

Minutes of the Heather Annual Parish meeting 14th May 2024 7pm
Held at the David Taylor Memorial Hall Heather

Present: Parish Councillors' S Pettitt, P Harris, G Johnson, A Wright, J Petty.

District Councillor Guy Rogers, County Councillor Dan Harrison,
District Councillor for Ibstock Simon Lambeth.

Representatives of User Groups:

Margaret Jones, James Ludlam, Susan Dance

Virge Richichi.

Donna Purday- Parish Clerk

Apologies: Councillor John Clarke, and a number of user groups.

Minutes of the meeting of 16th May 2023 had been circulated and posted on the website it was proposed by Councillor Wright and seconded by Councillor Pettitt that they were a true and accurate record. The minutes were approved and signed.

Report from the Chair on the Events of the Past Year.

Councillor Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that everyone is always more than welcome at the monthly Parish Council meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month. He stated that as a Parish we do try to support things that are happening.

He reported that this year has been a year of transition, due to the Parish Clerk of 23 years retiring. After advertising for a new clerk, thirteen people applied for job application forms of which four replied. One was unable to be interviewed and two turned up for interview. The Clerk (Donna) being appointed. She has been undergoing training to learn all about the legalities and procedures. The Parish now has internet banking and there is an abundance of emails.

The play areas are monitored monthly and ROSPA inspect yearly. We have recently won some funding for some new swings which are due to be installed at our Mill Lane Play area.

The allotments are also inspected monthly, we currently have one and a half plots that are not in use.

We have a new rope to go up at our Belcher Close play area and a kitchen blind to go up in the village hall.

The village hall is used every day of the week by both regular users and there are parties on most weekends. We have three yoga groups at the hall and have had some fantastic comments on how well the village hall is run.

The Chair went on to welcome James Ludlam to the meeting and confirmed that the Parish Council will continue to support the Cattows farm events, the Heather Music Festival, the Scarecrow Festival and any other events that may happen in the village.

He reported that we have money set aside for the cemetery extension, which should happen in approximately two years' time as we now have limited space in the current area.

Two thousand spring flowering bulbs have been planted by the Chairs wife in the village as part of the Greenshoots initiative.

There is also an application in with Leicestershire County Highway for funding of two VAS speed reduction signs on Mill Lane and Pisca Lane.

The Chair went on to thank everyone for their support over the past year and reported that he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as Chair and that he will continue to support the village.

The village hall is really well used every day of the week by the local community, we have the local Brownies, Heather Craft Club, Country Colours Art, and three yoga groups utilising the hall.

Finance

The Chair confirmed that the finances are all on the website and are available to view at the meeting and that if anyone requires a printed copy we would happily print one off.

Reports from any Village Groups that wish to make a Representation.

Heather Craft Club

Margaret Jones the secretary of Heather Craft Club reported that the club has 40 ladies who attend the group on a Wednesday afternoon, and they have raised a total of £2100 for various charities the main being the Blood Bikes, McMillan Nurses and the Air Ambulance. They make baby blankets, and clothes for premature babies, teddys and daffodils. It gives an opportunity for residents to sit and have a chat, knit, or Crochet.

They also have regular demonstrations such as paint pouring and recycling plastics to make pencil cases. The Craft Club are always happy to welcome new members.

Cattows Farm

James Ludlam commenced the report by thanking the Parish Council for the invitation to the meeting and stated that 2023 had been an incredibly challenging year for them. They had learnt many lessons and had come to give a report on the forthcoming events for this year.

NWLDC had reached out to him and earlier this year and had asked for an events calendar and was unsure if it had been relayed to the Parish. There have been no licensable events for a number of years. The Wonder Circus took place on the 17th of April to the 24th of April and was very low key with no traffic problems and no issues.

The Barefoot Festival will be a licensable event taking place between the 26th to 29th July. It will be a relatively low-key event with around 2,000 people he reported it should have a relatively low impact with Music and Mindfulness and Yoga.

Other unlicensable activities coming up are a corporate event for approx. 300 to 400 people on the 28th of June.

Ashby Show on the 14th of July which he reported that there has been a security action group meeting at NWLDC and NWLDC are happy with the organisation but are always looking to improve on previous years.

The farm will also be hosting its' usual events of picking your own strawberries, sunflowers in August, and the maze will be returning.

Halloween farm will be taking place during October, and it was confirmed an event notification had been sent in to NWLDC. Dates have not been determined, but it will most likely take place most weekends in October going into November. He went on to confirm that the Fireworks will not be happening he went on to say that lessons have been learnt from previous years.

County Councillor Harrison asked if LCC Highways are contacted when events take place so Road Traffic orders can be put in place, he confirmed that he is in contact with Jackie Cross.

Councillor Wright asked James to confirm if a dog friendly area is now available so villagers can walk up to use the cafe, he confirmed that there is & it is available from Saturday to Tuesdays.

Councilor Pettitt asked James if there are any plans to bring the forum back which he stated he is more than happy to do and that 2 four 6 events are willing to re-introduce the forum.

District Councillor Guy Rogers introduced himself and said that he was delighted that James attended the meeting. He felt that communication had broken down over recent years.

County Councillor Harrison raised the use of the Bridal way that had been made up and that a lot of the traffic problems had been caused by the usage of the bridal way to access the highway. He asked if there were any plans to return it to grass. James confirmed that part of it was already surfaced previously and that the matter is ongoing with NWLDC.

Ibstock Community Choir

Councillor Wright thanked the chair for allowing their group to use the hall and went on to say what a lovely facility the hall is.

The meeting was closed at 7.30pm

