

PARISH OF CHELMORTON

Minutes of the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on **TUESDAY 9th May 2017 at 7.30pm**

Attendance: electors of the parish: C Marsden (Chairman), H Mayo, R Jones, M Wheeldon, 2 residents of The Ditch and 1 member of the public

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting.

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk Matthew Lovell to take the minutes

2. Apologies

County Councillor Simon Spencer, PCSO Boswell

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8^h March 2016

The minutes were accepted as a correct record subject to substituting R Jones for L Simpson in the councillor attendance and signed.

4. Statement of Accounts and Precept for 2017/18

The parish clerk noted that the accounts had been spent within budget and the internally audited accounts are being presented to council for submission at the council meeting that follows.

Chairman's Report

This report covers the period from March 2016 to May 2017 during which time the Parish Council members were Charles Marsden, Richard Jones, Moira Wheeldon, James Skidmore and Harry Mayo. This report records the main issues discussed by the Council.

Playground:

The playground continues to be well used and the annual external review only identified minor issues requiring attention and these have been carefully attended to. The walling at the far end of the area has been repaired and the netting restored. The Council have installed all- weather safety surfacing for the major items of equipment. There have been no major problems with grass cutting during the year. There has been some mole activity in the playground but this has been kept under control.

Village Assets:

The Council has continued to improve the area around the Illy Willy with more tree planting. The troughs and pound have been maintained by Lee Simpson to whom the Council are grateful for his general maintenance role. The Council has agreed to improve the state of the lettering on the cast signs at the Pound and Troughs.

The Council objected to the proposed removal of the BT phone from the phone box and the review concurred that it should be left for now.

Allotments:

These continue to be fully occupied and there have been requests from new applicants and the situation will be reviewed during 2017. The seat at the allotments will be repainted and restored.

Village Organisations:

The Council were pleased by the success of the second Village Festival and part of the profit from the event has been paid into the village educational trust which will allow the Trust to make some awards during 2017-8. These will be advertised shortly. The Institute continues to provide improved facilities and the Council thanks the volunteers who run it and welcomes the expansion to new areas of use (eg the Sunday table tennis club).

The Council has registered its interest in the Beacon event to commemorate the end of the First World War on November 11th 2018.

Planning Applications:

The Council has responded to all planning applications received. There is some concern about the increase in mobile homes and caravans coming into the village.

Footpaths and Highways:

The Council continues to raise the issue of the poor state of local roads around the village, in particular the numerous potholes, with the County Council - we hope that positive long-term action will be taken soon rather than the rather unsatisfactory patching that occurs at present.

High Stool lane has been resurfaced. The Council has raised the issue of illegal parking of a caravan on the road in Main Street with the relevant authority.

Village website and internet access:

There are now two interconnected websites that represent the village. One covers the Parish Council activities and one all other village activities and organisations. This will improve the use of the general website by the village as a whole and The Council hope that this will also lead to a more user friendly and informative site.

Poor internet access continues to be a problem for many in the village. The Clerk and members of the Council have met with representatives of Digital Derbyshire and it is expected that OpenReach will improve access to Chelmorton within the next twelve months though The Council is not so confident. Wsz can now offer improved internet connections in Chelmorton and an open meeting with the company will be arranged soon to allow them to explain the workings of the system and financial implications.

Consultation:

The Parish Council continues to participate in discussions with the Peak Park and Council authorities on issues of importance to the village and the wider community (eg internet access re above, housing, tourism issues and highways issues).

Discussions with the local police continue. The past year has seen a marked rise in the theft of quad vehicles from local farms not just in Chelmorton but within the Peak District and a rural crime unit has been established. Incident of other crimes remain at a low level.

The Council have reviewed the hours that The Clerk spends on Council business in view of the extra demands placed upon him by the nature of Council audit arrangements, transparency rules and the website arrangements.

For the sixth year in succession the Council has been able to maintain the precept at the same level (5435 pounds).

Once again I would like to thank all Councillors for their help, advice and support during the year. I am grateful to Richard Jones for his help as Vice -Chair. The Council would like to extend their thanks to the Clerk Matthew who by his diligence makes sure what is discussed in Council is then acted upon.

Charles Marsden 9th May 2017

5. District Councillor's Report

Not present and no apology received

6. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Simon Spencer sent his apologies for absence.

7. Police Report

PCSO Boswell sent apologies, an incident in Bradwell has diverted him.

8. To consider any other Parish matter that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors:

The residents of the Ditch noted a perceived poor relation status to the rest of the village with intermittent verge cutting and no clearance of leaves since they fell. They noted the poor state of 2 allotments and the bench - all of which are coincidentally being addressed by council. It was agreed that Highways need to be chased and it would be good to have a definitive guide to what they mow in the village and on the Ditch.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 8pm