

Item No. 3

At a meeting of the Dene Valley Parish Council held at the Dene Valley Community Partnership One Stop Shop, High Street, Eldon Lane on **Monday 9 September 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

Present:

Councillor J Clark in the Chair

Councillors I Bourne, R Coleman, J Moore, J Nicholson and J Oliver.

Clerk Ian Croft

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Clerk reported that Councillor K Beal, Chairman of the Council, had tendered his resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect. There would therefore be a need to elect a new Chair of the Parish Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

1. Election of Chair

Moved by Councillor J Moore, **Seconded** by Councillor R Coleman and

Resolved:

That Councillor J Nicholson be elected Chair of the Parish Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Councillor J Clark vacated the Chair.

Councillor J Nicholson in the Chair

2. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor T Bird.

3. Public Participation

There were no Members of the Public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

4. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

Councillor Nicholson reported that Kenny Beal was to drop off a lat for the seat at Gurney Valley.

6. Parish Council 5-year Plan

The Chair reminded the meeting that at its previous meeting held on 1 July 2024 the Council had agreed to give consideration to the possibility of forming a 5 year plan for the Council and Members had been requested to give thought to possible ideas for the plan.

The Chair considered that the Council was in a current state of inertia and a 5 year plan could drive the Council forwards, with both long term and short time ideas. The area was experiencing an increased population and there was a possibility of more house building in the future.

Members held a lengthy discussion on the proposed 5 year plan and raised the following points:

- Improvements to both the Coronation and Rosemount Play Areas;
- The 5 year plan should plan ahead and be reviewed on a regular basis;
- A 5 year plan may assist the Council in gaining access to funding streams;
- There was a need for a vision, what the area needed to see happen;
- Need a vision of what the Council wished to achieve, - a vision and a mission statement to create a sense of community
- The area was lacking in community events;
- A recent event had been held involving the black community which had been well attended – perhaps approach the organiser of the event to get them involved with the Parish Council;
- There was a need to bring people together to instill a sense of community;
- Investigation should take place include the 7 hamlets as a town, which would lead to increased possible streams of funding for projects – this would need the Council to have an official residence and address;
- Drive to get the former Surestart building or to construct a new community building – money may be available from the Scotto Trust if the Council had a firm plan;
- Short term plans could include ensuring all overgrowing trees and bushes were trimmed back to allow free pass and repass along footpaths in the area;
- Safer communities – highways in the area need traffic calming
- Key points for the plan could include

- Town/village status
- Safer communities' projects
- Provision of a community hub
- Improved play facilities for the area
- Each footpath should be risk assessed and presented to DCC – this was expanded to each street in the Parish Council area being risk assessed;
- **Any funding applications must be discussed by the Parish Council and be made by the Parish Council – no individual Member has the authority to make an application;**
- The creation of a possible community garden;
- Access to funding through the Local Nature Recovery Scheme for a derelict allotment site;
- Organisation of litter pick schemes – short term 'fixes';
- Engagement with the Prince Bishops Primary School regarding possible environmental projects.

The Chairman thanked all Members for their input and the possible 5 year plan could be further discussed at the next meeting to be held on 14 October. However, from the discussion it appeared that the Council was strongly in favour of a 5 year plan which should contain both short-term and long-term aims and projects.

7. Police Update

Councillor Nicholson informed the meeting that Councillor Bird had provided the following update:

Kate Ward had the camera for Gibson Street and was awaiting permission to fix on site from DCC

The camera in Spencer Street was still not working and awaiting a visit from the supplier Engineer.

The camera for Eldon was still to be fixed in place

The Officers designated to monitor the camera's when operational had yet to be appointed and trained.

It was hoped that using the 360 bulls eye lens the camera's at Eldon, Eldon Lane and Gibson Street would give coverage of movement in a key area

Off road bikes - the s151 notices fixing and location were still to be approved by DCC and this was causing some concern.

Kate Ward still had some funding left for safety issues due to the above delays.

In general there had been fewer crime reports than normal from Eldon Lane since the last PACT meeting held last week.

The Clerk reported that an invoice had been received from DCC for the Parish Council's contribution to the Towns and Villages Project which should have been cancelled due to the Parish Council purchasing a CCTV camera. He would contact Kate Ward to ensure the invoice was cancelled by DCC.

8. Play Areas

Councillor Nicholson reported that the company identified to refit the Randolph Street Play Area had been in contact to seek a progress update on the possible works. Applications to other sources of possible funding were being delayed due to the asset transfer not progressing. The Clerk reported that he would contact the solicitor acting on behalf of the Parish Council to seek a progress update.

Councillor Nicholson referred to the possible refurbishment of the Coronation Play Area. There would be a need to contact CPAL at DCC to ascertain whether the Parish Council could refurbish this or whether an asset transfer of this site would need to take place.

Councillor Nicholson referred to the safety inspection reports produced by Wicksteed which had previously been circulated to all Members. It was agreed that these would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting when appropriate remedial works could be approved.

9. Planning Issues

Councillor Clark circulated details of planning applications which had been received or determined in the Dene Valley Parish and surrounding areas since the last meeting (for copy see file of Minutes)

10. Footpaths

Councillor Moore reported no issues with local footpaths. However, there was a lot of dog fouling on the Mary Terrace playing field and he would report this to the Neighbourhood Wardens.

11. Allotments

The Clerk reported that all tenants of the Close House allotment site had been written to reminding them about fires on allotment sites and also the keeping of livestock.

12. Finance Update

The Clerk provided the meeting with details of income and expenditure for the since the last meeting. The Chair agreed the balances and signed the accounts and bank statements.

13. Any Other Business

Councillor Nicholson enquired whether any progress had been made regarding the possible account held by the Parish Council at HSBC. The Clerk reported that he had sent the change of mandate forms to HSBC but nothing further had been heard, The Clerk agreed to investigate any possible routes to remedy the situation or indeed to escalate it.

Councillor Oliver referred to the expenditure on stamps identified in the monthly accounts sheet. The Clerk replied that stamps needed to be bought in numbers when for example writing to allotment holders as had recently taken place when writing to all tenants on the Colse House site. Councillor Oliver suggested that some Members in future may be happy for their meeting papers to be emailed to them rather than posted. Councillors Clark, Coleman and Oliver all agreed to have their future meetings papers emailed to them, Councillors Nicholson, Bourne and Moore all expressed a preference to receive hard copies of the papers in the post. Councillor Bird was not present to express a preference so in the meantime hard copies would continue to be posted to him.

Councillor Clark reported that a window at the One Stop Shop had been damaged and the cost of repair was £480. Also, the back door at the One Stop Shop had been damaged and the cost of replacement was £500. The One Stop Shop had requested that the Parish Council contribute towards these costs. Councillor Nicholson replied that clarity would be needed as to whether the One Stop shop had insurance for such events.

Councillor Oliver submitted his apologies for the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 14 October 2024.

14. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Monday 14 October 2024.

The meeting finished at 9.10 p.m.