
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF DALE ABBEY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Dale Abbey held on Thursday 16th May 2024 at The Gateway 7pm.

Present: Cllr T Davies, Cllr Bown, Cllr K Tribbensee, Cllr C Just, Cllr S Street, Cllr Morgan, Clerk F Simnett, five members of the public attended.

Reference	Agenda Item	
23-24/1	Apologies	Apologies were received from Cllr Smith, CCllr Hart, BCllr Mee and BCllr Flatley.
23-24/2	Approval of the Minutes	It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 18 th May 2023.
23-24/3	Chairman's Report	First of all I would like to thanks members of the council for giving me the opportunity to be Chairman of the parish council. Special thanks also to Faye, our parish Clerk who has worked extremely hard throughout the year to give myself and the other councillors guidance around some contentious issues. Faye always seems to find the right person to ring and manages to get me some awkward answers to some awkward questions. As a council during my term as Chairman, we have faced some difficult issues. Which have led to difficult decisions to be made. Top of this list would be the loss in this financial year, of a substantial amount of income when Erewash Borough Council decided to remove the amount, we received via concurrent functions from £8612 to £2000 a loss to us of £6612. We understand that we may be losing the remaining £2000 in the next financial year. Along with other parish councils we objected on the grounds that the parish residents were being double taxed and that there had been no meaningful negotiations on the subject. Objections were to no avail; Dale Abbey Councillors took this information on board and after hours and hours of proper debate and decision making managed to reach a conclusion based on hard fact and simple maths that we had to increase the parish precept by a significant amount in order to carry out our duties and obligations. Coupled with this the council has scrutinised existing contracts and arrangements to make sure that things are being done in a proper manner. Due to this diligence I can report that we are in a strong financial position going forward. On a lighter note I can report the parish council has

		<p>been able to provide residents with some tangible benefits for example, the speed indicator device with funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner is installed and operational, cameras with the purpose of catching fly-tippers are being installed and monitored, once again purchased with the help of the Police and Crime Commissioner funding. Can I just give special thanks to a resident for his continuing help and expertise surrounding the installation of these cameras. Two planters yet to be installed were purchased with funding via the King's Coronation, the same funding also provided the forum with a fish and chip supper and a children's party. I must say that all of these grants were sourced by Faye, our Clerk, so many thanks to Faye. The Christmas light switch on was a successful and enjoyable evening for everyone. The mulled wine, mince pies and entertainment seemed to go down very well, so a huge thanks to all those who participated and helped out and of course to all those that attended the event. Huge thanks to council members for their work during the year and to our county and borough councillors for their attendance at our meetings and to the residents for their support, that concludes my report thanks for listening.</p>
23-24/4	Public Speaking	No comments.
23-24/5	Local Community Group Reports	<p>The secretary of Stanton by Dale Cricket club presented to the meeting, outlining the historical status of the club, having been established in 1868 and how much of an asset it is to both parishes. The club attracts all ages, with currently 120 members, an increase of approximately 50% in the last couple of years. There are two league teams who complete every Saturday, and a Sunday friendly team. The club now has an established women's team and three junior teams and mentions an annual tour to the Cotswolds which has been running for many years now. The secretary encouraged everyone to visit the club, whether it was to get involved with playing, helping around the ground or socially, everyone will be made very welcome. At the Annual Meeting for Stanton by Dale a resident asked about walking cricket and the secretary can now confirm that there is offering within derby, meeting at local sports centres, but Stanton by Dale would like to pursue holding and event for walking cricket and the club and will liaise with the community on this.</p> <p>The Club has recently undergone a complete refurbishment, which was largely self-funded, the club facilities are very welcoming and includes a bar. The club has its own website and is present on social media, the Clerk will share information on the Parish Council's website, noticeboards, and social media platforms. The churchwarden from All Saints Dale Abbey attended the meeting to share information about our local churches. First, apologies from Phil Selby the rector who would have loved to be here but is busy with Youth Work, so sadly you have me instead. For those who don't know me, I'm Dave Cousins,</p>

		<p>and I have the great privilege and responsibility of being churchwarden at All Saints Dale Abbey, just around the corner.</p> <p>All Saints is one third of "SDR Churches" which is a rather catchy name for the benefice of St Michael and All Angels Stanton by Dale, All Saints Dale Abbey and All Saints Risley. We like to think of ourselves "one church in three locations". Phil has been rector for coming up to 5 years and is supported by our curate James Lee, and a team of volunteers who carry out a wide range of roles and duties. The stated mission of SDR Churches is "For the glory of God, we seek to know Jesus and to make Him known".</p> <p>So what do we do and why, and how? You will be aware of our Sunday Services, throughout the Benefice, but you may be surprised at how much else goes on, within such a small church numerically. As it happens, just last week, we had our annual APCM or Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which is similar in nature to this meeting, bringing together and reporting on the activities, achievements and plans of all the groups within the benefice - all neatly reported in this little booklet. I have spare copies and you are welcome to take one and read through. So, what does our commitment to Christ mean in practical terms? REACH OUT We aim to reach out to all ages; all 'stages' (that is people who already profess to be Christians; whether lifelong or recent; those we may term 'seekers'; those with little or no faith; AND those who consider the Bible and the whole Church thing to be irrelevant, outdated or just plain nonsense). We do understand that viewpoint: after all, most of us were there at some point. ALL are welcome at our events and services. The term 'Outreach' actually covers a lot of things. The existence and availability of this building, the Gateway, is part of that outreach structure.</p> <p>Our passion for youth and children's work means that we offer a wide range of groups and activities, aimed at all age groups. From having a creche in Stanton and Risley church during services, to the Jam club (Jesus and Me) Sunday School groups that meet 3 weeks out of 4, to other groups during the week. We run See and Know for Parents and Toddlers on Tuesday mornings, Heroes for 7 to 11 year olds, Impact for 12 to 14 and Ignite for our 15s and above, on various evenings. Dads and Kids meets once a month in Stanton, involving fun activities and usually bacon sandwiches! Our youth workers also take children on summer camps, exhausting but great fun for all. Our links with Risley School mean that we run Quest Clubs for both Infants and Junior at Easter and Christmas, and Phil and James take collective worship. But it's not just children that we try to connect with. We have a caring and committed Pastoral Care team to come alongside and support those struggling for whatever reason. Some of that team have</p>
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<p>23-24/6</p>	<p>Borough and County Councillor Reports</p>	<p>CCllr Hart provided two reports in her absence.</p> <p>I am not sure where to begin, I think after the trauma of dealing with Covid-19 I think I felt that this last year would be one of moving forward in a positive way but unfortunately due to various circumstances it has proved nothing of the sort.</p> <p>In no particular order some of the problems have been weather, cost of living, wage rises and war in Ukraine, all of these things have meant we have been fire fighting for the vast majority of the year. There has been a massive impact on our budget and although there have been some extra grants from Government our main Council funding has and is stretched to its limit.</p> <p>Firstly the weather, I think nobody can deny that these last few months have been some of the worst in our history, incessant rain, frost, snow, storms, especially Storm Babet, it has been a nightmare time for our Highways Department, potholes appearing everywhere and with 3,500 miles of roads in Derbyshire we have had around 25 crews working 24/7 to try and address the massive problems but the weather has also meant that sometimes only temporary measure could be taken, we have been looking at new equipment to help and we have doubled the investment in Highways over the last 4 years but still chasing our tail but hopefully our frequent messages from our Cabinet Member for Highways has kept everyone up to date.</p> <p>The cost of living problem along with larger than expected wage rises, cost of adult care and children's services has meant that we have had to take measures to enable us to produce a balanced budget, this has included a temporary freeze on non-essential employment, looking at selling off surplus properties, this because since Covid there is more hybrid working and working from home meaning that many properties are no longer being used to capacity. We are also looking at selling a major part of County Hall, our headquarters, and building a new modern up to date facility in the car park, more efficient and would enable savings without compromising our 'home' in Matlock, County Hall started out as a wonderful Spa retreat and there is much interest from various parties to bringing this wonderful, but expensive to maintain building back to its former glory.</p> <p>Children's Services:- This service is facing rising costs particularly for 'looked after children', it can cost thousands of pounds week especially those children with complex needs, we have around 100 children needing this extra support at the moment, one way to reduce these costs but also being more beneficial</p>

		<p>for children is fostering, we could always do with more foster parents coming forward and we know from feedback how rewording being foster parents can be.</p> <p>Adult Care:- Again another department under pressure, we are all living longer, which is great news, but it does need more people need extra care particularly to stay in their own homes which is what the vast majority of people wish to do but massive pressures on employing or retaining home care staff</p> <p>Public Health:- This is the major part of my portfolio and it is all about working to improve the health of our residents in Derbyshire, since Covid we are certainly working in a much better way with the NHS and our work is all about prevention. We have just received a large Government grant to help the campaign to stop smoking, one of the biggest causes of death with around 76K dying in the UK each year and many living with the rehabilitating affects of smoking.</p> <p>I could go on but this is just a flavour of some of our current problems, and with around a £32M funding gap, it has meant that, as you will have seen, we have asked for the maximum council tax, 4.99% but we are working hard to make savings but at the same time not to let our standards slip and one of our projects at the moment is to update our IT which will mean much better communication, I know very often there is frustration of how you are kept informed or your queries answered, hopefully you will see an improvement when this project is finalised.</p> <p>Going forward as I am sure you will have seen we are now moving to become a Combined Authority with mayoral elections on 2nd May, it is hoped and expected that the Combined Authority will bring more money into the region, we have always been underfunded compared with other areas in the country, and this will address priorities such as transport, particularly connectivity, education, skills and health, I will do my best to keep you informed on this as we move forward.</p> <p>As I always say I will always do my best to help the Parish Council in any way I can and will always do my best to support you deliver your best for your residents.</p>
23-24/7	Finance Report	<p>It is pleasing to report that after a robust budget setting process and reviewing of contracts and we are starting the new financial year in a good position with £21817, some of which we will be required to ringfence as reserves, each spend is recorded separately and attached to the end of each minutes, towards the end of June more financial information will be added to our website to support our transparent approach.</p>
23-24/8	Closing remarks by the Chairman	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, an expressed how much we enjoyed hearing from community.</p>

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was closed at 7.45pm.

Signed _____ Chairman/Vice Chairman

