

Killamarsh Parish Council

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Draft minutes are subject to approval at the next Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Killamarsh Parish Council Held on Monday 30th May 2022 at The Parish Suite, Killamarsh. This meeting was held in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, schedule 12 (para 14)

Commenced: 6pm – Concluded: 6.17pm

Parish Councillors Present: Steve Clough, Nick Challenger, Brian Clamp, David Drabble, Susan Jackson, Alex Platts, Mo Potts, Eva Thompson, Wendy Tinley, John Windle.

Absent Parish Councillors: Chris Curzon, Carol Lacey, Tony Lacey, Bill Rice

District and County Councillors: None

Officer: Cllr. Steve Clough, nominated and approved temporary Responsible Person/Proper Officer. Judy France [Deputy Parish Clerk, minute taker].

Members of the Public: Five members of the public;

1. Item 1: Chairman's Announcements

To receive the Chairman's opening announcements including welcome and introductions.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them of the sad news of the recent death of a former Parish Councillor John Sharp, for whom a minutes silence was then held.

2. Item 2: Apologies

To receive any apologies of absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Curzon (work related), Cllr C Lacey (family illness), Cllr T Lacey (illness) and Cllr Rice (illness).

RESOLVED:

- 1) To accept apologies of absence from Cllr Curzon, Cllr C Lacey, Cllr T Lacey, Cllr Rice

3. Item 3: Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Monday 24th May 2021 (copy attached).

Cllr Clough moved, Cllr Drabble seconded and all were in favour.


RESOLVED:

- 1) To receive the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Monday 24th May 2021

4. Item 4: Chairman's Annual Report

To receive the Chairman's annual report for 2021/22.

The Chairman gave a verbal summary and provided a written copy of his report for all present. The report is produced in full below:

Signed Chair: 

Dated: 27/06/22

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Killamarsh Parish Council Chairs Annual Report 2022

2021-22 continued to be a challenging year following the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns, though these now seem to be a not so distant memory. Despite the forward challenge of variants of this cruel disease, we can move forward with some optimism as vaccinations continue to be administered and a booster programme continues to deliver to those at significant risk. As our way of life slowly returns to normal I'm sure we will all be adjusting and doing things slightly differently in the months and years to come.

We have continued in the last year to operate fully as a Council and only cancelled 1 full Council meeting due to a heating failure.

Our Council

2021-22 has not been without its challenges. Since we lost our Locum Clerk during the summer of 2021, we have had difficulty recruiting a suitable candidate to act as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) to the Parish Council. We have been fortunate however, to have had Judy France join the Parish Council as Deputy Parish Clerk in November, who has supported to Parish Office incredibly during this time and has supported me as Acting Responsible Proper Officer while we recruited a permanent full-time Clerk.

I am happy confirm that we will be joined by a new Clerk/RFO in mid-July following various recruitment processes to bring the right people on board to deliver more of what the Parish needs. In addition, we have secured an additional Maintenance Officer to support Council activities around our community.

The move to our new location went really smoothly and now we have settled in to the office, it has been a real pleasure to meet residents and help assist them in their needs, which wasn't that easy based in the sports centre. Once the new Clerk is in place the new office opening hours will be agreed and put in place.

Our Precept for 2021-22

After setting our budget for the 2021-22 financial year with a prudent 2% decrease in our Parish precept, it couldn't have been more timelier. Global events have hit people's pockets, particularly sanctions imposed on Russia due to their invasion of Ukraine, which has pushed up living costs with rising food, energy, and fuel prices affecting the vast majority of people nationwide. These rises in costs have also impacted on the Council's costs, but we are currently absorbing these adequately. As our subsidy against the sport centre reduces, we hope to reduce the precept further to lessen the impact on resident's pockets in the future while aiming to do more with budget available to the Council.

During the development of the Sports Centre, detachment of some services to the Parish Suite have impacted the full availability and use of the facilities and unexpected delays in refurbishment plans have contributed to this. Budgets have been allocated with room for contingencies in mind to alleviate any financial challenges that could be faced during the current financial year, particularly as the CLOC building returned to Council management in November.

As part of budget planning, we have also aimed to support further community investment, with plans to increase the number of defibrillators around the village, improve public spaces and concentrate on making public facilities more sustainable.

With further cost control and prudent financial decisions, we have been able to reduce our risks further by bringing Council reserves closer to the legally permitted limit, a point of criticism in previous audit reports. The Council intends to keep bringing costs to parishioners down while trying to improve facilities and services locally through sensible budgeting.

Sports Centre

As stated in my report last year the sports centre transferred from the Parish Council to North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) on 17th May 2021, with an ambitious agreement in place to fully modernise the centre and to invest in our community.

The refurbishment of the sports centre is now well underway, with the new look centre due to reopen during late summer. There were some initial delays and ongoing delays relating to the pandemic and supply chain shortages etc. however, this has now been resolved and we shouldn't be expecting any further delays. The Library has now temporarily closed in preparation for the move to the newly transformed centre.

The initial £1m investment reported last time has now seen this investment rise to £1.9m and a better project outturn, which should hopefully deliver a better economic outcome, resulting in greater benefit for the subsidy the Parish Council will be paying going into year 3 of the subsidy reduction plan.

As previously advised, the new facilities will introduce some extra benefits to residents such as a Café, children's soft play area and additional sports options, including youth activities. There is an additional expectation that the skate park is to be revitalised also to make the space more open and usable.

Parish Suite

The Parish Suite remains under the management of the Parish Council and refurbishment planning is currently underway, with a view to try and modernise the facilities in time for Christmas. Project management and procurement delays have prevented an earlier start to these activities, though we expect the project to start moving forward at pace once plans are approved.

CLOC Building

The CLOC building lease with Killamarsh Community Trust Association was terminated in November, with the building returning to Parish Council control. The building allocation and its future use is currently under review and we are awaiting final feedback from attendees, following the recent open day. It is hoped that building can be put to good use to benefit the community.

Allotments

After the initial review of the allotments in Killamarsh, reported on last year, a further full review has now been undertaken. The work in this area has now helped to ensure, allotments are kept on top of and sites that were poorly maintained in the past, are now at a reasonable standard. This has helped resolve many concerns of residents; particularly where certain plots have been under-maintained and given rise to other environmental issues. We have also:

- 1) The Initial review allowed for the letting of 6 vacant allotments but over the last year a further 9 have been let.
- 2) The new combined waiting list now stands at 34. Although this new list initially enable greater flexibility, choice and ease of administration, residents are remaining loyal to a set site, so the list has to be managed very carefully.
- 3) The implemented management review of the two sites and the new monitoring plan and procedures are working well, with sites regularly checked and policy followed accordingly.
- 4) The Policy has been reviewed further to ensure standards are maintained and in line with our requirements and tenants' agreements.
- 5) The Environment Committee have been reviewing pieces of land owned by the Council to identify if any further land could be converted in to further allotments, to ease the continuing rise in the waiting list.

I would like to thank our officers for the hard work that has gone in to carry out the review.

Christmas Lights & Seasonal Fixtures

Year on year the Parish Council will continue to look at increasing the amount of funding for the village to support village amenities and improve the visibility of seasonal requirements.

During December 2021 there was an increased investment in the Christmas lights with new decorated trees on the lampposts, along with a tree outside and decorations to the Parish office, plus the tree funded and installed by the Parish Council in the grounds of Copytec. I would like to thank the members and residents that were involved in this, they really brightened the village up. The Parish Council intends to do more and has already started the process of looking at the options available to us.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day 2021 was the first significant event to take place post Covid-19. There was still some scepticism and worries around the public mixing and some challenges in arranging the parade however, the Parish Council took the lead and worked hard with the community to deliver a well-received event. The afternoon tea is usually delivered by the Women's Institute (WI) working with the church however, the WI found it difficult to put their members at risk, so the Parish Council stepped in as a one off to make sure the day went ahead in full. This was part funded by Derbyshire District Council Leadership Fund and donations.

Queens Platinum Jubilee

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Events & Communications Committee agreed to provide a gift to Killamarsh nurseries and schools as a memory of the Queen's 70 years of reign. Children were provided with a bookmark commemorating the event and to support them in their reading development. Various activities are taking place around the village at venues to celebrate the forthcoming Platinum Jubilee weekend, along with some decoration placement taking place across the village in line with Derbyshire County Council's guidelines for the event.

Outdoor fixtures

The village has recently had two benches replaced as part of an ongoing plan to maintain key public spaces, along with additional efforts being made to address areas of the village that need maintenance by working with District and County councils to achieve better green spaces and reduce impacts on residents.

Extreme Wheels

To support our local 9 – 16 year olds, the council re-introduced the Extreme Wheels activities to provide some engaging activities during the summer. After being absent for almost a decade, this has encouraged some of our older children in the village to partake in scooter and BMX activities, with laser tag and body zorbing also part of the mix of activities on offer. The council intends to cultivate this relationship to expand on the activities available to our younger citizens over the coming year.

Planning

Given the local plan has always been a bone of contention for Killamarsh Parish Council due to its allowance of development of green belt land around the village, this was passed at District Council in November despite strong criticism and votes against the plan by Killamarsh Parish and District Councillors.

Since then, the Westthorpe Development application came to Planning Committee at the District Council on the 17th May, and was refused by the Committee, with 10 votes against and 2 abstentions. It is expected that the application will either be appealed or resubmitted as an amended application, but the Council resolves to keep fighting the application.

Work on the new Parish website is ongoing and we are working with our provider appointed to deliver this very soon. We are planning more community events and activities to support the community and will continue the plan to try and improve our local amenities, providing for the future needs of Killamarsh.

Now we are out of the pandemic and in the new way of living, we will restart the process of developing a neighbourhood plan that unfortunately had to be put on hold in March 2020, just as we started meeting with consultants to move this important plan forward. We look forward to sharing updates about developments for Killamarsh, in the coming months.

With additional resources and staff, we would like to encourage our Parishioners to visit the office, raising your thoughts and concerns and welcome you to take a part in our villages' future. The world is once again a little bit more different now, but we still want to make Killamarsh a better place to work, play and live in.

The report was noted by the meeting.

5. Item 5: Public Participation

To receive and consider any questions from members of the public who may raise issues, concerns or submit ideas for consideration by the Parish Council.

There were no questions from any of the members of the public present.

There was one comment from a member of the public, "keep doing what you are doing"

The Meeting Closed at 6.17pm

These draft minutes were approved as a true record at the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on:30/05/22..... *with the agreed additions/deletions: None / Yes (list amendments below)

Signed (Chair).......... Print: S. J. COUGH..... Dated
27/06/22.....

*Loose leaf pages to be initialled

* The copy signed by the Chair to contain the alterations, recorded in longhand, with the changes (agreed by the meeting) signed and dated. Signed Copy of the minutes to be filed in the minute book.

***Agreed Amendments (Additions/Deletions) to the Draft Minutes:**

Killamarsh Rage deserve special recognition, following the years of effort particularly by Cllr Chris Curzon and Pat Bone who initiated the group, and special mention of Paul Johnson who over many years has led the campaign to put a stop to this development.

Additionally, although the original planning application for 50 houses on Primrose Lane was successfully blocked by residents and the Parish Council working together, a further application was submitted in and again was successfully blocked. However, there is now an appeal in and is now the last chance for us to highlight the risks of a development like this to the village, given its location on a greenfield site, being near to a school on a busy road.

As a Council we remain resolute in protected this village from unsustainable and damaging developments that impact negatively on our community.

Birchlands Project

The project is now complete and I would like to thank the members both former and current who were involved in this project, for their time and effort applied in delivering it successfully. We are currently obtaining quotes to look at the possibility of updating the footpath and main entry point off Birchlands Drive. More information will follow over the coming months.

Summary of the Past Year

Overall, like last year the Parish Council have navigated an exceedingly difficult set of circumstances well by being organised and ready to tackle environmental changes very quickly. COVID19 has still played a significant part in this period and we have managed to soldier on even though we have been without a permanent or Locum clerk for nearly a year, this could quite easily have been a disaster for Killamarsh based on ensuring our financial position stayed in budget, while still manging to deliver some key promises.

In setting the new foundations for the future, the leasing of the Sports Centre to NEDDC was a major step forward, allowing us to focus on delivering more of the things that will make a difference to the village. We are now positive position that will allow us to build on our success so far and I would like to thank every member of the Council and Officers who have been involved in this journey, this is all down to your dedication to make the village a better place to live.

During the year 2021/22, I'd like to acknowledge the stepping down of former Councillors Barry Jones, Lilian Robinson, Nick Whitehead and Stuart Mullins and thank them for their efforts over the years, while welcoming new Councillors Susan Jackson, Brian Clamp and Tony Lacey to Killamarsh Parish Council.

I'd also like to recognise the efforts of members of our community and businesses, most notably Killamarsh Town Team for delivering more much needed defibrillators, the Killamarsh Wombles for their ongoing efforts to keep our village tidy, Killamarsh Conservation Group for continuing to bring colour and sunshine to key areas of the village, the Killamarsh Heritage Society for continuing to keep the memories alive for generations old and new and local businesses who have continued to provide the needs of the village from food to pharmacy requirements.

The Future

The coming months will see the revitalised sports centre reopen, providing more engagement with the community and more focus on the things that people really want to take Killamarsh forward, by working closely with the Parish Council. The focus will be to deliver a community hub that is inclusive of all residents of Killamarsh, with an integrated Library and integrated space and activities for young people.

The Parish Council will continue to work very closely both with District and County Councils to deliver some key aspects in the village that will hopefully see areas receiving much the needed care and attention it deserves.