

IDRIDGEHAY ALTON AND ASHLEYHAY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 10 May 2017 at 6.30pm St James' Church Idridgehay

Chair: Councillor Dudley Ibbett

Clerk: Mrs Ros Hallam (Responsible Financial Officer)

Present: 9 members of the public

Apologies: Councillors Eric Matkin and Jane Smith, Anna and Nick Bristow and Pat and Jeremy Bate

As Councillor Robert Tatler was unexpectedly absent due to illness, Councillor Dudley Ibbett presided over the meeting.

1. Chair's Overview of the Year

Cllr Ibbett welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting and presented Cllr Tatler's annual report.

Good evening and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting.

There have been no changes in the membership of the council since last year, with two members representing Ashleyhay and five representing Idridgehay and Alton. The council has followed its customary pattern of meeting bi-monthly on the second Wednesday, normally at the village Corn Store. Members of the public are very welcome to attend to observe and there is fifteen minutes available for public speaking at the start of each meeting. Councillor David Taylor regularly attends in his capacity as our District and County Councillor, and is very active on our behalf. The Community Police Officer also attends when she is available.

Again this year, planning matters have figured largely on our agenda. Amber Valley District Council notifies our parish clerk of all planning applications in the parishes and the council then considers each one on its merits and comments appropriately if necessary. The last twelve months have seen no particularly contentious applications received. We are attempting to monitor how Amber Valley implements the Neighbourhood Plan and it has certainly been referred to by them in some of their decisions. We are most anxious to uphold and protect the integrity of the Special Landscape Area, which covers most of the parishes, and likewise the Conservation Area in Idridgehay, and the Neighbourhood Plan is the strongest weapon we have to do this.

There have been no further planning applications concerning the pig farm just off the Wirksworth Road although there are issues with implementation of some of the conditions imposed in the previous (passed) plans and we have prodded the planning authority to take enforcement action. The Black Swan, which has figured largely in previous reports, is still empty and up for sale. However, rumour has it that it has been, or is about to be, sold and then to be run as a pub. This would be a very happy ending to what has become a bit of a saga and I hope will turn out to be the case.

During last summer Bev Webster and Hazel Haslam, both residents of Idridgehay, made a very persuasive presentation to the council arguing for the provision of some defibrillators in our area. Defibrillators, which can save the life of a cardiac arrest victim if used quickly enough, are increasingly appearing in rural locations as well as in places where large numbers of people congregate such as airports and railway stations. Bev and Hazel offered to manage the project on behalf of the council, which they are doing very enthusiastically. Three defibrillators were obtained free of charge from the British Heart Foundation. Two are going to be in Idridgehay, one adjacent to the Corn Store and the other on the south-east corner of The Green with the third one at The Spout at Ashleyhay. At the moment permission to install them is being sought from the County Council. Although the devices themselves were free there will be installation costs, insurance and ongoing maintenance to be met and Bev and Hazel have been very successful in using a crowdfunding website to raise over £2200 from the residents of the parishes for the Idridgehay Defibrillator Fund. They are in the process of arranging for basic first aid training to be made available to residents who wish to participate. On behalf of the council I would like to offer them our sincere thanks for all the work they have had to put in.

During the year two parish newsletters have been produced and distributed and the parish website has been updated. We are very grateful to Councillor Ibbett for editing and creating the newsletters and for the work he does in tending the website. The snow warden scheme remained in operation, with Hazel and Michael Haslam as wardens and the free supply of grit was again received. We have actually had another snow-free winter, so their services have not been needed, but I'm sure their day will come!

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I must again thank our excellent Parish Clerk, Ros Hallam, for the highly efficient and enthusiastic way she does her job! We are very fortunate to have her and she is a real asset to the council and community. It is a pleasure to extend congratulations to David Taylor on his recent re-election to Derbyshire County Council for the Alport ward.

To finish, I want to say again how very encouraging it is to see the increased levels of support shown by residents, particularly participation by newer ones, in village events. The Vintage Afternoon Tea in the church last June to mark the Queen's ninetieth birthday was very enjoyable and well attended. The Village Fete in July was our most successful yet with a profit of just under £3000 (we were blessed with excellent weather). The Quiz Night in the autumn in the church and the Christmas Party at the Corn Store went very well and the Christmas and Spring Fayres in the church were highly successful. I am not trying to claim these as parish council events as they are organised by and run mainly in aid of the church. But they are typical of the way the council and the PCC work closely together to support community events, as is the informal group of volunteers who maintain the church and churchyard and others the millennium garden. As I have said before, we may be only a very small community, but at least we are all singing, with enthusiasm, from the same hymn sheet!

2. Finance Report for the year ended 31 March 2017

Mrs Hallam, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the annual financial report:

The council remains dependent on the Parish Precept for its main source of income having no rental income that other parishes have from say a village hall or allotments. The precept, collected by Amber Valley as part of the Council Tax, amounted to £4,202. The council received a grant of £495 from DCC to carry out minor maintenance work on the parishes' footpaths and a grant of £962 from DALC to pay for the purchase of a council laptop and the work needed to ensure the council's website complies with transparency legislation. The council's bank account at the end of March included donations of £820 to the IDF.

The clerk's salary and costs associated with parish upkeep account for half of all expenditure. Other fees and overheads are kept on a tight rein and as no funds were spent on a bid for the Black Swan, income exceeded expenditure for the year by £966.

The year ended with a balance of £7,777. After deducting set aside accounts for potential election costs, contingencies, and the amount held on behalf of IDF, this left reserves of £2,557.

However, as costs are expected to increase over the next 12 months, and before the imposition of the 2% limit in increases in council tax is extended to parish councils, in January the council approved a 10% increase in the Precept for 2017/18 amounting to £420.

The Internal Audit for the year to 31 March 2017 has been completed. The External Audit to be completed by Grant Thornton on behalf of the Audit Commission is underway and the completed Annual Return is here for signature at the Parish Council meeting that follows. This will be posted to GT according to the timetable set by them.

The Statutory Notice showing when the PC accounts are available for public inspection at the Clerk's office will shortly be on display.

3. Public Speaking

Glynis Ibbett reported her concerns over the lack of enforcement of the landscaping conditions attached to the permission given to the development at the pig farm on Wirksworth Road and asked the council to raise this again with AVBC together with her suggested plan of action and ask for a timed response in order that the landscaping scheme can be implemented as soon as possible. In view of the delay in enforcing the conditions attached by the planning board, if there is no response then advice will be sought.

Muff Wiltshire reported that the planning board had assured objectors that there was a robust planting scheme in the conditions attached to the granting of planning permission at the pig farm which included the planned landscaping scheme being in place before the new building was brought into use. She said it was a

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disgrace that this scheme has not been adhered to correctly and there is no reason why the planting has to wait if containerised plants are used and treated appropriately. Councillor David Taylor responded that all breaches of conditions attached to planning permission need to be reported to the Executive Officer responsible for the AVBC Planning Department, currently Julian Townsend.

Mrs Wiltshire also commented on the draft AVBC Local Plan's Housing Policy H2. This will permit development 'within the built framework' of the village of Idridgehay. As previously planning applications have shown, there is no set 'built framework' of Idridgehay. Agreeing where this should be would be an ideal project for the Village Forum outlined in the Neighbourhood Plan - a consensus would be beneficial to both planners and applicants alike. She also commented that Housing Policy H3 (which covers most of the rest of the parishes) will now allow conversion of existing buildings to provide additional dwellings and in the countryside isolated dwellings would only permitted 'in special circumstances' so each application will be decided on its individual merits.

Muff Wiltshire also repeated her request for passing places to be provided on Barnsley Lane as reversing on this single track lane around blind bends is dangerous. Other members of the public concurred and added the need for the hedges to be cut back to prevent damage to vehicles using the lane.

Councillor Ibbett thanked those members of the public for their attendance and contributions closing the meeting at 7.25pm.

Minutes to be approve at the next parish council meeting on 12 July 2017.