

EDALE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES for the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 10th April 2024

Held at Edale Parish Hall, 8pm.

Present: Parish Councillors: Joanna Collins (Chair), Cedric Gilbert, Morgan Jackson, David Shirt
Parish Clerk: Tracy Whitley
Edale Residents: Coel Hellier, Brian Harrison, Sue Favell, Kate Burnett

The meeting was chaired by the Parish Council Chair Councillor Joanna Collins

Apologies for absence: Cllr. Julie Morten. Andrew Critchlow

Minutes of previous Annual Parish meeting on 12th April 2023

Minutes from the meeting of 12th April 2023 were proposed for adoption as a true representation of the meeting by Cllr. Gilbert; Seconded by Cllr. Jackson. Adopted. Signed by Cllr. Collins (Chair).

Matters arising:

1. At the 2023 APM the possibility of making the overflow carpark at Station Yard a permanent DCC pay and display car park was discussed. Cllr. Jackson reported that this seems to be in limbo but that himself and Phil Rodgers (Friends of Edale Station) are keeping in touch with DCC and the Community Rail Partnership to monitor any progress.
2. At the 2023 APM Simon Cocksedge asked if the Parish Council would request DCC to consider a 30mph speed limit all the way through from Barber Booth to Nether Booth. Cllr. Collins reported that there has been a lot of communication with DCC throughout the year on this subject but unfortunately their final stance is that they will not act on this at the moment.

Report from the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

A combined Clerk's report and financial report was given by Tracy Whitley, as follows:

"In the year to March 2024, there have been 11 regular meetings of Edale Parish Council. There have been no extra-ordinary meetings. There have been 7 apologies for absence from Councillors throughout the year. DCC Cllr. Nigel Gourlay did not attend any meetings but has assisted in a number of agenda items involving the County Council. High Peak Borough Council has continued to provide regular, up-to-date information on relevant items. PC Alex Simpson attended one meeting to introduce himself and has sent regular reports to the Parish Council on behalf of the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

During the year a total of 30 Edale residents attended 7 meetings to speak on planning issues and other Parish business.

I have now completed my third full year as Clerk, and in that role I have attended all 11 of the Parish Council meetings plus the Annual Parish Meeting. For those meetings I have distributed agendas, taken and distributed minutes, provided summaries for Ringing Roger, maintained the Parish Council website and provided Councillors with pre- and post-meeting information. On behalf of the Council I have also corresponded with various authorities, agencies, residents, members of the public and contractors. The Council's website edaleparishcouncil.org.uk has been kept up to date with published documents according to their Publication Scheme and the Transparency Code. I continue to research a variety of topics for the Council as required, including monitoring new legislation to ensure the Council is fully compliant.

As the Parish Council's Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) I am pleased to report that the previous year's Parish Council Accounts for 2022/23 were audited internally with no adverse comments, and the External Audit Exemption Form was submitted on time to the external auditors PKF Littlejohn.

I am also pleased to report that the end of year accounts for this year 2023/24 have been completed and were put to the Council for preliminary approval at the meeting earlier tonight. Excluding the Edale Charities Car Park receipts, the Council had an income of £8311 (which included a Coronation Grant of £550) and an expenditure of £9389, giving a deficit of £1077. This is mostly attributed to election expenses of £1490 – however this was able to be covered from reserved funds due to an annual provision in the budget over a 4-year period.

The Council's books and accounts will be submitted to Mr John Mariott for internal audit later this month. The "Annual Governance and Accountability Return" and details of Public Rights will be published in due course as required.

For the coming 2024/25 financial year, a 7% increase in the precept amount has been requested from the Borough Council. With the tax base at 142 (2 up on last year), the Parish Council charge per 'band D' equivalent household will be £45.53 (an increase of £2.37 which equates to 5.5% in real terms due to the tax base increase). The increase was requested with a view to balancing the budget next year, and also to maintain a cash reserve for future village projects. However, due to the current cost of living crisis, the increase was kept as low as possible.

The Council continues to administer Edale Charities Car Park at Station Yard on behalf of participating charities. The total income for 2023/24 is £10,006. Stepping Stones Nursery withdrew as a beneficiary during the year, so the balance will be distributed between the 4 remaining participating charities, with each of them receiving £2,501.

That concludes my combined report. I would like to thank all the council members for the assistance I have received in carrying out my role as Clerk and RFO during these past 12 months."

Report from the Chair:

The Chair's report was given by Cllr. Joanna Collins, as follows:

"During the past year the Parish Council continued its regularly activities for the Parish, including involvement in the management of the charities carpark. This raised about £10,000, very good considering the continuing work on the railway and the space taken up by materials and machinery. Thanks to John Payne and our clerk for their support with the car park, and to the charities who manage it and help ensure Edale continues to thrive.

The Christmas tree outside the church was again paid for by the Parish Council. The Council laid a wreath at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday, as usual.

The footpaths grant from DCC was used to repair the surface of Footpath 23, beside the Church. The Council has pushed repeatedly for Derbyshire CC to mend the fence on the footpath down to Gibraltar Bridge, but so far unsuccessfully. We will continue trying.

Following a road accident involving a child where Footpath 23 meets Hope Road, the Council arranged for the gate to be altered. Thanks to Richard Wainwright and Nick at the Peak Park for making this so much safer.

As a public body the Council has a duty to consider biodiversity. The Council held a public meeting where various views were expressed. Mowing regimes have changed slightly to allow for No Mow May, a compromise between different views expressed by residents. This is experimental and may change during the three years of the mowing contracts.

Residents have raised various issues, with the most common being around roads, planning applications and visitor numbers. Where possible we follow these up by contacting other authorities since the Council is not responsible for issues such as roads or for visitors. We also signposted residents to further information and organisations that can help. The Council has also engaged with organisers of events, where these are brought to the Council's attention, to try to mitigate their impact, although the Council has no powers to change events.

The Council has drawn up guidance for public attendance at Parish Council meetings, including further guidance for those responding to planning applications.

The Council now circulates newsletters from Derbyshire County Council and other information so that residents can follow up on items of interest to them.

Following a survey of residents we will be keeping all parish noticeboards. The Council is happy for other Edale organisations to post on these boards if they wish.

Once again, huge thanks to Tracy, who has been meticulous in performing her duties as clerk. She has often been proactive in keeping the Council on track and dealing with correspondence and finances with great discretion and good sense.”

Public Speaking and Any Other Business:

1. **Noticeboards** – A question was asked about cleaning & maintenance of the Parish Noticeboards. The Clerk reported that the PC are initiating a rolling program of maintenance to bring the boards back into a good condition.
2. **Double Yellow Lines & Parking Problems** - Several residents spoke about their frustrations at the mounting problem with parking. At Easter weekend the roads were completely blocked in places which would render it totally impassible to emergency vehicles. Residents put forward suggestions that the problem could be eased by a combination of enforceable parking restrictions and the provision of more all-weather parking. It was discussed that the farmers who open their fields are providing a great resource, however these cannot currently be used in wet weather. Residents wanted reassurance that the Parish Council is doing everything it can to try to solve this problem. Cllr. Collins said that the Parish Council really does care about these issues and is eager to work towards a long-term solution combining parking restrictions, more parking facilities and better public transport. A long discussion took place with the outcome being requests for action by the Parish Council on 3 points
 - A further request to DCC to put double-yellow lines, or at least a clearway, all the way through the village, to make it illegal to park on the road other than in marked laybys. **ACTION:** Parish Council to re-open discussions with DCC. Add to May agenda.
 - Action to provide more all-weather parking. Opinion is that the positions of Andrew Critchlow’s field and Tommy & Richard Worthington’s field are ideal to provide parking at each end of the village. They will be contacted for their input. **ACTION:** Cllr. Shirt to contact Tommy/Richard Worthington. Cllr. Jackson to contact Andrew Critchlow
 - A request to the Village Hall committee to consider allowing parking on part of the playing field. **ACTION:** Cllr. Shirt to bring this up at the next Village Hall committee meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was closed

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