

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF STANLEY AND STANLEY COMMON
HELD IN THE SCOUT HUT, STANLEY COMMON TUESDAY 10 MAY 2016 AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Colonel Mike Cheetham (Chair)
Councillors Chambers, V Harvey, B Rhodes, B Lowe, J Marshall, S Marshall, J Smith
Councillor C Hart (DCC), Councillor A Stevenson (EBC), 4 Members of the Public

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 19 MAY 2015.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 19.5.15 be approved and were signed by the Chair.

**TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE
YEAR 2015/2016.**

I am happy to report that the year 2015/2016 was again a successful and rewarding period. We had a full complement of Councillors (10) and the ones new to the Parish Council have begun to play a contributive role in the working parties. Notably regarding health and safety responsibilities having become the owners of the football changing rooms at Stanley Common. We had to spend a considerable sum (£4000) on urgent health and safety needs. This was a primarily the need to replace the slabs around the building and to provide a metal locker for the safe storage of goal posts. The Parish Council is much indebted to Councillor Lowe for his sterling working in bringing these two projects to a satisfactory completion. It is worth noting that a number of lessons were learned from these projects, first if the original project had been thought through properly the Parish Council could and should have consisted of a measure of control and thus enrolled that proper maintenance of the property was done. As it is the Parish Council has had to meet these remedial costs. This lesson will most certainly be learned and applied with all new projects that the Parish Council are involved with. Another lessons on this respect is that where there is a major project then the Parish Council must consider engaging qualified people to undertake the project management. The Parish Council does not have either the proper qualified personnel nor indeed the time available to do such work from within its numbers. This will need to be paid for and thus the Parish Councils finances will need to be reviewed. This also will include the need to obtain qualified legal advice to ensure that the future holds no further surprises. During investigations undertaken by Alistair Ross it was establish that although the Parish Council were the owners of the parcels of land (the recreation grounds) it was established that the then Parish Council had failed to undertake the necessary Land Registry action. We have now done this but again at a cost (£1000+). Our resolve therefore is that whatever project we undertake from now on will be done correctly and properly to thus ensure that no such failures become a costly problem for a future Parish Council.

We have tried to undertake speed watch training but have not yet been successful, the new PCSO replacing PC Crooks has yet to be trained himself, more later. It is opportune now to mention PC Crooks. He was extremely committed in his role as Community Policeman and was a valuable and supportive friend to many local Parish Council areas including ours. He has transferred to Long Eaton and I wrote to him thanking and wishing him well.

Another extremely supportive person is Councillor Carol Hart who is our Derbyshire County Council and Erewash Borough Council representative. She regularly attends our Parish Council meetings and is always ready to help and advise us. She has our thanks. Thanks to our two new Erewash Borough Representatives Councillors Abey Stevenson and Alan Summerfield. May I also mention the support of all the Parish Council members and thank them for their hard work over the last year. In particular I want to mention Councillor Lowe who has done much valuable work regarding the "planning" activities particularly Bryan has been tireless in making the Parish Council position clear regarding a fraught situation in Klondyke.

Finally I am very happy to report that the Parish Council finances are in good order and there has been no need to raise the precept budget. We have absorbed a cut of £600 this year and this totals a cut of £2000 to the current funding over the last four years.

RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for 2015/2016 made by Councillor Cheetham.

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2016/2017

RESOLVED to note the agreed Council Tax Precept of £13,432 for 2016/2017.

DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Annual Report – Carol Hart – Derbyshire County Councillor for Breadsall/West Hallam Ward, 2015/16

This is my last year of this 4 year term of office and elections for Derbyshire County Council will be taking place next May, I have decided to put my name forward again next May, all things being equal, and hope to continue representing the Breadsall/West Hallam ward, with apologies to those villages not included in the title of the ward, unfortunately the Electoral Commission do not like the titles of wards to be too wordy!!!

Again as I have said for the past 3 years it is so frustrating to be in opposition, I do still hold the position of Shadow Cabinet Member for Public Health which covers Health, Community Safety, Derbyshire Sport, Trading Standards, Libraries amongst other things but I am afraid although everyone knows there have been cuts in the DCC budget I get so upset with some of the cuts that have been proposed over the last year in particular, the first couple of years there were many areas that could be trimmed down and made more efficient and, of course, it does get harder as time goes on and still savings have to be made but it is all about priorities and I am afraid my group have many different priorities to the controlling group.

We have had many cuts in different services areas, mobile libraries have had their deliveries cut back but I think most areas are still being served even if the service is reduced and the visits are less, school crossing patrols are being cut, some schools are losing their 'lollipop' persons and I can accept that if they have puffin or pelican crossings this might be acceptable but where there are no puffin/pelican crossings I think it is essential that this facility is kept in place, it has been decided that when a 'lollipop' person resigns they will not be replaced, what a pity that DCC has not worked with schools or even the local parish council to see if there is a way of still providing this service. One of the biggest cuts that has been announced is the cut in funding to Community Transport, along with this is now the consultation that is happening about withdrawing all subsidies from bus companies, this would have a massive impact on particularly rural communities including the villages in my ward, some of these services are not heavily used but for the people who use them they are essential, whether it be older people who do not or cannot drive, people working shifts, people wanting to get to hospital for appointments or even visiting, we cannot isolate our communities. Hopefully I have managed to get the message out to the parish councils in my ward about the consultation on bus subsidies and I am hopeful that there will be a good response from my ward area and many people putting forward their reasons for wanting to keep their precious bus service. The Community Transport organisations across Derbyshire delivered a petition to a Full Council meeting recently asking the Cabinet to look again at their decisions to cut funding, the petition was the largest ever received by DCC, some 22,000 signatures, unfortunately although it was debated and supported by my group the Cabinet and back benchers of the controlling Labour Group turned this down. There is also consultation going on to close some of the Children's Centres, including the West Hallam Centre, again it seems as though the most effect will be felt in the rural areas rather than the urban areas, I think everyone appreciates that some of our most deprived areas need extra help but it should not always be to the detriment of the rural areas.

Still lots of complaints about the state of the roads and pavements, the Government has given councils some extra funding for getting the potholes repaired, I believe it the amount was, I believe, £1.6 M. DCC say that this is a drop in the ocean, what I cannot understand is that although we have not had a bad winter over Derbyshire there has still been an overspend on this budget, goodness knows what will happen if we have a bad winter!! The frustration again is that I have just been handed a list of work that will hopefully be carried out in my ward on roads and pavements but unfortunately this is a 5 year plan and there is no indication as to when any of these projects might happen, I understand that all those roads and pavements listed will be inspected and placed in priority order, I can only keep monitoring and lobby if there are areas that are in urgent need of attention.

As you will have probably seen from your recent Council Tax bills DCC have set a precept of 3.99%, there did have to be a referendum called if they wished to precept more than 2% but this year the Government have said that Councils could precept an extra 2% as long as they ring fenced it for Adult Care, because of the pressures on Adult Care basically because most of us are living longer, thank goodness, this was something my group could support.

I have been pleased to help some local organisations in Stanley and Stanley Common with grants from my Community Capital Funding, in Stanley Common grants went to The Early Birds, The Eventide Community Hall and in Stanley the Stanley Village Community Association. for the first time since I became a County Councillor I spent all of my year's allocation of £4200 (this has to cover all of my ward of course) but I am pleased to say that the fund is now open again, unfortunately due to the cuts the amount I receive will be £3,800 as the amount has been top sliced by DCC to give to the many Luncheon Clubs that deliver a service across Derbyshire, they cut their funding so are now taking it from the Member Grant Scheme to compensate

Stanley & Stanley Common have all of the same problems that many villages across Derbyshire have, namely traffic, whether it be speeding traffic, inconsiderate parking especially around the two schools or just too many cars in general causing problems, in fact I have arranged a meeting in Stanley tomorrow with officers from Derbyshire County Council, and hopefully with representation from the Parish Council and concerned residents. There have been problems in Stanley with flooding and I have been told that the work on the grips on Stanley Hill was completed at the end of March, we will have to see if this works, unfortunately with all of the wet weather and water flooding off the fields the grips and drains do fill up with silt and if this is seen it does need to be reported. Roads and pavements in the area need some attention and I have been given a list of work to be carried out, unfortunately this is to be spread across 5 years so all I can do is highlight if there are any areas that are in urgent need of attention.

As mentioned previously decisions will be made about bus subsidies and hopefully many people have responded and they listen but if not then we need to be ready to fight any cuts, at least we should know well before any changes, if any, and we will have to fight to retain these much needed services, i.e. a daily bus service in Stanley Common and a continuation of the evening service through Stanley.

As always as your County Councillor I will do my best to sort problems out that are the responsibility of DCC, I can only say if I cannot get things done it is not for the want of trying

Erewash Borough Council Annual Report Councillor Carol Hart

I have continued in my role as Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Community Engagement and I have to say that it has been a challenging year. Along with all other councils across the Country Erewash Borough Council has had to try to deliver first class services with a reduced budget, it has been difficult but I think that we have managed to carry on delivering the services that our residents expect of us and care about without too much of an impact being made with the reduced budget.

Many residents that I have spoken to over the last year have commented on the fact that even with the cuts we have still managed to put flowers in our flower beds, unlike some local councils, and I must say that we have done particularly well again in this last year winning medals in the East Midlands in Bloom competition and our local Erewash in Bloom competition has also been well received again with many entrants including not only private residences but Residential Homes, Schools and local hostels.

Our Green Spaces team have also worked very hard and again achieved Green Flag status at Victoria Park, West Park and a new one Straw's Bridge (or Swan Lake as some like to call it

The Council Tax has been frozen by the Borough Council for the last 6 years but unfortunately we have taken the decision for the 16/17 budget to raise the precept, we do want to keep delivering the best service we can to our residents and this money, even though a small amount, will help us do that, I do hope that when residents receive their council tax bills they do take time to look at where the Council Tax money goes, Erewash Borough Council get a very small share of money collected compared to Derbyshire County Council and I think that we do manage to deliver a great many services on our small budget.

We are putting more effort into the regeneration portfolio, there are two or three major projects happening in Erewash and we need to take advantage and obtain the best outcome for the Borough and its residents.

The first is the provision of the new railway station in Ilkeston, this project is happening because of a vast amount of work done by the previous M.P. Jessica Lee along with a campaign by the Ilkeston Advertiser, it culminated with Government coming forward with funding and although there have been many delays in starting the project which is being controlled by Derbyshire County Council work has now started and should be completed later this year, the second project is the HS2 provision which is most likely going to have a major impact on Long Eaton, the preferred hub is at Toton and although the route has not yet been announced, this will happen in Autumn, we do know that there will be a major impact on many residential properties and businesses in Long Eaton, the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and our Planning Manager have been working hard with the HS2 Board to make sure that we obtain the best outcome for our area, whether you like the idea of HS2 or not it is going to happen and it is essential we make the best case possible for Erewash and get maximum benefits that will go along with this scheme, having said that there is so much work to do but the scheme will not actually be delivered for many years but we need to be involved now in the planning stages. The third project has been going on for some while and it is the Stanton site, we are looking at around 2,000 houses and some light industry but unfortunately St. Gobain the owners of the site and the Planning Department at EBC cannot really agree on the best way forward for the site. There are many problems with this site and possibly the biggest is the access/egress to the site and we are in the process of doing a survey to see the best way forward. A Government Department have also intervened to try and move this site forward but there are still many delays, we have now set up a small steering group to see if we can progress this site.

We are in the process of up-dating our IT at the Borough Council and continue not only to provide more modern equipment for our members to help them in their role as councillors but we are also working to improve our communications with our residents, it is difficult sometimes to get information out in a way that it reaches all of our residents not just a few, that is why we still produce our EBC Today publication which goes to each household in the Borough, we do now do Facebook and Twitter but again we realise that there are still many people out there who still prefer the good old pen and paper but with computers in our reception areas at the Town Halls and staff on hand to help those that do not have their own laptops we hope that everyone can communicate with us if they need to.

Our refuse collectors continue to do a good job, turning out in all weathers and although the green bags sometimes cause a problem on windy days it does appear that many people have chosen to purchase the blue bins and our re-cycling targets are pretty good, but as with everything we can do better and we try to encourage our residents to do their best to help us with the different bins and contents.

We introduced an hour's free car parking after consulting with the Ilkeston and Long Eaton Chamber of Trades to see if we could increase footfall in our two main towns, this has cost us a lot of money, approximately £100K but it seems that our residents and traders in the towns appreciate it, we are continuing this scheme but it has meant we have had to marginally increase our charges at other times but we have also simplified the payment structure so that all car parks across the Borough operate on the same tariffs

The biggest area that challenges us is the leisure side, our swimming pools and Rutland Sports Park, we face stiff opposition from private providers and it does take a huge slice out of our budget but our residents expect us to provide these facilities but it is a real challenge.

We have many local organisations who do good work in the Borough, whether it be luncheon clubs, helping the elderly, clubs for young people, but all too often these organisations struggle to make themselves viable, we appreciate the good work they do and we continue to provide our small grants scheme, we also provide an SLA agreement with CAB to help any of our residents who find themselves needing help.

All in all although we have had reductions in our Government grant we have continued to deliver our services without too much impact on our residents, we continue to be very prudent with our budget and hopefully we will continue to remain a debt free council.

Erewash Councillor report Councillors Alan Summerfield and Abey Stevenson

As in previous years, let's begin with the subject that affects all Council Tax payers. Council tax has changed this year. A band D rated house pays a total of £1584.33 (an increase of £54.55 (3.57%)) made up as follows:-

- £170.91 (up £5 (3.01%) after 0% for six year in a row) to Erewash,
- £1165.17 (up £44.71 (3.99%)) to Derbyshire CC,
- £177.07 (up £3.46 (1.99%)) to the Police Authority.
- £71.17 (up £1.38 (1.98%)) to the Fire Service.

All these services cost the taxpayer just £4.19 per day.

Erewash Borough Council's share of the total tax collected is still only 11% which works out to be 46.8 pence a day for all the services that Erewash provides.

Val Custance has been our Mayor for the last year and has done excellent work representing Erewash both inside and outside the Borough boundaries.

Abey Stevenson as Deputy Mayor is our candidate to be Mayor for the next year subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting on the 12th May

The latest annual audit inspection again shows that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money to the taxpayers. We note that the Borough is still debt free and therefore has no interest to pay out of taxpayer's money.

There is still ongoing pressure to reduce spending due to cuts in our funding. The Council officers have done excellent work to shield the electorate from the full impact of this to ensure a fair and equitable arrangement for all. It has become increasingly difficult to find more spending cuts and we have been obliged to increase the Erewash portion of the Council Tax by £5 for the current year 2016/2017 as noted above.

There have been many successful projects in the Borough over the past year and we had considerable success in obtaining external funding for many of them. Unsurprisingly these are predominantly in Ilkeston and Long Eaton being the most densely populated areas. Some of the highlights are:-

- The Councillor Community Grant Scheme has been used by us to benefit worthy causes in Little Eaton, Breadsall, Morley and Stanley.
- Borough car park charges have been changed but some free parking is still in place. We recommend that you visit www.ereash.gov.uk for specific details.
- The Borough vehicle fleet has been aging and replacement plan for vans and refuse trucks etc. is both budgeted for and is still on target.

The move of the Registry Office to Ilkeston Town Hall has proved to be very popular for weddings and the Council have received numerous comments praising the location.

The Boundary Commission proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from 51 down to 47 as of last year has resulted in an increased workload for us but we are still available for residents to contact us if they need our help.

TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER PARISH MATTER, WHICH MAY BE, BROUGHT FORWARD FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE PARISH COUNCIL OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTOR(S).

None

Signed Chairman

Date