

**IDRIDGEHAY & ALTON AND ASHLEYHAY
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 14th May 2025 / 7:00 PM
St James The Great Church - Idridgehay**

Members Present:	
- Chairman of the Parish Jane Smith	- Dudley Ibbett
- Eric Matkin	- Andy Buck
- Peter Matthews	- Matthew Evans [Clerk]
- Rachell Hatchett (DCC)	

IAAP - 1 Chairman's Welcome

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting

The Council is normally comprised of seven members, two representing Ashleyhay (Dudley Ibbett and myself, Jane Smith) and five members for Idridgehay & Alton (Philip Brooks, Carl Hempshall, Eric Matkin and Michael Westbrooke). All existing councillors were elected unopposed in 2023 and there is currently a vacancy for Idridgehay & Alton following Robert Tatler's passing away last year. The vacancy has been advertised but not yet filled and applications are welcome.

The Council meets bi-monthly here in St. James' Church, usually on the second Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, July, September and November. Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe, with fifteen minutes available for public speaking at the start of each meeting. We also receive reports from our local District and County Councillors. Following the recent elections, we would like to Welcome our new County Councillor, Rachael Hatchett and thank David Taylor for his work as County Councillor in recent years. David remains our Borough Councillor, together with Jane Orton. Many thanks to them both for their sustained efforts on behalf of their communities working to maintain and improve local matters.

Planning matters are always on the agenda. The parish clerk receives notice of new planning applications from Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) and the parish council then considers each case on its merits. This is done following the guidance and policies of Government, The Local Plan and those of our Neighbourhood Development Plan; we strive to maintain and uphold the integrity of the Conservation Area in Idridgehay and the Special Landscape Area, which covers a large part of the parishes. The council aims to support appropriate development that does not have an adverse impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties, nor the intrinsic beauty of the surrounding countryside, some of the highest quality landscape outside of the Peak District National Park. The council, where agreed, will submit appropriate comments to AVBC. Sadly, the Governments impending reforms to speed up the planning procedure will no doubt result in some development proposals

being rubber stamped to the detriment of local areas and those who live, work and visit there.

One interesting recent application was for change of use of the local pub, The Black Swan, into a residential property and garden. There was local opposition to the proposal and the Parish Council commented against it as, amongst other things, being in conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan which supports proposals to retain valuable community assets. The application has been withdrawn and we can only wait to see whatever alternative may be proposed. St James' churchyard was officially closed in 2023 and the Parish Council



passed on the burden of its maintenance to AVBC, which has since carried out some necessary tree work and periodically cuts the grass. The maintenance of the Millenium Garden remains the responsibility of the Parish Council and enquiries are in progress to remove a yew tree that has been assessed as being in a poor state.

The Snow Warden scheme is still benefitting the parishes with a quantity of free salt each winter and many thanks are due to our volunteer snow wardens, Hazel and Michael Haslam. We also thank Councillor Taylor for providing a grant from his DCC Leadership funds to enable us to buy a new grit bin for Cliffash Lane and a quantity of grit for next winter.

Thanks also to our Clerk, Matthew Evans for keeping the council records in good order and keeping us on the straight and narrow regarding protocol and legality., together with the updating and maintenance of our website.

Matthew is also working towards a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) qualification which will be funded by the Parish Council but Matthew will be doing this in his own time. I'm sure he will sail through it.

Congratulations are also due as Matthew has recently been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive Officer for Derbyshire Association of Local Councils w.e.f. 1 st June.

We are fortunate in that the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council have a very good working relationship, organising events for the benefit of the whole community, aided by hardworking volunteers, without whom it would not be possible. More recently, villagers have joined together and formed the Idridgehay Community Association (ICA) and are doing a great job of organising community events such as a book club, coffee mornings, quiz nights, lunch

club, regular local walks and celebration of one-off anniversaries such as VE Day. Much appreciated are the efforts of Andy Buck and a group of volunteers for getting the village community association up and running.

The Annual Village Fete has been held at Townhead Farm for many years courtesy of Robert Tatler. Thanks to the generosity of Robert's family, the event was held there last year and will be the venue again this coming July .

As usual I will end with the vision for the future written into our Neighbourhood Development Plan.

"Idridgehay & Alton and Ashleyhay will continue to be a thriving and attractive

rural area. Its special landscape, flora, fauna and traditional architecture will have been protected and enhanced and will continue to be valued by residents, visitors and business. It will have a lively, mixed age community providing people with a high quality place to live and work."

IAAP – 2 To receive apologies of absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Westbrooke and Carl Hempshall.

IAAP – 3 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 11th May 2024

It was proposed by J. Smith and seconded by D. Ibbett that the minutes be accepted.

IAAP – 4 Items raised by Parishioners

There were no items raised by parishioners.

Chairman:

Signature: _____

