

## **OVERVIEW OF THE ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17.09.2024**

**ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL** held an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting in The Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover on Tuesday 17 SEPTEMBER 2024 commencing at 7.00pm and Cllr E Willmot Chaired the meeting.

BEFORE THE MEETING COMMENCED, THE CHAIRMAN ASKED THOSE PRESENT TO OBSERVE A MINUTE'S SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LATE PARISH COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER PAUL MILLER, WHO PASSED AWAY UNEXPECTEDLY ON 27 AUGUST 2024.

### **Public Speaking**

Members of the public spoke on parking at Westedge Close, Kelstedge, overgrown trees and verges at Lant Lane and a request to re-site the Speed Indicator Devices at Kelstedge. Crime figures were reported.

*Subsequent to the meeting, a site meeting was instigated for Westedge Close residents, verges at Lant Lane/A632 had been reported to Derbyshire County Council (DCC), further discussion would take place with DCC regarding the Speed Indicator Devices at Kelstedge.*

### **Parish Maintenance**

Protection of gas equipment on the car park by Cadent was awaited. Floodlight cards would be made available for purchase by municipal players on a 3 month trial basis however, the Parish Council would retain the right to lock the hard courts at any time, to prevent play, should this be deemed necessary for whatever reason.

### **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and A632 safety**

Report number 6 had been circulated and would be published in due course. A request for the SIDs to be re-sited would be put forward to Derbyshire County Council Highways.

### **River Amber**

A further update has been received from Severn Trent in which it refers to a previous statement from the Environment Agency indicating that Severn Trent is responsible for only one of 8 reasons why the River Amber has not achieved 'Good' Status. The reason attributed to Severn Trent was that it was not extracting sufficient quantities of phosphate in its treatment processes.

In its response to this finding, Severn Trent state it has four River Amber-related projects in the Ashover area that form part of its formal Environment Programme and these are as follows:

1. Upgrading the Ashover and Kelstedge sewage works to reduce the amount of nutrients (specifically phosphate) in the water.
2. Complementing this, a partnership scheme with the local farming community to further reduce the amount of harmful nutrients in the river.
3. A project to upgrade a storm overflow at Kelstedge, so it operates fewer than 10 times a year i.e. only after the heaviest rain.
4. An investigation into Nitrate loads entering Ogston reservoir to determine whether or not the sewage works are a material source of this nutrient.

Whilst these plans were welcomed, the Parish Council was concerned that the existing holding tank capacity in Ashover is perceived locally to be inadequate, resulting in unpleasant sewage discharges, even when rainfall is not deemed to be exceptional.

### **Climate Change/Biodiversity**

The Working Group would hold a meeting on 26/09/2024 when updates would be provided on trees and nature recommendations for common land provided by the NEDDC Arboreologist. An article on 'Dark Skies' would be published in the Autumn Newsletter and

an article on environmental projects had been submitted to Derbyshire Association of Local Council's award scheme.

### **News Items**

An obituary for the late Cllr Chris Miller would be posted on the news page following the funeral on 18 September. Regular updates on various issues and items of interest were being posted on the website and 'What's On' calendar. Newsletter no. 2 'Autumn 2024' would be issued shortly.

### **Projects and Events**

Proposed events by the community for VE & VJ Day in 2025 were being discussed by the Parish Hall.

### **Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report, including Derbyshire Association of Local Councils (DALC) newsletters, training and any general correspondence received had been circulated to Members including the snow warden scheme, a meeting with Rural Action Derbyshire, The Derbyshire County Council (Various Roads, Ashover) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 2024 (Z3423) and action taken under Financial Regulation 5.15.

### **Councillor Audit and Interim Internal Audit 2024/2025**

The quarterly Councillor Audit had been undertaken on 12/09/2024 and the Interim Internal Audit 2024/2025 had been undertaken by Auditing Solutions Ltd. with no matter arising.

### **Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2023/2024**

The External Audit 2023/2024 had been completed by PKF Littlejohn with no matters arising and a 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' posted on the Parish Council website and notice board and circulated to all Members.

### **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 09.00 pm