

DRAYTON BASSETT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 27th May 2010 @ 7.30p.m.

Present:	P A Millard	Chairman
	R Lockhart	Vice Chairman
	A Edmond	Councillor
	B Reynolds	Councillor
	M Garbett	Councillor
	M Monk	Internal Auditor
Apologies:	G Hemus	Councillor
	C McEwan	District Councillor
	M Fortin-Tobin	PCSO

Parishioners: 8 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, welcomed Chris Welch, from Community Council of Staffordshire and Brian Reynolds as Drayton Bassett's newest Councillor.

Acceptance and Signing of Minutes of the 2009 Annual Assembly

The Minutes of the 2009 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.

Chairman, P Millard went through the Open Forum items raised at last year's meeting and gave an update of progress.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2009 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)

Maxine thanked the Parish Clerk for her sterling work regarding the updating of financial information throughout the year.

Presentation on LINK

Chris Welch, CEO, of Community Council of Staffordshire attended and gave a presentation on LINK and what they were trying to achieve.

LINK stands for Local Involvement Network.

LINKs have been set up around England to make sure local people can bring their local knowledge to local health and social care services they receive.

LINK works closely with Parish Councils to pull things together where necessary as well as helping with parish planning, administration of the Best Kept Village competition etc

Chris Welch gave copies of the LINK Staffordshire Bulletin to Councillors and parishioners who requested them and asked that a survey be completed that he also brought to the meeting.

Chairman, P Millard suggested that a questionnaire be given to each representative group to complete as a group and then sent back.

It was also agreed that Chairman, P Millard would mention LINK on the webpage.

Annual Report of St Peter's Parish Church

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

Raymond also advised that a tree had to be removed due to rotting and confirmed that no trees within the Church grounds would be cut down.

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)

Annual Report of the Village Entertainment Group (VEG)

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

Annual Report on the Working Men's Club

Keith Acton reported on the previous 12 months activities of the Working Men's Club (see Appendix 5)

Annual Report on the Manor School

Chairman, P Millard advised that apologies had been received from the Headmaster of the school but a copy of the Ofsted report had been submitted that parishioners were able to read should they wish to do so (see Appendix 6).

Annual Report on Community Policing

PCSO Marc Fortin-Tobin was unable to attend but submitted latest Crime Figures (see Appendix 7)

Chairman's Report

Chairman, P Millard, reported on a number of items that had been achieved and are currently ongoing (see Appendix 8).

Chairman, P Millard passed on his personal thanks to both Councillor, A Edmond and the Parish Clerk, Lisa Brown for their contribution during the past 12 months.

Open Forum

Chairman, P Millard then opened the meeting to the parishioners to raise any concerns, issues or indeed anything positive that they felt needed attention or highlighting.

There were no issues.

Thanks

Maxine Monk passed on thanks on behalf of the Community First Responders for the donation from Drayton Bassett Parish Council.

Councillor, A Edmond passed on thanks from the Councillors of Drayton Bassett Parish Council to the Chairman, P Millard for his contribution throughout the year.

The meeting finished at 8.50p.m.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2009/10

DOG FOULING

We have installed a number of new dog bins in the Village, had the signage replaced and the new signs on the footpath re done, however, we still have a continuing problem with dog fouling. We 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 are continuing to receive visits from the L.D.C. Community Gangs which is a planned 6 weekly maintenance visit to our area maintaining items and areas we highlight.

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 two years ago, the work reinstatement has finally been completed to our satisfaction and we have agreed with the Environment Agency that they will be responsible for the future maintenance of that area.

After initial consultation with the residents of Mayfair Drive and some positive feedback we investigated the feasibility of placing play equipment on the grass field at the back of Mayfair Drive. After further meetings and some fairly hostile rejection this course of action was ended.

PLANNING

We have looked at over 42 planning applications this year mainly 'Change of Use' of farm buildings and residential.

The Drayton Manor Park 150 room Hotel and Spa Complex has now been agreed to start at the end of the year. A recent application to increase the size of the camping field and the erection of a new shower block complex has also been passed, although Drayton Bassett Parish Council did have some reservations about the increased number of caravans that would be allowed onto the site and any traffic increase that this may bring. However, some work done between Drayton Manor Park and Staffordshire County Council in introducing a better traffic management scheme has seemed to have reduced the traffic congestion during peak times of visits to Drayton Manor Park.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

During 2008 we entered the Best Kept Village competition once again, and we got a favorable inspection but unfortunately did not win. After three years of entering the competition we decided not to enter in 2010 due to increased workload on other projects which meant we had no Parish Councilor to oversee the competition. If there are any parishioners who would like to be the Best Kept Village Competition Champion for 2011 to oversee the competition please volunteer via the Parish Clerk.

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 Parish Council is keen to work with the Drayton Bassett Working Man's Club as usual to try to come to some conclusion.

VILLAGE APPEARANCE

We have continued to improve the Village appearance and have recently provided additional planters at the junction of Drayton Lane and Portleys Lane.

TRANSPORT

We continue to support this with 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.

We also now provide and pay for a taxi to take six elderly residents to Fazeley for a monthly lunch club. This has been much appreciated and we have committed to fund it for a further six months.

RECTORY CLOSE SPORTS FIELD

We spent some considerable time, effort and money on this area by providing a BMX track with three donations of tyres and volunteers from around the Village. We have also provided a Muriel on the tennis court wall, provided a new picnic table and seating area and also provided better access onto the field for people with prams and wheelchair access. We have also just taken delivery of two items of play equipment for the under 5's which will be erected over the next few weeks

PRECEPT

For the fifth year running we have managed to freeze the amount payable by every household to contribute to the precept.

GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT

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

SPEEDING

After much lobbying for many years we finally saw the erection of the speed indicator signs. These were originally taken down after about four weeks and following discussions with Staffordshire County Council with help from Matthew Ellis they were recently re-erected.

We are also actively involved in the process with Staffordshire County Council in designating the area around the school down to 20 mph.

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 also held two further Parish Surgeries in the WI Hall on a Thursday evening and a Saturday morning but unfortunately this year they were not particularly well attended so these have been put on hold for the time being.

We also circulated a flyer to every house detailing the work of the Parish Council and what we are trying to achieve and we've had some good feedback to this idea.

We have also distributed this year a yellow card asking for people's feedback and comments about actions that the Parish Council could undertake. We received a good response and we will be circulating the results over the next few weeks.

The Village Notice Board is more frequently updated with news and events and the Council webpage is also updated on a more regular basis with news. We are still waiting for the new webpage to be launched which should be this year.

WAR MEMORIAL

We have now applied for a grant and we can start the process of refurbishing and re building the War Memorial which should be completed before the end of the year.

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.

The Parish Council will continue to offer support to the Working Man's Club and the continuing success is important if they have any chance of remaining open. We cannot impress upon the residents of the Village to use this facility as much possible to ensure it doesn't go the same way as the Post Office.

PROPOSED HIGH-SPEED TRAIN LINE

Following the publication of the proposed route of the high-speed train line through the Parish Council area we held a preliminary meeting at the WI Hall which saw an unprecedented turnout of over 150 people and was attended by Brian Jenkins MP.

The outcome of the meeting was a unanimous vote indicating that we did not want the high-speed rail line in any form in any area.

I have had a series of meetings with neighboring parish councils to try to have a unified approach.

We have now collated all the e-mail addresses and will be sending out further information next week, however, if you did not attend the meeting and you wish to be put on the mailing list please ensure your e-mail address is left with the Parish Clerk tonight.

THE FUTURE

We are hoping to review and update the Parish Plan which has been a valuable document in helping us to achieve so much over the last few years but it is now coming up for its fifth anniversary and we would like to get all the local organizations involved in this review and update and look forward to your support.

We would also like to have some discussion about the future of the Sports Pavilion which is a large percentage of our costs for such little use. Again any feedback or input from the villagers will be sought.

Obviously the major project for the next 18 months at least will be a campaign against the high-speed rail line.

THANKS

Thanks to my fellow Councilors who try to make a difference in Drayton Bassett and particular thanks to Avril Edmond who spends a disproportionate amount of time on Parish Council business.

Also thanks to Lisa Brown, Parish Clerk, for her efficient work in liaising with other official bodies and organizing the Chairman and other Parish Councilors and continuing support from Matthew Ellis and Charlie McEwen.

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

Parish Council AGM

Drayton Bassett Club Report

Date: Tuesday 27th April 2010

Keith Acton Treasurer of the Drayton Bassett Club

The clubs AGM is scheduled for Sunday 9th May 2010 and members will be issued with copies of the club accounts relating to the end of the first financial year of the new committee. These accounts will show that the clubs has turned a £12000 deficit for year 2008/09 into an overall profit of £8000 for year 2009/10 with an increased annual turnover of 36% to £103,000.

As stated at the last Parish AGM, it was the opinion of the new committee that the reason behind the financial decline of the club was primarily due to its failure to meet the needs of the community and attract the custom base that is required to make the club an integral part of the village. In response, the committee have implemented several new initiatives intended to have a positive impact on the financial stability of the club. These included:

- ✓ Developing a stringent weekly cash-flow forecast that provides the committee with an accurate account of the financial position of the club and allow for the financing of essential repairs and planned maintenance
- ✓ A redefined human resource timetable managed by the club secretary, aimed at reducing staffing costs whilst increasing hours and improving the customer service.
- ✓ With the support of Matthew Ellis and a £200 grant from the Local Community Support improving the carbon footprint of the club by the installation of energy efficient car park lights.
- ✓ Providing a family friendly environment by spending money on improving the appearance of the club by opening a beer garden, and
- ✓ Working closely with the school, church, WI and the village entertainment group in offering the club for functions for all ages. These include school discos, Christening's, funeral wakes, OAP Christmas parties and planned functions by the Village Entertainment Group.

Further redevelopment intended for 2010 includes the:

1. Building of communal barbeque area within the beer garden
2. Replacement of all existing guttering and drainage,
3. Re-plastering and redecoration of all internal walls to the bar and concert room,
4. Redecoration (possible reinstallation) of the false ceiling in the bar area.

In conclusion, the club are well on their way to survival but still require the support and patronage of the village.

Keith Acton
Treasurer

Village entertainment group came about after the completion of the Parish Plan back in 2004.

We started with Carols on the Green in December 2004
And to date we have organised 9 such events with the 10th being on the 16th December this year
This has proved to be very successful and is now an Annual Event.

We then had this idea about a Fete in the Village
And again we have to date organised 4 Village Fete's and the 5th will be on the 19th June this year.

We have organised several other events over the years which were held in the Village Club, there was a

Talent Night

The Y Factor

Mama Mia Cinema Night

Barn Dance this was held at Ashdene Farm Courtesy of Adrian

Halloween Party Last Year

And the Over 60's Christmas Meal which was a huge success and we think will become an annual event

What we would like is for more people to come and join us, our numbers are dwindling, there are only 3 of us now, we don't want the group to fold but it is a fair bit of work for only 3 people. We also always need volunteers on the day of the Fete as well, so if anyone is interested come and see me at the end of the evening.

We meet once every 4-6 weeks depending on the time of year in the Village Club around 7.30pm so if you feel you could contribute, please come and join us.

And also if any one here has any ideas about what they would like us to organise in the Village again please let us know.

That's if from myself Linda and Viv so thank you all for listening

St Peter's Church - Review of the Year

The PCC held 11 meetings during 2009 discussing a range of matters concerning parish life, administration and finance, upkeep of the building and care of the churchyard.

In addition to the Sunday morning services, five Baptisms were held and two weddings. Congregation numbers for the year were down reducing total receipts and Gift Aid tax relief.

Two projects were completed, a major overhaul of the organ and replacement of the central heating boiler. We place on record our thanks to Drayton Manor Theme Park who covered all costs for the new boiler as without their help we could not have had this essential work carried out. We had a break-in during the summer and although little was stolen, the insurance claim amounted to £5,080. A floodlight was also stolen from the churchyard on a separate incident.

A number of fund raising events were held and the income generated more than doubled that in 2008 and we thank all people supporting them. Events include our coffee morning with plant sale and the Harvest Supper. August saw a Garden Party held jointly with the Women's Institute and we are extremely grateful for their cooperation and continued support.

We received two non-recurring donations of £1,000 which helped towards the heavy expenditure. A great effort has been made to contain costs and the summation of our energy and water costs have declined year on year, a great achievement. Costs outside of our control have increased including the Diocesan Parish Share and insurance premium. In spite of all our efforts, net assets decreased by almost £3,000

December saw the launch of the much needed web-site to replace the previous version which was out of date. The new site includes church information and history, service timetable, a picture-gallery, numerous links to Church related matters and email contact. The content is continuing to increase and site activity has increased ten-fold.

As ever, our one concern is the cutting of the Church-yard grass. We are grateful for the two cuts provided by the Council, but as you will appreciate these are insufficient to maintain the grass all through the summer. Additional cuts are carried out by our minister and other church members who give their time generously. Our helpers are into their late 60's and early 70's so as you will appreciate this task is becoming more difficult. Any help with additional cuts would be appreciated as we consider the church a focal point for the village and its state of presentation advantageous to all the community.

R Bleak
Church Warden