

DRAYTON BASSETT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 28th May 2009 @ 7.30p.m.

Present:	P A Millard	Chairman
	R Lockhart	Vice Chairman
	A Edmond	Councillor
	M Monk	Internal Auditor
Apologies:	G Walford	Councillor
	M Garbett	Councillor
	G Hemus	Councillor
	C McEwan	District Councillor

Parishioners: 11 listed on Attendance Sheet

Chairman, P Millard, opened the meeting by welcoming the parishioners and thanking the ladies of the W.I. for their hospitality in providing the venue and refreshments.

Chairman, P Millard, also welcomed L Brown as the new Parish Clerk for Drayton Bassett.

Acceptance and Signing of Minutes of the 2008 Annual Assembly

The Minutes of the 2008 Annual Assembly were circulated to those present. Chairman, P Millard, requested approval of those minutes in order that they could be signed as a true recording of the meeting.

Approval was given and the Minutes were duly signed by Chairman, P Millard.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2008 Annual Assembly

There were no matters arising.

Presentation of Accounts

Maxine Monk, Internal Auditor, circulated a copy of the accounts to all those present and gave a summary of the contents (see Appendix 1)

Chairman, P Millard, reported that by looking at the accounts it is clear there was not much leeway on the precept.

Current Actions – Report on the Flood Defence Work at Mill Lane, Fazeley

Chairman, P Millard, explained the situation with Mill Lane and advised that the reinstatement work was not up to standard and that the council had hired a Land Agent, at the cost of the Environment Agency, to see the work finished to the required standard.

Chairman, P Millard, reported that following the flood defence work the homes should be safe from any future flooding.

Annual Report of the Parish Church

Joan Sandland reported on the previous 12 months activities of St Peter's Church (see Appendix 2)

Annual Report of the Women's Institute (W.I.)

Viv Patchett reported on the previous 12 months activities of the Women's Institute (W.I.) (see Appendix 3)

Current Actions – Best Kept Village Competition

In the absence of Councillor, Gill Walford, P Millard reported on the situation regarding the Best Kept Village Competition (see item "Village Clean Up" in the Chairman's Report (Appendix 6)

Annual Report of the Village Entertainment Group (VEG)

Linda Hayes reported on the previous 12 months activities of the Village Entertainment Group (VEG) (see Appendix 4)

Report on Community Policing

PCSO Kevin Stackhouse was unable to attend. No report submitted.

Report on the Working Men's Club

Keith Acton reported on the progress and future plans of the Working Men's Club (see Appendix 5)

Address of Chairman P Millard

Chairman, P Millard, reported on a number of items that had been achieved and are currently ongoing (see Appendix 6).

Following the report on the Working Men's Club, Chairman, P Millard, declared an interest as a fully paid up member.

Open Forum

A number of items were raised during the Open Forum as follows:

- 1) Keith Acton mentioned the height of private conifers around the Village and asked for confirmation of the law on the height of conifers. Chairman, P Millard, advised that the Parish Council would look into the law on height and advise in due course and send out a notice to all parishioners.
- 2) Viv & Bernard Patchett reported that they were delighted to see the Drayton Bassett signs now in the right place.
- 3) Bernard Patchett mentioned the ineffectiveness of "slow signs" in the road. Parish Council to investigate and report back findings.
- 4) Paul Shears mentioned the 'Clean Up Days' and suggested that these could take place during the winter months in addition to the two during the spring. Parish Council to look into this and report back findings.
- 5) Lynn Shears asked if it would be possible to have a list of events being held by the Parish Council, W.I., Church and Working Men's Club to avoid any doubling up of events on the same day. Chairman, P Millard, advised that an Events Calendar will be added to the Website and the Parish Council will publicise this once done.
- 6) Historical Site – Chairman, P Millard, reported that this was still ongoing. Dave Bryant reported that a meeting is due to take place with the Tamworth Castle Curator to establish the quantity, quality and location of the artefacts in due course.
- 7) Following good comments from parishioners on the grass cutting and bulbs coming into flower, Chairman, P Millard, reported that Drayton Bassett Council are one of the few Councils that pay for grass cutting in the Village and advised that the Grass Cutting Contract has just been renewed for a further year to take it to a 3 year period.
- 8) Viv Patchett commented on the bus service from Drayton Bassett into Tamworth and said it would be nice to go somewhere else but Tamworth. Chairman, P Millard, commented that it is important that we don't impact on the Tamworth Volunteers service and jeopardise that route.

Councillor, Avril Edmond, highlighted that if a group of parishioners wished to plan a visit to another location they should contact the local Tamworth Services who will organise travel to that location. Chairman, P Millard, said the Council would investigate whether it would be feasible for the Council to pay for taxi fares for elderly parishioners to attend lunch clubs or certain trips throughout the year.

The meeting finished at 8.40p.m.

Drayton Bassett Parish Council**Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2009**

<u>Current Assets</u>	<u>£</u>
Bank Balances	21836
Vat to claim back	697
Paye due back	55
	<u>22588</u>
<u>Current Liabilities</u>	
Wages	199
	<u>199</u>
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>22389</u>
<u>Represented by:-</u>	
<u>Accumulated fund</u>	
As at 1st April 2008	20531
Profit for the year	1858
<u>Balance carried forward</u>	<u>22389</u>

Drayton Bassett Parish Council**Income & Expenditure Account****Year ended 31 March 2009**

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Precept		17900.00	
Insurance Claim		495.00	
Bank Interest Received		368.00	18763.00
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<u>Expenditure</u>			
S137	1	736.00	
Clerk Salaries		2360.76	
Incentive payment from Inland Revenue		-75.00	
Maintenance Charges	4	9090.59	
General Administration	2	1926.05	
Establishment costs	3	2866.98	<u>16905.38</u>
Surplus of Income over Expenditure			<u>1857.62</u>

St Peter's Church, Drayton Bassett

The year closed with receipts £192 higher than payments but with tax relief on Gift Aid donations, net assets increased by £2,609. We continue to have excellent support from the congregation who form the backbone of the money received. Congregation numbers in 2008 were 1189 adults and 118 children, an average of 23. In addition to the Sunday services, we held 3 Baptisms and 7 weddings.

We were fortunate this year to receive two, one-off donations. A grant of £1,000 from the Davenport Trust, and £2,832 collected during the funeral of the late Sir James Ackers and kindly donated by Lady Jayne. These donations were allocated for maintaining the fabric of the Church.

Our gas, electricity, and water costs increased by 49%, insurance premium by 62% and Parish Share by 4%. In addition, we had to complete essential electrical work identified from the Quinquennial Report, resulting in our maintenance costs rising by 303%. The financial impact of these amounted to increases of £2,649.

Other outgoings include payments to support Mission and Charity and we make an annual donation to St Giles Hospice.

A number of social/fund raising events were held during the year, which proved popular and successful, including our annual Coffee Morning with Plant Sale, the Harvest Supper, and a Gift Day. During August, we teamed up with the Women's Institute to hold a Garden Party, a very enjoyable evening despite the weather. We are grateful for their support and plan to repeat it again this year.

The congregation is kept informed on a weekly basis via copies of the 'Church Notices' and by newsletters posted up regularly in the Church.

We have started 2009 with mixed fortunes. The organ was cleaned in January at a cost of £2,600 and we were quoted £7600 to replace the heating boiler, far higher than expected. Fortunately, we have received an offer from Colin Bryan, MD of Drayton Manor Park to meet this cost in full, and we are extremely grateful for this generous donation.

It would be out of character if we did not use this meeting to ask for some help. To keep the large graveyard presentable remains a major concern. The two grass cuts provided by the Parish Council, for which we are most grateful, have to be supplemented throughout the summer by members of the PCC, as the grass needs cutting every two weeks. This is physically challenging, takes many hours to complete and we have no means to dispose of the grass cuttings. Any help in these areas would be most welcome.

Report from the W.I. to Annual Parish Assembly

Drayton Bassett W.I. had a very successful year.

We have a steady increase in membership which means we can do more.

Members have taken advantage of an "Awards for All" lottery grant which has seen 19 of us attending courses on such varied subjects as cookery, patchwork, bead craft, making silver jewellery.

For the second year running we held a joint Garden Party with the Church in August resulting in a boost to all our funds. It looks as if this will become an annual event.

We joined 'Live & Local', an organisation which puts Village Halls in touch with professional entertainers, and is funded by County and District Councils, Arts Councils etc etc.

Our first venture "An Evening with Melvyn Stutter was a great success, a complete sell-out (unfortunately the hall can only seat 60) and a top-class entertainer (Melvyn writes for and performs on Radio 4, among other things) and the W.I. Hall is nearly £100.00 better off as a result. We intend to do it again next year.

We are very fortunate in having a keen member who is suffering withdrawal symptoms at giving up her allotment and our new garden is blooming.

The Lunch Club continues to meet on Mondays. We would welcome new members and helpers.

We have an Art Class meeting on Friday mornings.

There is a Whist Drive at the W.I. Hall every other Friday.

Unfortunately, the Playgroup is not functioning at the moment.

The hall (touch wood) is in good repair at present, apart from the store room beyond the kitchen. We have two options with that – either an affordable 'fix' with a lean-to 'shed' and a lot of D.I.Y. or a proper extension to the main building, which would need funding.

Charlie McEwan was presented with a painting of the old (pre 1792) Drayton Church when he was Chairman of Lichfield District Council. He now has nowhere to hang it and has given it into the safe keeping of Drayton Bassett W.I.

Report of the Village Entertainment Group for the Annual Symposia 28th April 2009.

The Village Entertainment Group formerly the Voluntary Entertainment Group (VEG) as it affectionately become known came about as a result of the Parish Plan initiative which identified that folks in Drayton Bassett would like to see more social activities in the Village. Initially the funds for the activities were made available from donations from Parish Council funds and a donation from funds made available through Matthew Ellis (County Councillor Community Fund) but of late the events have been self funded through the diligence of the Treasurer and funds raised due to the success of the events that have taken place.

This year we ran a Mama Mia Night on 14th February and the venue was the Drayton Bassett Working Man's Club. The evening was most convivial with a good attendance and as a result of this a number of ideas were put forward for future entertainment which will be re-visited at various points over the next couple of years.

This year will see the 4th Annual Village Fete and the event is scheduled for Saturday 20th June from 12 midday till 4 p.m. and then evening entertainment in the Drayton Bassett Working Man's Club. The evening entertainment will be with a band called Gemini and they are coming back by popular request from last year's evaluation.

The success of the fete over the years has been largely due to the drive and imagination of the founder members of the VEG Group and I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Jill and Alan Walford for their drive, dedication and support in making things happen. We are sorry to loose Jill and Alan from the VEG group but accept they have more important issues to attend to and wish them well for the future.

A new venture in 2008 Dance in the Barn and Pig Roast at Ashdene Farm was a great success and very well attended by a wide range of parishioners young and mature. We are pleased to report that this event will be repeated in 2009 and the date is scheduled for 1st August 2009 at 7.30 p.m. This year we have secured the services of a 'caller' so it will be more of a barn dance so please tell your friends

and buy your tickets in good time. Notices will be circulated shortly advising of the time, dates and prices to put onto your calendars.

The penultimate event on our social calendar is the Carols on the Green scheduled for 17th December 2009. This event too has become an annual event that folk seem to enjoy at the festive time of the year so please continue to support it. The evening of carol singing will finish off with mince pies and mulled wine in Drayton Bassett Working Man's Club and we are grateful to them for the hospitality they have afforded the VEG group in the activities that are scheduled for 2009.

As ever events like this would not happen but for the time, energy and enthusiasm of a few for many. If you think you could find a couple of hours to come and support a meagre team of 5/6 then we would love to hear from you.

Thanks to Paula Acton, Viv Patchett, Adrian Taylor and Peter Hayes and also those of you who turn up and support us in preparation for the activities I have mentioned in this report. You are all very much appreciated and we like to think this makes Drayton Bassett a nicer place to live!

Linda Hayes
Chairwoman Village Entertainment Group

Parish Council AGM

Drayton Bassett WM Club Report

Date: Tuesday 28th April 2009

The present officers and committee took over the management of the Drayton Bassett WM Club in October 2008 after the unexpected resignation of the previous secretary. At that time the club was in a financially unstable position and was on the brink of going into receivership, and as a consequence had to go through a period of restructure and rationalisation.

It was the unanimous opinion of the new committee that the reasoning behind the financial decline of the club was due primarily to its failure to meet with the needs of the community and attract the custom base that is required to make the club an integral part of the village.

The first resolution of the committee was to put on-hold the sale of land at the rear of the car park as it was felt that the present financial climate would not fully reflect the true valuation of the land.

In response to making the club more community focused and family friendly, it was necessary to make changes to the fabric of the building and the need to provide a regular and varied programme of entertainment for the village. It was therefore decided to change the name to '*The Drayton Bassett Club*' and provide a programme of monthly events such as vocalists, cabaret nights, karaoke, etc.

In addition, several programmes of refurbishment have already been completed in order to make the club more family friendly. These include; the installation of a 50" flat screen TV, the purchase of disco equipment, the redecoration of the bar and lounge, the cleaning of all carpets, the replacement of all chairs, car park tidying, the refurbishment of all urinal and the re-roofing of part of the building.

Furthermore, in its attempt to support the Parish Council in the achievement of '*Best Keep Village*', the committee have decided to support and finance to the sum of £3700 the following programmes of improvement to be completed within the next few weeks. They include:

- ✓ The total redecoration of the front of the club to include hanging baskets and planters
- ✓ Beer garden with six tables/seating including a barbeque area
- ✓ New car park lighting (*scheduled for the summer*)

In conclusion, it is the intention of the committee of the Drayton Bassett Club to become a valued part of the community and work along side the Parish Council in raising the quality of life within the village. It is therefore our intension to work with the Parish Council to actively discuss ways in which we can provide the much needed parking facility for the start of the new school year (September 2009) for the Manor School.

In making the club more community minded, family friendly, appealing and accessible to non-members it is envisaged that the club will survive? With the leadership of Secretary Peter Hayes and Chairman Harry Upton, the club have a future and needs the support of the community to become successful.

Keith Acton
Treasurer

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2008 / 2009

Welcome to Lisa Brown the new Parish Clerk starting today.

DOG FOULING

We have a continuing problem with dog fouling and have had new signs placed around the Village and have re signed the Sports Ground to remind people that dogs are not allowed. We have also asked L.D.C.'s Dog Warden to patrol the area and issue fixed penalty notices. We have sent a letter to all residents reminding them about picking up their dog mess.

Please report any residents to L.D.C. if you see a dog fouling the area.

COMMUNITY GANGS

We have also signed up to L.D.C. Community Gangs which is a planned 6 weekly maintenance visit to our area maintaining items and areas we highlight (see attached list).

Any such requests from the residents should be sent to the Parish Clerk.

Can I remind all residents that L.D.C. operate a Contact Centre for repairs and all types of complaints called Clarence on 08700 55 55 00

MILL LANE

Following the building of the flood defense embankment across the field on the Parish Council's land at Mill Lane, the work reinstatement is still not completed to our satisfaction and we have employed a land agent from Fisher German to help us to get satisfaction (at the cost of the Environment Agency). This is still ongoing from 2008 and is a great disappointment and has delayed our plans to enhance that area which I will explain in more detail later.

PLANNING

We have looked at over 33 planning applications this year mainly households and residential.

The largest application was from Drayton Manor Park for a 150 room hotel and Spa Complex. A second application to remove the Spa and increase the number of rooms was submitted later. D.B.P.C. could not see any major reason to oppose these plans except to highlight the traffic problem already there and to hope that extra money would be required to improve traffic flow and for better signage to stop traffic cutting through Drayton Village.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP

We are continuing these and one took place in May 2008, April 2009 and we invite you all to one on Saturday 9th May at 10.00a.m. at the Sports Pavilion.

This is not only good to encourage villagers to have pride in their surroundings but also helps us in the Best Kept Village Competition which over the last two years has seen us go from Highly Recommended to Second Place last year. We are hoping to win in 2009.

Judging takes place during May and June so any extra effort from all villagers is needed.

FOOTBALL CLUB

D.B.P.C. has agreed to allow the Football Team to use the grounds free of charge for another year.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Parking around the school and Old Row still causes problems due to irresponsible parking by some parents and this could result in injury to children.

The D.B.P.C. has approached the Police to show their presence in the area to try and have another crack down.

We are also starting another campaign to bring back the school crossing attendant.

We have successfully had new school signage installed warning motorists of the school.

VILLAGE APPEARANCE

As laid out in the Parish Plan, we have successfully had new Drayton Bassett Village signs erected at the correct boundary and had the Fazeley signs moved back.

We are also having new decorative signage being erected at the inner Village boundaries hopefully showing the Peel Crest, if we get permission from Earl Peel.

We have also increased the number of planters around the Village.

TRANSPORT

We continue to support by a donation to the Tamworth Voluntary Bus Service and they continue to provide a good service twice a week. We are still getting good representations from the users and we regularly approach Arriva and Stafford County Council to include Drayton into a proper transport plan.

PRECEPT

Although we have increased to total precept that we received from L.D.C the amount payable per household has decreased due to the new development at Mariner View.

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

This has been renewed for the third year and would like to thank John Mason for his good work.

SPEEDING

We have again been lobbying for a speed warning indicator but without success. We have now, however, requested Drayton Bassett to be included in the Speed Awareness Scheme allowing us access to the loan of a speed gun for use by trained volunteers and we are awaiting names of volunteers.

CONSULTATION WITH THE PARISHIONERS

A big success this year has been our drive to increase the feedback and accessibility to the council for the parishioners.

We have held one meeting a year the Mayfair Drive / Mill Lane area at the Coton Green area which was very well attended and held a series of meetings about extra play facilities we would like to introduce in that area

We have also held two Parish Surgeries in the WI Hall on a Thursday evening and a Saturday morning which again were very well attended.

This allows people to voice their opinions without attending a full Parish Council meeting. Although the meeting now has the parishioner section at the start of the Agenda.

WAR MEMORIAL

We have started the process of refurbishing and re building the War Memorial.

VILLAGE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

The Parish Council actively supports the VEG Group as we believe this is an important part of Village life.

D.B. W.M.C.

We have held a series of meetings with the W.M.'s CLUB over the last 12 months regarding the long term future of the site and are impressed with the new approach since the change of committee members.

We believe that the D.B.P.C. should support the club and ensure that the facility in some form is kept open and implore all residents to support and frequent the club as if it were to close planning permission of that site for extra housing would be easy to obtain as a brown field site. Phil Millard declared an interest as a paid up member of the D.B. WMC)

THE FUTURE

We would like to offer more facilities on the Sports Pavilion Grounds for 11 – 16 year olds and are about to embark on a series of meetings with local teenagers and parents. The first of these being on 9th May at midday at the Sports Pavilion.

We are already some way down the consultation route with residents down Mayfair Drive, Mill Lane and Mariner View re extra play facilities and development of that area.

THANKS

Thanks to my fellow Councillors who try to make a difference in Drayton Bassett and thanks to Dave Bryant who, having been a Parish Councillor for _____ years as well as Chairman and Vice Chairman has resigned to take a well deserved break.

I would also like to thank Linda Hayes who is stepping down as Parish Clerk after _____ year's hard work.

Last but not least thank you to all the villagers who have helped input or participate in the Village life.