

## HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 1930 ON 15 JUNE 2004

#### PRESENT

Cllr P Hickinbotham (Chairman)	Cllr G Banton
Cllr L Kolkman	Cllr J Keery
District Cllr R Walton	Cllr D Smalley
District Cllr G Martin	D Woolliscroft (Lengthsman)
J Walton (Clerk)	County Councillor M Littlejohn
C Tinsley (Groundwork Erewash)	Mr J Hilton (Head, Hilton Primary School)
49 Parishioners	

#### APOLOGIES

Were received from Cllr Mr D Allen, Cllr P Edwards and District Cllr G Martin

#### CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE MEETING

Cllr P Hickinbotham welcomed all to the meeting and agreed to chair the meeting.

He advised that before the meeting an attempt had been made to get officers of DCC to answer questions regarding school provision.

#### MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 9 MAY 2003

The minutes were signed as a true record

#### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was noted that the electric supply has been noticeably better.

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The elections for local Parish Councils were held in May 2003. Only five previous members sought re-election and no further candidates applied.

Due to errors on the application forms two were not accepted so at this point it was not possible for the council to fully function. The JUNE meeting allowed the two members to be co-opted back on to the COUNCIL together with Mrs J KERRY. At this meeting I was elected to the chair for the year.

I am pleased to report that a further three members have joined us Mr Ranjit Banwait, Mr Peter Edwards and David Smalley, and that the COUNCIL is at full strength and trying hard to deal with the decisions and problems associated with the growing community.

#### POLICING

This is still not satisfactory and the Parish Council continues to press for more presence and visibility in the village. More resources have been made available to the Chief Constable but the force is still stretched. Different use of manpower to tackle the upsurge in vandalism and job culture fuelled by alcohol and drugs that has spread to rural areas is being tried. The results will be monitored and improvements expected by the Parish Council.

Councillor Liz Kolkman through her liaison with the police has brought senior police representatives to several Parish Council meetings to give talks on drugs and other police initiatives. Also Councillor Peter Edwards spent a day at SWADLINCOTE HQ with beat officers and saw first hand the problems associated with policing an area like South Derbyshire and its diverse communities.

Our Beat Bobby Chris Fetherston attends Parish Council meetings when he can to update us on the local crime and police response to these issues.

The NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH over the past few years has not been very active due to fairly low crime. However due to the recent increase in the population of the village and outside criminal activities targeting the area, efforts to make it more proactive again is being made. The PARISH COUNCIL will be supportive to the organisers and its expansion into the new area's and the already existing awareness in those areas's that started the original scheme.

#### PLANNING

The major developments continue on the St. Modwin site also the infrastructure along with it. A new Health Centre, the change to TESCO EXPRESS offering a little more choice, a new Pub being built, there is planning for more retail outlets and the construction of the Western Link Road.

Outside in the village at large, developments on smaller vacant land is in progress together with a complete refurbishment of the White SWAN public house to add to the variety and choice of hostelrys in the village. The need for more recreation facilities is also a priority and the VILLAGE PLAN being put together to ascertain what the community wants by Ground Work Erewash in conjunction with South Derbyshire District Council will hopefully take this forward. This will make best use of the 106 agreement monies that are available and also attract other funding. A Skate Board facility has already been approved. Demonstrations were organised on two weekends by the teenage action group (TAG) to give both youngsters and residents an insight into the pastime. Part funding will come from the Crime and Disorder partnership and the other monies from the 106 agreement for this project. A major concern is emerging over the provision of schooling in the village. The Parish Council representative who sits on the Board of Governors has reported that future provision is not adequate. Plans are proposed for a new school but the site allocated may not be in the right location.

We will as a Council be supporting the local residents, to make sure their needs are met.

#### FINANCE

The PRECEPT for 2004/2005 was set in JANUARY this year to raise £15000 .This is the same as last year.

With this we expect to maintain the present expenditure plus a small contingency fund which is essential to cope with unforeseen charges made against the council.

It will mean that the precept may have to rise in future years if HILTON requires other than basic services from county and district rates and certainly if any new facilities are installed. The burden of maintenance and management may well fall on the community that use them.

This year major work is required on our existing football pitches. Last year we budgeted with this project in mind to provide £10,000 pounds, however to maintain the pitches after refurbishment will be at more cost, and this will need to be addressed in future budgeting.

#### DONATIONS

The PARISH COUNCIL continues to help local groups who apply, there seems to be more applications each year. This shows that the community is thriving. I would like to place on record a big thank you to all the people who give their time to run these groups for the benefit of both young and older sections of the village.

The COUNCIL has again made a grant to help maintain the old churchyard at ST. MARY'S CHURCH MARSTON. This fine church is used for baptisms, marriages etc. Even by those who do not attend regularly .The new cemetery adjacent the church is the responsibility of South Derbyshire District Council.

#### THE VILLAGE ENVIRONMENT

Dog fouling is still a problem but our thanks to those who do clean up after their dogs. The COUNCIL will continue with providing bins on the Playing Fields and has a bin situated on a footpath between the Main Road and New Road for a trial period.

However the by laws on dog fouling cannot be enforced unless the public are willing to come forward as witnesses and take part in the prosecution process. We do understand some of the reasons for not doing this.

The adoption of the roads where the houses have been completed on the M.O.D SITE is causing concern with the developers not bringing them up to the standard required quickly. However a slight improvement is being shown after continued pressure from our COUNTY and DISTRICT COUNCILLORS on our behalf. This seems to be the opportunity for me on behalf of the PARISH COUNCIL to thank ROMA WALTON, GEORGE MARTIN and MARGARET LITTLEJOHN for their attendance to give reports at our meetings , and efforts to help with and escalate problems that relate to the relative council they are elected to..

#### PARISH COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION.

Having the office at the VILLAGE HALL PEACROFT LANE continues to be a success Our CLERK JOHN WALTON has worked hard guiding us on procedures and dispensing the ever increasing business of the council. On behalf of the council I thank him for his dedication and efficiency during the past year.

During this year the computer and printer had to be replaced. This was essential to remain efficient in today's changing technological world. The old computer was donated to the local school.

The editing and compilation of our newsletter is now undertaken by COUNCILLOR LIZ KOLKMAN. The new format was well received and refreshing. On behalf of the council I thank her for her enthusiasm and hard work in getting it ready for publication. As a council we hope it is informative to all residents both new and established.

In conclusion I thank the staff of the council, MRS SMITH our caretaker and booking clerk, MR HALL our grounds man and MR WOOLLISCROFT our Lengthsman for their work during the past year.

I would like to thank members of the council for giving their time freely to carry out their council duties during the past year, and supporting me as chairman.

Finally in April of this year I had notification that a resident had made allegations against my conduct as a councillor to the STANDARDS BOARD OF ENGLAND.

I am pleased to report that they found that my conduct would not have involved any failure to comply with the authority's Code of Conduct.

Accordingly, the decision was that the allegation should NOT BE INVESTIGATED.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk distributed copies of an un-audited income and expenditure report.

The totals are: -

Income	£27584
Expenditure	<u>£22517</u>
Income – expenditure	£5067

It was noted that £3393 is held on behalf of TAG Hilton

#### EDUCATIONAL CHARITY REPORT

The Chairman R Walton advised the meeting that no figures were available but that the general fall in interest rates has affected income. The Charity will continue to make donations and is open to support any educational need to persons under 25

#### MARSTON ON DOVE & DISTRICT RELIEF CHARITY REPORT

The Chairman G Banton gave an historical background to the Charity and advised that whilst there were not a lot of funds available the Charity met twice a year and need to know of people requiring financial assistance. There have been no grants made this year.

The financial position is: -

Cash at Bank	£527
Investments	<u>£5151</u> as of 31/12/03
	£4678

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The main topic of public participation was the provision of school places in the village: -

A parishioner expressed disappointment over the provision of schooling and wished it known the disgust felt over the lack of planning for school places.

The need for the infrastructure to be in place before houses are occupied was stated and the question asked of what is in place for secondary school places required in 5 to 6 years time.

Information was requested as to where the new school would be built – this is proposed at the southern boundary of the Back Lane Playing Field

James Hilton advised that what little knowledge would be shared. The Clerk read extracts from DCC's letter regarding the new school.

Dissatisfaction was expressed over the present plans for a school and on asking what action could be taken it was agreed to ask County Cllr M Littlejohn to facilitate a public meeting.

To a question regarding compensation due to Markham's field being developed District Cllr Walton supplied contact information.

The subject of the school was then closed; the majority of the public left the meeting.

A question on car transporters using The Mease was raised and the possible provision of a noise barrier.

#### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To a query as to why Sandford brook has not been adopted the response was it can be adopted when a small wall has been removed.

The meeting closed at 2105