

Duffield Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Weston Centre, Duffield on Tuesday 25th April 2006 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors Storer (Chairman of the Parish Council), Buckle, England, Fletcher, Rice, Rowlands, Sartin,

In Attendance: Mrs S Bygraves (Parish Clerk / Treasurer) and 8 members of the public.

Mrs S Bygraves was appointed as Clerk to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Councillors Carmichael-Smith, Hibbert, Knibbs, Sartin, Woodings, and Woodings.

53. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 26 April 2005 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. The matters arising were as follows:

- a) Mr Varney had information from Mrs Goodall which indicated that the Waites family has given the footpath land behind the Kings Head to be used as a public footpath some time after the war. He confirmed he would contact the Clerk with further information, should this be available.
- b) Desilting work was due to take place over the next few months by the Environment agency on the concrete channels under the bridge on Town Street.

54. Chairman's Report

Councillor Storer gave his report as follows:

The Annual Parish Meeting gives Councillors the opportunity to hear directly from Parishioners about concerns and issues that are important to them as well as allowing the Parish Council the opportunity to explain what work the Council has done over the last twelve months and what its plans are for the coming year.

The Parish Council has met twelve times during the past twelve months. In its efforts to continually improve the service given to the village the Council have piloted a change in the way they make decisions and have suspended sub committees such that all their business is dealt with at the monthly Parish Meetings. This pilot is now being reviewed and the Council are looking at the most effective and efficient way to operate.

In addition to their duties with the Parish Council, several Councillors have served on outside bodies on behalf of the Parish Council and these were :

The William Gilbert Endowed School
The Meadows Primary School
The Ecclesbourne School
The Parish Hall Management Committee
The Parish Plan Steering Committee
The RJ Weston Charity Trust
The Millennium Meadow Conservation Trust
The Hawley's Development Liaison Group

The Chairman thanked his fellow colleagues for their support, hard work and commitment throughout the year..

The Chairman noted the professionalism and hard work of the staff of the Parish Council in ensuring its smooth running and efficiency. He thanked Mr Roger Bostock who recently retired as Parish Clerk, Mrs Sally Bygraves the new Clerk and previously Assistant Clerk/Treasurer, Mr David Guy Cemetery Superintendent and Mr Michael Forkin Village Warden for their hard work and commitment to the Council over the past year.

In addition to Council staff the Chairman thanked Mrs J Arnold the Tree Warden and Mr J Banahan of the Belper Road Safety Committee, Neighbourhood Watch representatives, County and Borough Councillors for their assistance to the Council over the past twelve months.

The Chairman drew the meetings attention to members of the Community who assist the Parish Council and in particular advisors of the Council who assist the Council on Open Spaces and Footpaths matters. He also thanked those involved in the work of the Millennium Meadow Conservation Trust at Eyes Meadow, and the Duffield Community Association for their efforts in the village.

At the Cemetery, two new allotments have been created as a result of substantial clearance work undertaken by the Community Offending Team from the Probation Service. The service has also undertaken refurbishment work in the Committee Room and has performed land management tasks including opening the copse and pathways around the Cemetery Chapel. Work is continuing in this area to improve the environment ensuring that it remains a restful and contemplative place for villagers to visit.

Eyes Meadow continues to be actively used with events such as the Vintage Steam Rally, The Village Carnival and the Annual Fireworks display. With many local football teams using the Meadow the Council continues to strive to offer some of the best facilities within Amber Valley. The opening of the new football pitch by Allestree Football Club has added further to these facilities and its location ensures the continued use and development of this area. Work is soon to be undertaken by the Community offending team to improve the car park area around the changing rooms and the creation of a woodland walk will further enhance the area.

As part of the Councils road and footways improvement scheme, Stiles Walk, Cockpit Lane and Donald Hawley way have all benefited from being resurfaced and stiles walk has been re fenced where needed. It is hoped that the placing of a number of new bins and signs in the area, will alleviate the fouling problem that continues to be a problem.

After almost five years the new boundary sign at the north side of the village is now in place. The Chairman thanked Mr Roy Pooley for his persistence and determination in getting the sign approved and made, Councillor Patrick Clark for his donation towards the purchase of the sign, and the volunteers who helped put the sign in place. The village logo designed by Nick Bygraves and taken from the Chairman's chain of office is now being used extensively by the Council and reflects the importance of the castle and rivers in the village development.

The Chairman noted the impact of the newly completed Parish Plan in directing the focus of the Parish Council. Lobbying by working groups had already resulted in the introduction of plastic recycling bins, dropped kerbs and the formation of a business support group. The development of the website to improve service information, and consultation with the Youth and Transport group are some of the areas where the Parish Council will be working over the next twelve months to improve village life.

The opening of a Parish Office at the Weston Centre in May will give greater direct access to the Council for Parishioners. The Chairman thanked Mr. Maurice Shenton and the Management Committee for their help and support in establishing this facility.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for their attention and then asked the Clerk to review the Accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2006.

55. Accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2005

The unapproved accounts of the Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2006, showing a balance carried forward of £38,845 were received. The Assistant Clerk noted that the accounts had been fully completed and would be placed before the Council at their May 2006 meeting for approval.

Receipt of Parochial Charitable Trust Accounts

56. Duffield Charity

The Chairman reported on behalf of David Capel MBE that during the year ended 31 December 2005 a total of £1220.00 was distributed to recipients in the old Parish of Duffield, covering Duffield, Belper and Heage.

A statement of accounts up to 31 December 2004 was circulated to the meeting, showing a current account balance of £802.33 and a shareholding of 4,600 shares.

57. R J Weston Duffield Charity

Mr Maurice Shenton presented the report and audited accounts of the Charity for the 12 months to 31 December 2005, the contents of which were similar to the previous year. These showed a profit on the year of £846.00 and current total assets of £145293. He reported that following the retirement of Mrs J L Minion, Councillor R Knibbs had been appointed to the management committee.

The report of the activities and the audited accounts to 31 December 2004 of the R J Weston Duffield Charity were received and they were congratulated on the healthy state

of their accounts

58. Duffield Millennium Meadow Conservation Trust

Mr Hugh Wilde presented the approved accounts of the Trust for the 12 months to 31st May 2005. These showed a profit for the year of £1398.69 and a current total of assets of £10124.98.

The healthy situation of the Trust and the recent receipts of further grants have allowed the trust to employ the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to prepare a management plan. The five year plan will assist the trust in its management of the Meadow and wildlife in the area.

Other Business

Members of the public present made the following comments and requests:

- 59.1** Information was requested about a new village hall to be placed on Grays Rec. The Clerk confirmed that no firm requests had been made to the Council. The working group from the Parish Plan had been looking at ways to implement the requests made by the village and this was just one scenario considered. The Parish Council were to establish a Strategy Sub Committee to put in place a 5-10 year plan to deal with these and other issues raised by the Plan
- 59.2** Concerns were raised concerning the future of the green waste recycling scheme. The Parish Council were asked to pursue this matter with Amber Valley.
- 59.3** The Parish Council were asked to pursue repairs to potholes on the entrance to Ecclesbourne Close from Wirksworth Road. The Clerk confirmed that individuals should also report potholes and information on how this should be done would be placed in the next newsletter.
- 59.4** Concerns were raised concerning parked cars blocking the pavement outside the Kings Head Public House. The Clerk advised that this should be reported directly to the police. The telephone number for non urgent reports was placed in the Parish Newsletter in April
- 59.5** A request was made to the Council to help reduce the level of development in the village. The Council has limited influence on planning matters and will make objections where the development is detrimental to the village. The Clerk advised that individuals should also record their objections and this can now be done directly using the Amber Valley website.
- 59.6** Information was requested about a skate ramp on Eyes Meadow. The Clerk reported that the Parish Plan survey had shown that the most popular recreational facility requested was a multi user all weather surface. This along with other requests was being researched by the Parish Plan group and would be a subject for the strategy subcommittee to be formed at the Parish Council Annual General meeting in May.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and there being no other business, closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

Signed

Dated