

Duffield Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Committee Room, Duffield on Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors A Woodings (Chairman of the Parish Council), Buckle, Rice, Greenwood, Garner, Knibbs, Rowland, Hibbert

In Attendance: Mrs Sally Bygraves (Parish Clerk), Mr Chris Carter (Assistant Clerk) and three members of the public.

Mrs Sally Bygraves was appointed as Clerk to the meeting.

1552 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Short, Storer, England, B Woodings.

1553 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2008 had been approved by the Parish Council at their meeting of 13th May 2008 and signed by the Chairman (minute reference – 1142). There were no matters arising.

1554 Chairman's Report

Councillor A Woodings presented his report as Chairman of the Parish Council.

He reported that the year had been very busy year for the council. The new playground development at Grays Recreational Ground was opened in May 2008 to the delight of many parishioners. At the Cemetery, work on the parking area was completed, and further improvements undertaken in the lodge and at the Allotment Gardens. At Eyes Meadow the shed was demolished and extensive tree work undertaken to clear over grown hedges and bushes. An alcohol designation order was introduced in parts of the village in an effort to curb drinking in public places. The Council continued to work with the Community Association in putting on the village bonfire and firework display, which this year provided entertainment for more than 1200 spectators. As in previous years, Councillors led the popular village walk as part of the Erewash walking festival and this was enjoyed by both local people and those visiting our area for the first time. Contracts for the grounds maintenance of the area were re-tendered and Bloomin Gardens were appointed as village contractors from 1st April 2009. On the lobbying side the Parish Council noted that work has been completed on a number of roads and footpaths in the village showing a positive response from Derbyshire County Council.

As ever the issues of health and safety played an ever increasing role in the work of the council and extensive reviews were conducted to ensure compliance in all areas. Changes in the advice on memorial testing given by the Justice Department in January 2009 seem to contradict the requirements set by the local government ombudsman which all burial authorities were required to follow and advice on a way forward in this area is currently being sought.

