

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> MAY 2024  
IN TICKNALL VILLAGE HALL**

**1) In attendance**

Councillors Christina Oppenheimer (Chair), Jen Woodhead (Vice Chair), John Bentley, Alison Thornhill, David Scott, Paul Colleyshaw, District Councillor Kerry Haines, 8 members of the public, Celia Bunston (the Clerk).

**2) Welcome and Introduction**

Councillor Christina Oppenheimer, the Chair of the Parish Council welcomed everybody and thanked them for coming. She extended her thanks to Councillor Paul Colleyshaw who resigned as chair after serving 7 years. He was always open to communication and did his best to represent the needs of the village.

**3) Apologies:** Councillor David Muller, Stewart Alcock, Ros Baker, Sean Bambrick, Chair of SDDC Council

**4) Approval of 2022 Minutes:** The minutes were approved.

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

Councillor Oppenheimer wanted to highlight:

- 1) The Community Orchard, which was created to mark the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II. It is doing very well and is a very nice place to sit.
- 2) We have purchased 2 new defibrillators in the village and including the one at the Cricket Club means we now have 3. We will consider whether we are in a financial position in the future, to install one at the Ashby Road end of the village and one at the Derby end.

**6) Parish Council Chairman's Overview of the Annual Report 2023-2024**

Councillor Colleyshaw thanked everyone for their kind words but said that now that we have 3 new councillors it was time for a change of chair.

He read out his overview of the Parish Council's Annual Report.

We started the year having an election for the Parish Council as seven people put themselves forward for only six positions. We now have three new councillors that will put a new dynamic to the Council. I would like to place on record my thanks to Nigel Picken, Alan Buxton and Susan Browne for their contribution to our Parish Council for a number of years.

The year has been relatively quiet compared to previous years. The Community Orchard now has 21 trees that are bedding in quite nicely but will be a number of years before they bear fruit. A working party has spent time ensuring that they are all in good condition. It is still a very pleasant and different place to sit and watch the world go by in Archway Field. Our thanks go to the National Forest, National Trust, Alison Thornhill and Malcolm Turner whose cooperation has enabled this project to blossom.

The biggest problem this year has been the weather. It doesn't know when to stop raining. As a consequence, the village has flooded twice in November and January. Fortunately, I do not believe that any houses suffered water ingress and the flooding was caused by run off from the saturated fields onto the roads. Once the rain ceases the drains soon cope with the water and normality resumes. We are in discussions with the relevant agencies to ensure that the existing drains are kept clear and working as best they can.

I am pleased to report that the Community Speed watch is being resurrected led by one of our new Councillors David Scott. We have twelve new volunteers who are currently undergoing training and should be operational in the next few weeks.

The council ran a course on computer literacy, which was organised by Christina Oppenheimer that was well received and may well be run again in the coming year. It was run over a six-week period and was attended by twenty people.

The Parish Council has installed two new defibrillators this year, one in the redundant phone box on High Street, and the other to replace the one at the village hall, which had come to the end of its life, making three in total available in our village. The third one is at The Grange Recreation Ground. At the training session over sixty people attended which demonstrated a clear desire that this equipment is needed and wanted by the village. When funds allow further defibrillators will be installed.

I would like to place on record the efforts that a number of residents have put in over the years in litter picking around the village. It is a thankless task and one that shouldn't have to be done. This has been instigated by Jeff Collet who deserves a special mention along with Mark Heath and Viv Taylor.

Christmas carols by the tree was its usual great success and it didn't rain on this occasion.

After seven years as Chair, I have decided to stand down from this position in May and make way for some new blood. It has been a pleasure to serve as Chair and will continue as a Parish Councillor for the rest of the term. I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their support over the years and particularly our clerk Celia Bunston who continues to give great service to the Parish of Ticknall.

*Councillor Paul Colleyshaw - Chair Ticknall Parish Council 2023–2024*

## **7) TICKNALL PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

### **Precept**

The Parish Council requested a precept of £13500.00. We also received a Government Grant of £822.00.

### **Planning**

The Parish Council has been consulted by South Derbyshire District Council on 32 planning applications over the year.

### **Maintenance of the Pavilion and The Grange**

We have honoured the lease we have with South Derbyshire District Council on The Grange by carrying out repairs and maintenance of the Pavilion and The Grange at a cost of £4159. Councillor Colleyshaw continues to carry out two weekly safety inspections of The Grange and of the play equipment.

Full details of all cricket fixtures are on the Cricket Club website [www.ticknall.play-cricket.com](http://www.ticknall.play-cricket.com). everyone is welcome at The Grange to enjoy great cricket, full bar, sky sports, free Wi-Fi.

### **Parish Council Newsletter**

We have produced a quarterly newsletter for over 19 years now which we use to inform parishioners what the Parish Council is doing, to pass on information from South Derbyshire District Council and Derbyshire County Council and other organisations. We publicise events held by groups that use Ticknall Village Hall, St. George's Church, Ticknall Methodist Chapel and other local groups. Any local group is welcome to put in any information if space allows.

The newsletter is now available online at the Parish Council's website [www.ticknallparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ticknallparishcouncil.gov.uk) The Parish Council also has a Facebook page: Ticknall PC.

### **Christmas Eve Carol Singing**

The Parish Council was able to hold the Christmas Eve Carol Singing event this year again. We collected £130.37 from your generous donations. The Parish Council topped this up to £400.00 and gave a donation St. George's Church and Ticknall Methodist Chapel of £200 each.

### **Donations and Grants**

We made donations this year of £692 to local charities, and £75 to the Poppy Appeal for the provision of a wreath.

### **Community Orchard**

We continued to do more planting and maintenance in the Community Orchard this year, after receiving the remainder of the grant at £1411 this year. Our thanks go to The National Trust for providing the land and the tenants of the land for generously giving their blessing, the Ticknall Preservation & Historical Society, and the Ticknall Bellringers for donating £300 each towards the project. Thanks also go to the volunteers who generously gave their time to plant and water the trees

### **Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

The unaudited accounts and all the supporting documents relating to the accounts can be inspected by any member of the electorate at any reasonable time arranged with the Clerk, between Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024. You also can exercise your rights as electors with regard to the annual accounts of the Parish Council and question the auditors PKF Littlejohn about any items in the accounts under the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 by contacting PKF Littlejohn (REF: SBA Team), in writing, at the following address:

1 Westferry Circus  
Canary Wharf  
LONDON, E14 4HD

Summary of Accounts: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023:	£34025
Annual Precept	£13500
Total other receipts	£19338
<b>Total</b>	<b>£66863</b>

Staff Costs	£4158
Total other payments	£33500
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>£37658</b>
<b>Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>£29205</b>

Included in the payments this year are £4159.00 spent on The Grange and pavilion, and £767.00 on grants and donations.

*Celia Bunston, Clerk to the Council – AnnualReport24*

## **8) Highlights from organisations**

### **Ticknall 22WI**

Jen Woodhead reported that Ticknall 22WI was now in its second year. They meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm in Ticknall Village Hall. It now has over 45 members.

They have had many talks, craft sessions, a curling session, a try at ballet, and after a demonstration of Bollywood dancing a 6-week course was set up and another is booked for June. All local people can attend.

They did a week on the 'Clean Rivers Campaign', when to highlight it, the Ticknall taps were decorated with toppers.

They held a fortnightly get together session over the winter months for villages in The Staff of Life, where people could chat, have coffee, knit, do jigsaws or any other hobby they wanted to do. They intend to start up again in October.

### **Ticknall Art Group**

Celia Bunston reported that Ticknall Art Group has had a very busy year with 14 members. We try to have at least three tutors in a year, which the members enjoy very much and inspire them to try different media. We are now at full capacity and have a waiting list. We enjoy having an exhibition at the Dame Catherine Harpur School Fete.

### **Ticknall Preservation and Historical Society**

The society has more members and had talks on a Victorian Christmas, Snibston coal mine etc at which 30 to 40 people attended. The finances are good.

### **Short Mat Bowls**

Sue Browne reported that the bowls group meeting on Monday between 1.30 and 3.30. They have 18 members, but could take 20. Refreshments are served at half time. It is good fun and good to get together.

### **Coffee Club**

It meets every other Tuesday at 10.30 where 40 people attend. It raises money for Mary's Meals and Secondary Breast Cancer.

### **Ticknall Cricket Club**

Paul Bunyan reported that he has taken the role of president of the club from John Dumelow who held it for 50 years.

The Grange is a fantastic setting for the club. Cricket has been played on The Grange for 120 years.

The club has under 9s, under 17s and 11 junior sides and 3 senior sides.

It has 50 members, and would like to see more interaction with the local community. They have invested money into the bar and patio and encourage everyone to come and enjoy the facilities.

They now have a social side and invite anyone to come along who wants to play cricket. They have a softball team at which all are welcome. They have an under 12s girls' side and want to build women's and girls' teams.

Paul thanked the Parish Council for its support.

### **Celebrating Ticknall**

Alison Thornhill wanted to thank all those that supported and enjoyed the celebrating Ticknall events that they had recently. They have money left over so have organised another guided walk along Ashby Road, meeting at 10.30 am at The Staff of Life on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. There will be refreshments afterwards at The Staff of Life.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May there will be a drop in event at the village hall to create Ticknall faces out of clay using old Ticknall pottery inspiration. Or make clay tiles, or a peg doll featuring people of old Ticknall. Just drop in between 11am and 3pm.

### **Litter Picking**

Jeff Collet, Mark Heath and Viv Taylor continue to pick up litter in and around the village. The Chair remarked that Jeff, Mark and Viv deserve our thanks for having done this for many years, in all weathers, on behalf of Ticknall residents.

### **Ticknall Village Hall**

The Village Hall still remains an integral and important part of village life. Over the last few years, we have, with the aid of grants and fundraising have made a number of improvements to our facilities that have been warmly welcomed by the Village.

However, the reality is that the cost implications in running a hall mean that we have to look to outside events to supplement our income. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for their support in realising that we, as a village, need a Village Hall and as such support the Village Hall financially.

As a Village Hall we are constantly looking at ways to utilise the facilities to enhance our village life.

### **Calke Park – Report sent by Stewart Alcock, General Manager**

Despite the challenges of the weather and the world beyond our gates, 2023 was a positive year of progress across the Calke Abbey Estate. Whilst the autumn/winter period was particularly difficult due to the poor weather over the year we welcomed 495,000 visitors to the estate. This was despite all the issues with wet ground and car parking which required us to close access to the estate for short periods on 16 separate days over winter and our thanks to our local community for patience understanding during a difficult period. The more positive news is that we are now back to normal and the Easter and May Bank Holidays have operated as we hoped. Looking ahead and being mindful that wetter winters are likely to become more frequent we are currently developing plans to improve our grass overflow parking areas in the future.

In July 2022, in addition to our work at Calke we entered into a partnership with Severn Trent to oversee the day to day operation of public access and nature conservation for Staunton Harold and Foremark Reservoirs creating a portfolio of sites managed by the National Trust for the benefit of people and nature. Good progress has been made with improving visitor facilities and work is now underway improving the woodland and biodiversity of both sites.

On the Calke Estate our conservation work continues and the highlights over the last year have been the planting of a further 17,000 trees in conjunction with the National Forest and the reintroduction of Hazel Dormice in the hope that with our helping hand they will once again flourish in the woodlands where they were lost many years ago.

We are really pleased to have been able to work with the Parish Council to establish the Community Orchard and see this develop with new public access and a community space for local residents and we continue to offer the Local

Residents Pass and issued over 70 passes in the last year to enable local residents to enjoy all the estate has to offer.

### **9) Open Forum**

Councillor Oppenheimer closed the meeting by reminding us what a fantastic place we live in, and it is a lively village. Celebrating Ticknall was very interesting. The challenges ahead are the speed watch, the flower festival and the Chapel which are all very precious, having already lost the shop and the pub. We need to keep the village alive. We can but try.

*The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.  
Celia Bunston. Clerk to the Council*