

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF DALE ABBEY HELD AT THE
GATEWAY CENTRE DALE ABBEY ON THURSDAY 18 MAY 2017**

PRESENT: Councillors Peter Famer (Chair), S Bown, T Davies, C Just, R Oates, J Smith, S Street
Parish Clerk

- 1 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 19.5.16**
RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 19.5.16 be approved.
- 2 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO BE PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR
PETER FARMER**
- 3 TO NOTE THE COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2017/2018**
The Council Tax Precept/EBC grant of £7,000 for 2017/2018 was noted.
- 4 BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Annual Report – Carol Hart – Derbyshire County Councillor for Breadsall/West Hallam Ward, 2016/17

This is my last report on my 4 year term representing the Breadsall/West Hallam ward which, of course, also covers Little Eaton, Morley, Stanley, Stanley Common and Dale Abbey at Derbyshire County Council. I have held the position of Shadow Cabinet Member of Public Health as well as being a member of the Scrutiny Committee for Places.

Again the main theme from the controlling Labour Group has been about austerity and a reduction in many of the services. However when there was talk of cutting the budget for the subsidised bus services, after doing some consultation, they changed their minds and extended the funding until October 2017, I think they were quite taken aback by the amount of responses to this consultation, it is a very difficult area, many of the subsidised bus services carry very few passengers but to the ones that use the service it is essential and a much needed service particularly in wards such as the one I represent which covers a wide rural area, we do have to still keep getting the message across how essential these services are and if they cannot be sustained looking at different ways of delivering a service, possibly using Community Transport more.

Although there have been several large extra grants from Government to help with potholes and improve the state of our roads and pavements there is still a lot more to do, communication would help, in some areas there is work being done on roads and pavements that do seem to be o.k. the theory is that if some surface work is done on reasonable roads and pavements it does extend their life by quite a lot, but because this message is not always conveyed to residents it appears sometimes to be a waste of money.

Speeding traffic and possible traffic calming measures is as always an ongoing problem, it has to be appreciated that the problems that occur in the parishes across the ward I represent are replicated right across Derbyshire but I realise that does not help concerned residents. Any measures to try to slow speeding drivers down are costly and not always effective, it does not matter how many measures are put in place you will always get the irresponsible few who will always break the rules, it does appear that CREST, the CCTV van deployed across the County are at least looking at new locations and the data received back from their monitoring should help when asking for more speed measures in the ward. I know several of the parishes in my ward would be willing to fund their own VAS signs but DCC have a policy of trying to remove as many signs on the roads and their argument for not supporting these signs is that too many on the roads and drivers get accustomed to them and ignore them.

There has been a lot of Government money put into providing high speed broadband across the County but unfortunately there is still a long way to go and again the service in the rural areas is very poor, we now have many people who are self-employed and work from home and it is important that they have good broadband speeds, work is still ongoing but again frustration in lots of areas.

A new project has just started to change all of our street lighting to LED, this will save money but due to various circumstances the project was delayed by around 15 months, this has now started but I understand that the areas having these new lights are in the north of the County and Swadlincote in the south, the delay has caused real problems because the previous administration, of which I was a member, proceeded with the part night lighting scheme which sees some lights going out from midnight until around 6 a.m. in the morning, but we also made sure that all bulbs were replaced before their expiry date, unfortunately the bulbs are not now being replaced until they go out, there is then a delay in some circumstances up to 3 months to replace the bulbs, this means that if there are areas that have part night

lighting and then the ones that should be on all night go out there is a black hole, not acceptable because of health and safety, hopefully as I say let us hope the new LED lighting is rolled out across the County as quickly as possible.

I have been pleased to help local organisations across the ward with my Community Capital Funding and I hope that these grants have been helpful for them to carry on their good work in our communities

Council Tax as you will know doubt know has gone up again this year, DCC by 2% plus 2% for ring fenced Adult Care, we are living longer thankfully but this of course puts real pressure on the budget.

I will finish on the Derbyshire picture with the good news that Ilkeston now has a new railway station, we started progress on this some 7 years ago, but with the very rare (although they seem to appear on every large project to hold matters up) great crested newts and various other problems the first train arrived at the new station on 12th April and was greeted by the local M.P. the British Legion and many schoolchildren along with a good number of residents.

For the Dale Abbey part of my ward the problems remain the same as in my other parishes, speeding traffic, inconsiderate parking, heavy goods vehicles transgressing the weight limit restrictions, road safety in the area is of great concern and again it seems as though the people who live in the area and know best are not listened to, unfortunately attention is only given when there have been fatalities, even serious accidents do not seem to be recorded as a matter of urgency.

I have dealt with various local issues and I am pleased that I have been able to support several local organisations with grants from my Capital Community Grant Scheme, there has been much annoyance about lights going out and bulbs not being replaced for up to 3 months, not acceptable, hopefully this might change soon, also again causing problems with correspondence from Parish Councils not be responded to, hopefully again this problem will be addressed now there has been a change of control.

I am pleased to have been re-elected and I look forward to serving the ward for the next 4 years and being a Cabinet Member on the controlling group.

Erewash Borough Council Annual Report Councillor Carol Hart

Annual Report – Carol Hart – Derbyshire County Councillor for Breadsall/West Hallam Ward, 2016/17

I have held the same position at Erewash Borough Council as in previous years that of Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Communities, which covers a wide range of areas, Customer Services, Democratic Services, Civic Office, Community Safety, IT, Consultation, Partnerships, elections, homelessness and housing support amongst others.

As I am sure everyone is aware that finance from Government has gone down over the last few years but I am pleased to say that Erewash Borough Council is still debt free, we did manage to keep Council Tax at zero increase for a good few years but we have had to levy a rate over the last couple of years, this year we have asked for a £5 increase, 3.56%, we do only get an 11% share of Council Tax collected and Erewash residents pay just £4.50 a day for all the services that we provide.

Our Mayor for the last year has been Cllr. Abey Steevenson accompanied on nearly all occasions by his wife Anne who has been his Mayoress, his Deputy has been Cllr. Mary Hopkinson and it is expected that she will be taking on the office of Mayor for the forthcoming Civic year at the Annual Council meeting later in May.

Going back to finance and budgets our external auditors Ernst & Young have given Erewash a clean bill of health, saying that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money which is good to hear.

As there are pressures on budgets all departments are urged to look for external funding and our Culture and Leisure Department are excellent at this, they have managed to obtain large grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a lot of work to be carried out at Victoria Park in Ilkeston, putting in new gates, new pergola and most importantly completely renovating the band stand, they have tried to replicate the park as it was many, many years ago, unfortunately for all the good work as soon as the band stand was completed vandals smashed some of the panels up, mindless vandalism. The other large pot of funding was for the Erewash Museum, it is a very small museum but it constantly receives praise and awards, a new café area has been created and is run by the Friends of Erewash museum, it is well worth a visit

We continue to provide money for various grant schemes, there is the Rural Community Grant scheme, the Small Grants' Scheme and the Members scheme, so many local organisations and groups are run by volunteers and they very often struggle for money, a small grant can sometimes make a big difference to them and we need to support these volunteers.

Car park charges have gone up slightly but we do still provide some free car parking, we continue to fund Erewash in Bloom and I think it is something many of our residents and visitors appreciate.

There has been a lot of work recently for our Regeneration and Planning Department with the HS2 project and the Stanton site hopefully starting to move along. HS2 has caused many a difference of opinion but unfortunately Erewash does not have the power to decide whether it goes ahead or not but what we can do is to make sure that if it is going ahead that we make sure that any residents or businesses in Erewash that are affected get as much help from us as possible and working with the local Erewash M.P. Maggie Throup we have had many meetings with senior officials connected with HS2 to make sure they know of our concerns, there could be quite a few businesses affected and as you probably know Long Eaton, where the most impact will be felt, is the Upholstery capital not only of the Country but the world and the businesses affected want to keep Long Eaton in their address, and we will continue to work closely with anyone affected and ensure that fair compensation is offered.

We will continue to protect our budget whilst maintaining good services and as stated we are always looking at ways to save money that do not have a major impact on our residents, a big piece of work that is already happening is looking at different ways of delivering our Leisure services, currently we lose £2.2 million a year on our Leisure Services, Victoria Swimming Pool, West Park Leisure Centre, Rutland Sports Park, Pewitt Golf Course, we are looking at possible different ways of running these services, but there is a lot of work to be done before any decisions are made and we will always ensure we keep ownership of these properties.

Finally it is good to know that when we are presented with an up-date on our Compliments and Complaints procedures we have had some instances where compliments out score the complaints and when you think that usually residents only get in touch if they have a complaint such as a missed bin or similar it is rare that residents take the time to register something they are very happy with, so if you are pleased with a service please take time to register this, certainly when our flowers are at their best of our islands that is the time we get most compliments.

5 LOCAL ISSUES WHICH MAY BE CAUSING CONCERN, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARISHIONERS TO BRING ISSUES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

None

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 17 MAY 2018.