

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL held an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting in Ashover Parish Hall on Tuesday 19 MARCH 2024 commencing at 7.00pm and Cllr E Willmot Chaired the meeting.

Public Speaking

DCC Cllr B Lewis reported that drainage work was being undertaken at Uppertown and on Milken Lane to alleviate flooding problems. Potholes continued to be a problem and repairs undertaken within budget constraints.

NEDDC Cllr Mrs H Wetherall reported that Community Speed Monitoring at Kelstedge and Spitewinter had been approved by the Police and volunteer training would be undertaken. A dog bin had been requested for location near The Pinfold at Milltown and this would be placed on the Agenda for April.

A member of the public spoke on planning application 24/00146/FL.

The next Derbyshire County Council Parish and Town Council Liaison Forum would be held on 16/04/2024. Unfortunately this coincided with the Annual Parish and Ordinary Parish Council Meetings and therefore apologies had been given.

Crime figures for January 2024 were noted.

Parish Maintenance

It was resolved that a larger litter bin would be provided at The Fabric at a cost of £245.28 plus materials and installation. Members received updates from the County Council on flooding at Uppertown and investigations into the drainage along Milken Lane and both these issues were ongoing. BWE Ltd. had undertaken vegetation strimming along rights of way to a very high standard. Some parish bus shelters may require maintenance and the Climate Change/Biodiversity Group were currently investigating the feasibility of 'living roofs'.

Speed Indicator Devices and A632 safety

Data had been downloaded and submitted to Derbyshire County Council Highways for analysis. A summary of future data would be submitted to Highways on the second Tuesday of each month and this would also be reported on the Parish Council website. The Police & Crime Commissioner was looking at a Pilot Scheme for Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and Ashover Parish Council had submitted the A632 through Ashover Parish for the project. A grant for equipment was approved for a community group of 12 volunteers to undertake speed monitoring at Kelstedge and Spitewinter under the training, direction and insurance of the Police (CREST).

River Amber

An updated response had been received from the Environment Agency via the MP's office and a general update had been included in the recent Newsletter (4). Severn Trent would not attend the Public Meeting on 09/05/2024 and this had been challenged directly and also via the MP's office. Whilst Severn Trent had provided a statement to be read out at the Public Meeting, it was considered that this would be out of date by the time of the meeting and therefore an updated statement would be requested nearer the time.

Health & Safety

An Incident Report had been completed and a report submitted to Derbyshire County Council following an incident that had occurred on FP142.

Climate Change/Biodiversity

The Climate Change Working Group had progressed work-streams, complying with the Environment Act 2021 and Improvement Plan 2023 to "restore nature and improve the environmental quality of the air, our waters and our land." Work was progressing on the 'wildlife corridor', 'living roofs' and liaison had taken place with the Primary School. The cost of a survey by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust was being sought in relation to three woodland copses on common land. Community buildings had been visited with climate change and biodiversity initiatives in mind and this work would continue as requested.

District, Parish and Town Councils Annual Conference

Two Councillors had attended the conference held on 23/02/2024 and feedback was positive with the North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDD) Management Team being seen as efficient and effective. Answers to questions put forward to the Leader of NEDDC had been circulated to Members; permission would be sought from NEDDC for the questions/answers to be published as a news item on the website and face book page.

News Items

Newsletter No.4 for Spring 2023/2024 had been circulated and posted on the website. The Annual Report 2023/2024 would be collated shortly.

Anti-Litter Poster Competition

Over 80 entries had been received from the Primary School Children and these had been judged by Leader of Derbyshire County Councillor Barry Lewis along with two Parish Councillors and the Primary School head teacher. A winner in each of the two categories (Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) had been chosen. The head teacher was presented with the two first prizes comprising a £25.00 gift token for each winner and consolation prizes were provided for all those entered the competition. The head teacher would make these presentations during a school assembly. The two winning entries would be printed as posters and distributed as widely as possible and all entries would be available for the public to view on May Day.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report, including Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) newsletters and correspondence received had been circulated to Members.

Section 137 and other grant applications

Members resolved to award S137 grants to Ashover Home Produce Club (£100), NEDDC Chair's Charity Appeal for Ashgate Hospice (£100) and Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre (£100). A grant of up to £800 was awarded to the May Day Event Community Group.

Review of Fees and Charges for 2024/2025

Members considered fees and charges relating to the Cemetery, Hard Courts and Allotments and resolved that only Courts hire and floodlight cards would be increased by £1.00 to £6.00 and £4.00 respectively.

Councillor Audit

Members noted that the Councillor Audit had taken place on 07/03/2024

Monthly Financial Report

A budget appraisal and report/reconciliation from the computerised accounts detailing account balances, cheques/transactions issued/authorised and cheques received and any outstanding receipts considered. The report was put forward for signature by the Chairman. Details of any cheques signed or for signature by authorised Councillors and BACS invoices were confirmed.

The meeting closed at 08.55pm