

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 sort 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 £2000 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!

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!