council's share of the total tax collected is still only 11% which works out to be 46.8 pence a day for all the services that Erewash provides.

Val Custance has been our Mayor for the last year and has done excellent work representing Erewash both inside and outside the Borough boundaries.

Abey Stevenson as Deputy Mayor is our candidate to be Mayor for the next year subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting on the 12th May

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

There is still ongoing pressure to reduce spending due to cuts in our funding. The Council officers have done excellent work 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 and we have been obliged to increase the Erewash portion of the Council Tax by £5 for the current year 2016/2017 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 Little Eaton, Breadsall, Morley and Stanley.
- Borough car park charges have been changed but some free parking is still in place. We recommend that you visit www.ereash.gov.uk for specific details.
- The Borough vehicle fleet has been aging and replacement plan for vans and refuse trucks etc. is both budgeted for and is still on target.

The move of the Registry Office to Ilkeston Town Hall has proved to be very popular for weddings and the Council have received numerous comments praising the location.

The Boundary Commission proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from 51 down to 47 as of last year has resulted in an increased workload for us but we are still available for residents to contact us if they need our help.

Public Speaking

Parishioners questioned the Parish Council reserve policy and the availability of the accounts.

Parishioners gave thanks to Mr & Mrs Harrison for their involvement in the newsletter. A parishioner was in agreement with the tribute to Glenda Harrison.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26 April 2017.

Signed Chairman

Date