

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL held an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting in The Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover on Tuesday 16 JULY 2024 commencing at 7.00pm and Cllr E Willmot Chaired the Meeting.

Public Speaking

A Member of the public spoke on provision of fixed practice nets on the Milken Lane playing field by Ashover Barbarians Cricket Club.

Consultation: The Great Grid Upgrade

A Parish Councillor had attended a consultation event on the Chesterfield to Willington grid upgrade and comments were considered which required submission no later than 17.09.2024. Councillors would complete the questionnaire on an individual basis.

Parish Maintenance

Quotations had been sought for the refurbishment/maintenance of 5 bus shelters around the parish and a quotation from A Wallhead in the sum of £3000.00 - £3500.00 was accepted. The winter planting and maintenance of 9 planters in the sum of £800.00 from Woolley Moor Nurseries was accepted.

The provision of fixed practice nets on the Milken Lane playing field by Ashover Barbarians Cricket Club was agreed subject to conditions.

A budget sum of up to £1,000.00 was approved for additional vegetation strimming on Rights of Way in the parish.

General Election Results

The results for the North East Derbyshire Constituency were received and a letter of thanks had been sent to Lee Rowley for his work as the MP. The new MP, Louise Jones, would be asked to clarify her position on cases relating to water quality in the River Amber and safety along the A632.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and A632 safety

Further data had been collected (report 5) and the results would be published shortly. Data would be extracted and highlighted to the Police for further enforcement measures. Eight vehicles had been 'ticketed' by the Police on 21/06/2024 for exceeding the 50mph limit prior to entering Ashover and the fastest was recorded at 71mph. The requirement for Calibration of the units would be clarified. The Police & Crime Commissioner's office would provide an update on the ANPR pilot scheme once survey results had been assessed. The new Police & Crime Commissioner, Nicolle Ndiweni, would be invited to attend a meeting.

River Amber

Earlier in the year, water companies (including Severn Trent) submitted, to Ofwat, their business plans covering the next 5 years setting out what they intend to spend on vital infrastructure and how much they want to bill customers. Last week, Ofwat announced their response and in turn, water companies have until the end of August to respond.

Following the May public meeting, the Parish Council had continued its direct dialogue with Severn Trent who have promised an update directly relevant to the Parish, once their plans have been finalised and we're expecting an initial response in September.

During a meeting with NEDDC Planning, Members discussed Legislation which apparently obliges water companies to agree to planning applications and then make the required changes to accommodate any increase in local infrastructure.

Health & Safety

An incident report had been completed following demolition of a section of stone wall on the car park by a vehicle and a quotation in the sum of £520.00 from Shaun Graney, Stone Waller, was accepted; the vehicle owner had agreed to pay the quotation sum. The car park risk assessment had been revised and the Health & Safety Councillor Representative had made recommendations.

Climate Change/Biodiversity

An infestation of variegated yellow archangel at Oaks Lane quarry had been noted. As there was no public right of way in this area, it was considered that no further action would be taken other than monitoring the situation in future audits of Common Land.

The NEDDC Tree Officer had agreed to a site visit to assess the trees on common land at Hill Top Quarry.

The various work-streams by the Climate Change group continue. Meanwhile, the Derbyshire Association of Local Council's Excellence Awards now included an award for Environmental Projects and the CCBWG is to prepare a submission based on its work, including the Anti-Litter campaign with the Primary School.

News Items

Regular updates were being posted on the website on various issues and items of interest. A summary of the meeting with NEDDC Planning and Tree Officers would be posted in due course.

Future/New Projects and Events

Proposed events by the community for VE & VJ Day in 2025 were being discussed by the Parish Hall and Brass Band. A Christmas Event road closure would be applied for to take place on Sunday 01/12/2024. A newsletter had been circulated from Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) outlining procedures for Affordable Rural Housing provision and the CEO of RAD would be invited to a meeting.

Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report, including Derbyshire Association of Local Councils newsletters and any correspondence received had been circulated to Members including action taken under Financial Regulation 5.15.

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 were 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 08.30pm