

Barrow upon Trent Parish Council - Annual Parish meeting 2022

Report of the Chair of the Parish Council

Now that we have emerged from the Covid 19 pandemic, we have been able to meet in person each month, and have invited members of the public to attend Parish Council meetings on a monthly basis.

Parish Council business has proceeded smoothly over the last 12 months, ably steered by Alison, our Clerk, who works tirelessly to maintain the efficient running of Council business along with ensuring the safety and security of our tenants in the cottages. We are always very grateful for Alison's help and support, along with her good humour and endless advice.

We have welcomed Toni Kent -Chapman on to the council, but still have a vacancy for a Councillor on the Parish Council following the resignation of Clare Cape, and would welcome expressions of interest from any eligible parishioner.

Our thanks go to Peter Watson and Daniel Corbin of South Derbyshire District Council who have regularly attended our Parish Council meetings. Cllr Neil Atkin also attends Council meetings as our County Councillor, and he has supported us or offered advice on many of the issues of the Parish.

We would like to thank all of these people for their continuing support of the Parish Council and the parishioners in both general and specific issues.

The Parish Council has representatives on the Infinity Garden Village steering group and will continue to monitor potential impacts of this development on our parish. Building work is moving apace in the new Garden Village area, and we regularly monitor the effect of these developments on our parish, particularly on the vehicular use of Deepdale Lane and the impact on the structures of the roadway and bridges.

We continue to pursue our ambition to change the parish boundary to ensure that the development of the IGV will not impact on our rural parish. An assurance was given in March 2020 that the associated Governance Review could go ahead, and we are working with South Derbyshire District Council and District Councillors to investigate ways in which we can divest ourselves of the area of land north of the A50 that is in our parish, but will be subsumed within the new Garden Village.

The Council continues its representation on local area committees, representing the views of parishioners and acquainting the village with developments outside of our immediate vicinity. The Parish has representatives on the Gravel Liaison committee with Derbyshire County Council, South Derbyshire District Council, the Environment Agency and Tarmac.

The Parish Council representatives attend meetings with Tarmac and the County Council to monitor work at the nearby quarry and to ensure minimal effects upon the parish. Following the erection of the new bridge over the River Trent, quarrying has now recommenced and the gravel is processed at the plant on Twyford Road.

The Parish Council continues to support the residents of Arleston and Merrybower in any issues that affect that area of the parish.

Planning issues continue to be considered by the Council on a regular basis.

The Environment Agency announced some years ago that they were about to undertake a further modelling of flooding in the Trent Valley in this area. We have constantly been assured that this work is well underway, but have now been told that this work has been held up with no date for

its delivery. We will continue to push for the completion of this work in order that the re-alignment of the flood areas will alleviate any problems with property insurance costs or valuations experienced in the parish.

Many parishioners have noted the increase in night-time flying from EMA - the Parish Council has been in contact with the various agencies about this, and we are awaiting the installation of noise monitoring equipment in the parish to ascertain the level and impact of this increased noise.

The Parish News is now produced quarterly. Everyone is welcome to make use of these media, and if there are any suggestions for change, we would welcome feedback. These are the main vehicles for information from the Council to parishioners

The cottages continue to provide attractive and comfortable accommodation for parishioners. The cottages are fully occupied, and the Council maintains a list of eligible parishioners who wish to be considered as future tenants. Decoration of the outside of the cottages is underway. We are also investigating the replacement of the south-facing windows in the cottages; this is a serious and costly undertaking as the cottages are listed buildings and require special window frames.

The Susie Dixon Park provides excellent sporting facilities for the village, and continues to provide excellent pitches and grass areas for football and other sports and exercise. The Forest School area continues to provide an area for learning for the school.

The Council continues to maintain the cemetery as an attractive and peaceful area of the village. Our thanks go to Kevin, our Parish Lengthsman for his continued work around the village, keeping the cemetery, roadways and parish areas clean and tidy.

The Greenacres area is developing and maturing, and the Parish Council continues to undertake maintenance of the trees and bushes in the area. Elephant Holdings are now undertaking the 15-year grass maintenance of the area. The popularity of this area, both for people from the parish and others from further away, is testament to the success of the project that was begun several years ago.

The Parish Council is leading the organisation of the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of the Queen, and as part of this event, a flagpole has been erected in the centre of the village for use at the Jubilee and other special events, special days and holidays.

The Parish Precept was raised by a minimal amount in 2021. We continue to undertake extensive work around the parish and following the major investments of recent years, we are now able to gradually build a reserve fund for unexpected expenditure. We expect that forthcoming changes in Government legislation will continue to require us to make upgrades on the parish properties.

As ever, the Council is continually grateful for the interest of parishioners in Parish Council matters, and welcomes any questions or comments, especially during the public sessions within each Parish Council meeting. All Councillors are very happy to receive questions or comments at any time, and we shall continue to do the best we can for the parish and the people who live here.

AMH
10.05.22