

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 7th MAY 2019
IN TICKNALL VILLAGE HALL at 8.00pm**

1) In attendance

Councillors Paul Colleyshaw (Chair), Christina Oppenheimer (Vice Chair), Nigel Picken, Susan Browne, Alan Buxton, District Councillor Andrew Churchill, District Councillor Kerry Haines, 9 members of the public, Celia Bunston (the Clerk).

2) Welcome and Introduction

Councillor Paul Colleyshaw, the Chair of the Parish Council welcomed everybody and thanked them for coming. He introduced the Councillors Alan Buxton who became a councillor on 2nd May, Nigel Picken, Susan Browne, Christina Oppenheimer (Vice Chair) and Celia Bunston, the Clerk, to those present. He invited the newly elected District Councillors to introduce themselves.

Apologies

Chair of South Derbyshire District Council.

3) Signing of 2018 Minutes: Councillor Colleyshaw signed the minutes.

4) Matters arising from the Minutes: There were no matters arising.

5) Parish Council Chairman's Overview of the Annual Report 2018-2019

The whole report has been distributed to every household in the village, to outside agencies. The attendees of the Annual Parish Meeting were all handed a copy.

I write this report feeling rather frustrated that, having read my report from last year, we appear to have achieved very little in the past year. I assure you that this is not the fault of the council and your parish councillors but the lengths that our County Council and other Government bodies take in not answering our requests are absolutely unbelievable.

We are still trying to get some resolution regarding the abject mobile coverage service that we experience in our Parish. Having enlisted the help of Heather Wheeler MP we have sent several emails to the CEO of Ofcom and are still awaiting replies from her. We, as a council, are not prepared to be ignored and the improvement of mobile communications is our top priority for the coming year and will continue to push for a better service in the Parish.

The County Council, despite a full meeting with us, have still to come up with proposals regarding the VAS sign that we share with Hartshorne Parish Council. Again, we will continue to press for a resolution to this problem. We should be thankful that we seem to be receiving more police speed checks in the past few months. This has probably happened because we have had a presence at the Area Forum meetings and raised the issues there. We will continue to attend these meetings.

However, on a brighter note we have been able to continue to maintain the Grange and Pavilion and make improvements to the facilities. The Millennium Seat on the Market Place needed replacing and so we have had this replaced. St George's Church approached the council for funding to repair the Church Clock which we are happy to support. Despite a hiccup the clock should be back and fully working shortly. We supported the Centenary of the World War I which proved to be an interesting and thought provoking weekend in November. Thank you to everyone who organised and participated in this event. In late summer the railings by the Arch were damaged by a hit and run driver. The County Council have now replaced them.

Despite the expenditure that we have sanctioned and made I believe that our finances are in good order and for the fourth consecutive year we have not had to increase our precept.

Again, the Christmas Carol service around the tree was a great success and thank everyone for the splendid turnout.

The Council comes up for election in May and regrettably Gill Holt and Julie Tibbert have chosen not to stand. They have both given many years' service to the Parish of Ticknall and it would be remiss not to place on record our appreciation for their efforts. It should also be noted that our two serving district councillors Michael Stanton and Peter Smith are not standing for the district council. The council would like to thank them both for their support and help in resolving problems that we have had.

We now know that there will be no election this year as we have only received five nominations for the Parish Council. Susan Browne, Christina Oppenheimer, Nigel Picken and I have all put ourselves forward again and Alan Buxton has also chosen to put himself forward. We look forward to welcoming Alan to our meeting in May and look forward to his input to the Parish Council.

At the time of writing this report we are anticipating the resurgence of Ticknall Fete on the early Bank Holiday Monday. This promises to be a really good day for the whole village and one that the Parish Council is keen to support and promote. Do come along and enjoy the day.

It now only falls on me to thank my fellow councillors for their support and contributions to the Parish Council and last, but certainly not least, thank Celia Bunston who, as Clerk to the Council continues to provide a sterling service to the Parish of Ticknall.

Councillor Paul Colleyshaw - Chair Ticknall Parish Council 2018–2019

Councillor Colleyshaw also thanked, Councillor Gill Holt and Councillor Julie Tibbert who both stood down at the election on 2nd May. He thanked them for their devotion to duty for the parish of Ticknall. Gill had served on the council for 20 years since 1999, and Julie was elected in 2007 and was a councillor for 12 years. Paul presented both Gill and Julie with a bouquet of flowers as a token of the parish council's appreciation for their service.

6) Highlights from organisations

Neighbourhood Watch

Barry Hanson the representative of the Neighbourhood Watch reported that over the last year there had been 11 reported incidents in Ticknall, down from last year at 20 incidents.

These incidents included, the parking of a car parked on the bend, facing traffic, on Ashby Road which had a flat tyre, which was left there for 7 days, and another car parked on Ashby Road, facing traffic. It was a large black car with blacked out windows. It was left there for 3 days in June. Both these cars presented a hazard to motorists.

There was a report of sheep rustling on Milton Road, when several ewes and rams was taken in June.

There was a safe taken from a property on Scaddows Lane in August, and a burglary from a property on Ashby Road in August.

A man was seen climbing over a garden wall, claiming to be posting a letter. His car, a red Fiat was parked across the road. The incident was reported to 101.

A digger was taken from Calke Park in March and was driven through hedges onto High Street.

The other incidences included, a serious domestic incident, harassment over parking, stealing from a cottage on Chapel Street, and a hawkers selling goods, who when told the people did not want to buy was very rude to the householders.

The group in Ticknall is made up of 3 coordinators who share information, and they also have the use of 3 CCTV cameras in the village.

He commented that, in the district, there were meetings held by local Safer Neighbourhood Groups around the district, with representatives from South Derbyshire District Council and the police. These meetings no longer take place, with contact between them by email only. He feels that this is a retrograde step.

Ticknall Cricket Club

John Dumelow thanked the Parish Council for the work it has carried out in the pavilion and The Grange, and for the £1000 donation towards the cost of improvements inside the pavilion. The club also received a donation of £3000 from the ECB towards the improvements. He is pleased that the fence at the top of The Grange has been replaced.

The club has started its new season. Last season saw them win the Premier League and the Premier League cup, the first team to do the double in 12 years. They have made a reasonable start to the year and it is good that they have 60-70 juniors aged between 8 years and 15 years on Tuesday evenings. Those younger than 8 years will start in two weeks.

Calke Park

Stewart Alcock reported that this year has been dominated with the first phase of the hub project which will open in July. There will be a small café and toilets, which will welcome people to use the tramway trail and the nature reserve.

The traffic queues have been helped by a redesign of the middle lodge entrance to enable vehicles to get through at an increased speed. It worked at Easter and the recent May bank holiday.

They are carrying on with their conservation work, replacing lanterns on the stable buildings and a major project of tree planting up to 35 acres to improve nature conservation.

The Community Liaison Group is continuing to work well. The estate has given out 100 residents passes to local householders. They have donated Christmas trees to St. George's church and given a donation towards the repair of the church wall, and sponsored the recent May Day village fete.

Ticknall Archaeological Research Group

Janet Spavold thanked the Parish Council for its recent donation to the group. They used it to print a high-quality report on the finds from a dig at Staunton Lane End cottage, which has proved to be a very important document. Chemical analysis will be done on the fragments found. The Parish Council has a copy of the report for anyone to look at.

Janet wanted to thank most of all the local people of Ticknall who have supported the group for 9 years, letting them dig up their gardens, collecting pottery, and helping to clean it and record it. They also thanked the National Trust for allowing them to dig on the Calke Estate.

Litter Picking

Jeff Collett reported that the litter picking team continues to function and another pick will be carried out soon.

Ticknall Community Liaison Group

Jeff Collett the chair of the group reported that they meet quarterly to discuss any issues, which results in things improving such as the traffic flow entering Calke Park at busy times.

Ticknall Produce Show

Jeff Collett reported that the next Village Show will be held on 31st August, and information will be going out soon.

Ticknall Village Hall

Paul Colleyshaw reported that they have had an interesting year with a programme of improvements to the kitchen which now has a commercial size dishwasher and the work surfaces have been replaced with stainless steel. They also invested in new crockery and cutlery.

The next job will be to relay the slabs at the entrance. He reported that the hall is in demand one group booked it and liked it so much that they have booked up for the next 5 years.

They have to continually find funding to have improvements made, but the village hall is for the whole village and it needs to be constantly improved, to make it fit for purpose.

Ticknall Preservation & Historical Society

Councillor Susan Browne reported for the society that they have an adequate number on the committee but need more. They specifically need a secretary and she is assured that the job is not onerous.

They have had interesting speakers from a Town Cryer, to a talk on ancient coal mining at Lount. They also had a Christmas event. The group has donated money to St. George's church.

Ticknall Women's Institute

Councillor Christina Oppenheimer reported that the Women's Institute has 30 members some from the surrounding area. They meet once a month and have a variety of speakers and the group also participates in village events. The group is very pleased that they are able to use the village hall to meet.

7) Open Forum

Christina also informed the meeting that she and Maggie Fenby-Taylor would be pleased to hold another resuscitation and the use of the defibrillator if the people of the village wanted one. Further details will be announced in the Parish Council newsletter.

Jeff Collett wanted to express his thanks to the team from Dame Catherine Harpur School who organised the recent May Day fete. There was a phenomenal amount of work that went into organising it and it was a huge success. It helped many local organisations who had stalls and it gelled the village together.

Gill Holt said thank you to the Parish Council for the bouquet of flowers and said that it was strange to sit opposite the Parish Council in the audience after 20 years on the other side of the table. She wanted to thank the councillors and wish the new councillor Alan Buxton luck and all the best. She said it is not easy and can be frustrating being a councillor, having to deal with things that the Parish Council often has no control over, these being the remit of the district council or county council.

Close – The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Celia Bunston. Clerk to the Council