

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD
6.30 P.M. TUESDAY 19 APRIL 2022
IN THE PARISH HALL, MILKEN LANE, ASHOVER

PRESENT

Councillors E Willmot (Chairman), R Fidler (Vice-Chairman),
Mrs H Boffy, J Cook, S Dronfield, C Miller
North East Derbyshire District (NEDDC) & Parish Councillor W Armitage
Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Councillor B Lewis
Sara Atkinson (Parish Clerk/RFO)
Members of the Public – 64

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 27 April 2021

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 27 April 2021 are approved as a correct record.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 27 April 2021 are approved and signed by the Chairman.

2. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman's Annual Report 2021/2022 was presented (Appendix I)

Resolved: That the Chairman's Annual Report for 2021/22 is received.

3. Statement of Accounts year ended 31 March 2022

The Chairman of the Finance Committee presented the Statement of Accounts for year ended 31 March 2022. The Chairman of Finance gave an overview of the receipts and payments for the past year and reported on the Precept for 2022/2023 (Appendix II)

Resolved: That the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 is received.

4. Open Forum

A member of the public had offered suggestions regarding the allotments including letting and additional allotment potential.

A member of the public spoke on Rights of Way in the Parish including the need for more 'way markers' and safety issues.

Some members of the public present did not reside in Ashover Parish, however, in the interests of transparency and goodwill, the Chairman invited some of those present to address the County and District Councillors on a noise abatement notice issued by North East Derbyshire District Council in relation to motorcycle events in Butts Quarry, Ashover. The Chairman clarified that this was not a Parish Council issue, but that it was acting as a 'platform' to enable the public to address the Leader of DCC and Ward Member for NEDDC. County Councillor B Lewis and District Councillor W Armitage responded to questions and statements put forward.

Members of the public thanked the Parish Council, County Councillor B Lewis and District Councillor W Armitage for the opportunity to speak on Butts Quarry.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7.10P.M.

APPENDIX I

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2021/2022

Dear Parishioners,

As I prepare this annual statement in March 2022, I am reflecting on the unprecedented times in which we live.

Covid has focused everyone's minds over this last year, along with a steep rise in the cost of living, and we now have the uncertainty of the outcome of the situation in Ukraine. Unfortunately all the current issues are beyond our control.

Looking back over 2021, the Parish Council attended meetings using "Zoom" which proved to be extremely useful during the period of no face to face meetings. However, we are now back to the normal meetings, held every third Tuesday of the month; the one exception was the December 2021 meeting which was cancelled due to the 'Omicron' variant.

Areas of concern include consultation with Derbyshire County Council Highways to try and establish a (30 mph) speed limit in Alton and this is ongoing.

The A632 through Kelstedge and beyond has, once again, experienced a number of accidents and the Parish Council has pressed for more safety measures on this section of road. There appears to be a reluctance to reduce the speed limit to 30mph through Kelstedge and the 40 mph limit, to include the Birkin Lane crossroads, continues.

I would like to thank the Climate Change Group who are discussing several ideas in an effort to reduce our carbon footprint. The permanent fixing of a cycle rack in the car park, to encourage greater use of cycling, has reached a conclusion helped by a grant from the Ashover Community Medical Centre Ltd.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have been involved in litter picking, the tree group, footpaths and bridleways group and the Duke of Edinburgh student. Their work is a valuable contribution in helping with the up-keep of our parish.

A series of meetings have taken place with the Ashover Parish Hall CIO Trustees with regards to the Sports Pavilion and the Car Park management. This will continue into the new council year i.e. from May 2022.

I am pleased to say that we, as a Council, have achieved 'Quality' re – accreditation under the National Local Council Award Scheme; thanks go to the Clerk who has made this possible, particularly at a difficult time due to the Covid restrictions.

Other good news includes the return of the Christmas Event in December 2021, which was well attended. A programme of celebration is being prepared for 'The Queens Platinum Jubilee' in June 2022. **The event will require volunteer Marshals in order to meet legal requirements. Any willing helpers please contact the Parish Clerk as soon as possible for details. Without volunteer Marshals, the event will not run.**

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new Priest in Charge of All Saints Church Ashover, The Revd Dr Peter Bold and his wife Candy, and thank all the people involved in 'filling the gap' after the retirement of Revd Ralph Lawrence.

In conclusion, thanks to Council Members who continue to volunteer their time and please note that the next Parish Council Elections will take place in May 2023.

Councillor Ed Willmot
Chairman of Ashover Parish Council