

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF STANLEY AND STANLEY COMMON
HELD IN THE SCOUT HUT, STANLEY COMMON TUESDAY 16 MAY 2017 AT 6.30 PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Colonel Mike Cheetham (Chair)
Councillors Chambers, V Harvey, B Rhodes, T George, J Marshall, J Mazilius, J Smith
Councillor C Hart (DCC), Councillor A Summerfield (EBC), 6 Members of the Public

TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 10 MAY 2016.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 10.5.16 be approved and were signed by the Chair.

TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT DETAILING THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2016/2017.

I want to first mention the passing of Mr Bob Wood. Bob was a Councillor for ten years and was a keen and dedicated member of the Parish Council. His wise and always available council was much valued and he will be very much missed. I also wish to mention Mr Sam Kitchener, Sam was a Councillor for a few years. I have to report that Sam is now poorly and has been in hospital. I know that the members of the Council will wish to commemorate their erstwhile colleagues.

We also send our very best wishes to Councillor Bryan Lowe who is currently recovering from an operation. The last year 2016/17 saw the installation of an all purpose swing set at Stanley Common in an area that allows children with disadvantages to be able to safely enjoy this activity.

We have as a result of reductions in budget provision from EBC found it necessary to reduce expenditure and our notable reduction has been in the hanging baskets in both villages. Also as part of our cost saving exercise we have not been able to make the improvements that we wished to the changing rooms at Stanley Common. Efforts are in hand to explore the possibility of grant aid and to the end the ground work has begun to explore the possibility of doing a friend of the areas group from parishioners. Another plan to explore the possibility of sponsorship for such things as hanging baskets and the Christmas lights. We encountered a reorganisation of the EBC wards and we have been extremely well supported by Councillors A Stevenson, A Summerfield and C Hart, having been regular attendees at our PC meetings. We thank them for their friendship and support.

A this point I would like to mention and thank Councillor Carol Hart who has regularly attended our PC meetings for many years and has always been helpful, supportive and a friend to us on the PC. We have on many occasions benefitted from her advice and guidance and I wish to thank her for all the work she does both locally and at County level. Finally I want to thank and compliment all of my PC colleagues for their work and support over the past year. All have contributed and given their time greatly. Sadly we lost the services of Patrick Bosworth due to work commitments and we wish him well for the future. Very fortunately Mr Terry George offered his services almost at the close of the year and I am pleased to welcome him as a full member of the PC.

RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for 2016/2017 made by Councillor Cheetham.

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2017/2018

RESOLVED to note the agreed Council Tax Precept of £13,969 for 2017/2018.

DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Annual Report – Carol Hart – Derbyshire County Councillor for Breadsall/West Hallam Ward, 2016/17

This is my last report on my 4 year term representing the Breadsall/West Hallam ward which, of course, also covers Little Eaton, Morley, Stanley, Stanley Common and Dale Abbey at Derbyshire County Council. I have held the position of Shadow Cabinet Member of Public Health as well as being a member of the Scrutiny Committee for Places.

Again the main theme from the controlling Labour Group has been about austerity and a reduction in many of the services. However when there was talk of cutting the budget for the subsidised bus services, after doing some consultation, they changed their minds and extended the funding until October 2017, I think they were quite taken aback by the amount of responses to this consultation, it is a very difficult area, many of the subsidised bus services carry very few passengers but to the ones that use the service it is essential and a much needed service particularly in wards such as the one I represent which covers a wide rural area, we do have to still keep getting the message across how essential these services are and if they cannot be sustained looking at different ways of delivering a service, possibly using Community Transport more.

Although there have been several large extra grants from Government to help with potholes and improve the state of our roads and pavements there is still a lot more to do, communication would help, in some areas there is work being done on roads and pavements that do seem to be o.k. the theory is that if some surface work is done on reasonable roads and pavements it does extend their life by quite a lot, but because this message is not always conveyed to residents it appears sometimes to be a waste of money.

Speeding traffic and possible traffic calming measures is as always an ongoing problem, it has to be appreciated that the problems that occur in the parishes across the ward I represent are replicated right across Derbyshire but I realise that does not help concerned residents. Any measures to try to slow speeding drivers down are costly and not always effective, it does not matter how many measures are put in place you will always get the irresponsible few who will always break the rules, it does appear that CREST, the CCTV van deployed across the County are at least looking at new locations and the data received back from their monitoring should help when asking for more speed measures in the ward. I know several of the parishes in my ward would be willing to fund their own VAS signs but DCC have a policy of trying to remove as many signs on the roads and their argument for not supporting these signs is that too many on the roads and drivers get accustomed to them and ignore them.

There has been a lot of Government money put into providing high speed broadband across the County but unfortunately there is still a long way to go and again the service in the rural areas is very poor, we now have many people who are self-employed and work from home and it is important that they have good broadband speeds, work is still ongoing but again frustration in lots of areas.

A new project has just started to change all of our street lighting to LED, this will save money but due to various circumstances the project was delayed by around 15 months, this has now started but I understand that the areas having these new lights are in the north of the County and Swadlincote in the south, the delay has caused real problems because the previous administration, of which I was a member, proceeded with the part night lighting scheme which sees some lights going out from midnight until around 6 a.m. in the morning, but we also made sure that all bulbs were replaced before their expiry date, unfortunately the bulbs are not now being replaced until they go out, there is then a delay in some circumstances up to 3 months to replace the bulbs, this means that if there are areas that have part night lighting and then the ones that should be on all night go out there is a black hole, not acceptable because of health and safety, hopefully as I say let us hope the new LED lighting is rolled out across the County as quickly as possible.

I have been pleased to help local organisations across the ward with my Community Capital Funding and I hope that these grants have been helpful for them to carry on their good work in our communities

Council Tax as you will know doubt know has gone up again this year, DCC by 2% plus 2% for ring fenced Adult Care, we are living longer thankfully but this of course puts real pressure on the budget.

I will finish on the Derbyshire picture with the good news that Ilkeston now has a new railway station, we started progress on this some 7 years ago, but with the very rare (although they seem to appear on every large project to hold matters up) great crested newts and various other problems the first train arrived at the new station on 12th April and was greeted by the local M.P. the British Legion and many schoolchildren along with a good number of residents.

For the Stanley and Stanley Common part of my ward, very much the same issues as the other villages locally and in fact across Derbyshire, speeding traffic, inconsiderate parking especially around the schools, the problem is years ago you were lucky enough to have one car now it seems that most families have two and three vehicles.

I have dealt with various local issues and I am pleased that I have been able to support several local organisations with grants from my Capital Community Grant Scheme, there has been much annoyance about lights going out and bulbs not being replaced for up to 3 months, not acceptable, hopefully this might change soon, also again causing problems with correspondence from Parish Councils not be responded to, hopefully again this problem will be addressed as soon as possible. .

As most of you know following the recent elections there was a change of controlling Group at DCC , I am pleased to say I was re-elected to represent the Breadsall/West Hallam Ward for another 4 years and just for information I am now the Cabinet Member for Public Health.

EREWASH BOROUGH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT COUNCILLOR CAROL HART

I have held the same position at Erewash Borough Council as in previous years that of Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Communities, which covers a wide range of areas, Customer Services, Democratic Services, Civic Office, Community Safety, IT, Consultation, Partnerships, elections, homelessness and housing support amongst others.

As I am sure everyone is aware that finance from Government has gone down over the last few years but I am pleased to say that Erewash Borough Council is still debt free, we did manage to keep Council Tax at zero increase for a good few years but we have had to levy a rate over the last couple of years, this year we have asked for a £5 increase, 3.56%, we do only get an 11% share of Council Tax collected and Erewash residents pay just £4.50 a day for all the services that we provide.

Our Mayor for the last year has been Cllr. Abey Stevenson accompanied on nearly all occasions by his wife Anne who has been his Mayoress, his Deputy has been Cllr. Mary Hopkinson and it is expected that she will be taking on the office of Mayor for the forthcoming Civic year at the Annual Council meeting later in May.

Going back to finance and budgets our external auditors Ernst & Young have given Erewash a clean bill of health, saying that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money which is good to hear.

As there are pressures on budgets all departments are urged to look for external funding and our Culture and Leisure Department are excellent at this, they have managed to obtain large grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a lot of work to be carried out at Victoria Park in Ilkeston, putting in new gates, new pergola and most importantly completely renovating the band stand, they have tried to replicate the park as it was many, many years ago, unfortunately for all the good work as soon as the band stand was completed vandals smashed some of the panels up, mindless vandalism. The other large pot of funding was for the Erewash Museum, it is a very small museum but it constantly receives praise and awards, a new café area has been created and is run by the Friends of Erewash museum, it is well worth a visit

We continue to provide money for various grant schemes, there is the Rural Community Grant scheme, the Small Grants' Scheme and the Members scheme, so many local organisations and groups are run by volunteers and they very often struggle for money, a small grant can sometimes make a big difference to them and we need to support these volunteers.

Car park charges have gone up slightly but we do still provide some free car parking, we continue to fund Erewash in Bloom and I think it is something many of our residents and visitors appreciate.

There has been a lot of work recently for our Regeneration and Planning Department with the HS2 project and the Stanton site hopefully starting to move along. HS2 has caused many a difference of opinion but unfortunately Erewash does not have the power to decide whether it goes ahead or not but what we can do is to make sure that if it is going ahead that we make sure that any residents or businesses in Erewash that are affected get as much help from us as possible and working with the local Erewash M.P. Maggie Throup we have had many meetings with senior officials connected with HS2 to make sure they know of our concerns, there could be quite a few businesses affected and as you probably know Long Eaton, where the most impact will be felt, is the Upholstery capital not only of the Country but the world and the businesses affected want to keep Long Eaton in their address, and we will continue to work closely with anyone affected and ensure that fair compensation is offered.

We will continue to protect our budget whilst maintaining good services and as stated we are always looking at ways to save money that do not have a major impact on our residents, a big piece of work that is already happening is looking at different ways of delivering our Leisure services, currently we lose £2.2 million a year on our Leisure Services, Victoria Swimming Pool, West Park Leisure Centre, Rutland Sports Park, Pewitt Golf Course, we are looking at possible different ways of running these services, but there is a lot of work to be done before any decisions are made and we will always ensure we keep ownership of these properties.

Finally it is good to know that when we are presented with an up-date on our Compliments and Complaints procedures we have had some instances where compliments out score the complaints and when you think that usually residents only get in touch if they have a complaint such as a missed bin or similar it is rare that residents take the time to register something they are very happy with, so if you are pleased with a service please take time to register this, certainly when our flowers are at their best of our islands that is the time we get most compliments.

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 £1640.75 (an increase of £56.42 (3.56%)) made up as follows:-

- £175.91 (up £5 (2.93%) to Erewash,
- £1211.66 (up £56.43 (3.99%)) to Derbyshire CC,
- £180.60 (up £3.53 (1.99%)) to the Police Authority.
- £72.58 (up £1.40 (1.98%)) to the Fire Service.

All these services cost the taxpayer just £4.50 per day.

Erewash Borough Council's share of the total tax collected is still only 11% which works out to be 49.5 pence a day for all the services that Erewash provides.

Abey Stevenson has been our Mayor for the last year with his wife Anne as Mayoress and they have been very busy doing excellent work representing Erewash both inside and outside the Borough boundaries.

Mary Hopkinson as Deputy Mayor for the last year is our candidate to be Mayor for the next year subject to confirmation at the Annual Council meeting on the 18th May

The Erewash annual auditor is Ernst and Young and their inspection confirms the previous audit last year by KPMG showing that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money to the taxpayers. Erewash must be

doing something right since two different auditors have come to similar conclusions. 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 without impacting services and we have been obliged to increase the Erewash portion of the Council Tax by £5 for the current year 2017/2018 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 slightly again but some free parking is still in place. We recommend that you visit www.ereash.gov.uk for specific details.
- The bandstand in Victoria Park has been refurbished and brought back into regular use although there was one occasion that it suffered unauthorised use by vandals.
- The Erewash in Bloom competition has proved to be popular across the Borough and will continue running this year

There has been yet another new Police Inspector for our area and to date we seem to be getting a better service with the changes he introduced. .

A future event that may be of interest is a 'fly-by' of a Wellington bomber and possibly a Spitfire escort has been organised by the Royal British legion to commemorate the crash of a Wellington near Stanley during WWII. This is timed to co-ordinate with the annual Stanley Gala on the 1st July after a service at Stanley Church. It has been approved by the RAF but will only be confirmed nearer the date.

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

The vicar thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Church for the support with the Rural Grant application.

Signed Chairman

Date