

EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting: 8th May 2024

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Monday 8 May 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Councillors S Wiles (Chair), R Troop, M Mahoney, J Bere, B Upton, and County Cllr. T. Taylor

Cllr Wright sent apologies for absence due to work commitments. The Clerk sent her apologies for absence.

Both absences were approved.

The Minutes from the 2023 Meeting were tabled and approved.

The following were presented to the meeting:

1. The Chair's Report

Firstly, I would like to thank all Councillors and all those who have voluntarily given their time to support the ongoing work of the PC, without them none of the past years progress would have been possible. Our key achievements and areas of attentions are listed below:

Planning, the Council has again this year responded to the cycle of parish consultation comments to the District Planning Authority, on all submitted applications in the Parish, although the number of applications has reduced by 10% from 2022/23. Planning enforcement issues remain a local concern and continue to be a focus of attention. The total number of outstanding planning enforcement case has been reduced following additional BDC resource to investigate these, but there are a number of unresolved and ongoing matters.

Contract Work, The Nottinghamshire County Lengthsman scheme has been delivered to tidy areas of the street scene in the village. Also, the Cemetery Grounds Maintenance contract has been delivered by North Nottinghamshire Landscapes.

The Friends of Everton Cemetery Group, which voluntarily assists in the management of the Mattersey Road Cemetery, has added an additional resource. The Group has inspected the headstones for safety stability and advised on essential safety remedial measure where necessary. It has agreed detail with BDC's Conservation Office on restoring the listed war memorial, by reinstating its original features. It has gained Listed Building Consent to undertake this work and I looking to secure grant funding to implement this work. It has also undertaken several self-set vegetation pruning tasks and general care for the area.

Future burial space land, it not possible to extend the existing cemetery area and therefore Everton's Joint Burial Authority function will be at risk when the Cemetery reaches its capacity. The ongoing long-term investigations continue to look at the suitability of potential land and explore options to be able to sustain this long-established service for parishioners and their families who wish to use this service.

The Council continues to keep its policies under review; a Donations policy has been introduced this year to aid better financial planning.

New Website, significant improvements have been made, the old evertonvillage web site has been replaced with the new evertonparishcouncil website. Up-to-date local information on and from local organisations can be added to this community website.

Christmas event, the third year's Carols around the Christmas tree community event has been organised and supported jointly by the Parish Council and thanks to the Everton Choir, Everton Church and Everton Primary School for making this event happen.

Mobile shop, the weekly, Thursday visit of the mobile shop at the Metcalfe Recreation Ground car park has continues to provide a local service.

Finally, I would like to thank our Clerk, Angela Hayward for her professional support to the council during this busy year. Also, thanks to our District Councillor Steven Pashley and our County Councillor, Tracey Taylor.

EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

2. The Clerk's Report (via the Chair)

FINANCIAL REPORT 2023/24

The figures below are the combined figures of the Parish Council and Joint Burial Committee.

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £42,383. Income during the year came to £27,633 and expenditure £30,745 leaving a closing balance of £39,271.

The precept for the 2023/24 was £17,615. The precept claim for 2024/25 is £20,275 (15.1% increase on the previous year).

In addition to these funds there is a balance of £53,727 Community Infrastructure Levy money (CIL) available for the parish council. The CIL money has to be spent on specific types of infrastructure projects/works. This is currently being held with BDC pending a request from the PC to transfer funds to the PCs funds.

3. Police Report

Please accept our apologies for the Parish Meeting on 8th May 2024. We will not be on duty at this time.

In relation to the beat as a whole there has been a steady report of vehicular ASB where vehicles are driving / riding through fields / woodland areas and along country lanes causing issues.

With the wet weather that then hit over the past few months there was a decline in this type of ASB but as the weather has now started to pick up the issues are now restarting.

The beat team have recently had a 4x4 purchased for use in the off-road and rural communities. I can say that I have conducted numerous patrols in the area both on and off road and have also requested the Off Road Bike Team to patrol the area as they are a lot more agile than I can be in the 4x4.

I have been in contact with Natural England in relation to Harwell Woods and the SSSI and if there is anything that they can assist with in the wider picture and also had meetings with the Rural Crime Prevention Officer with a view to him assisting in the issues of off-road vehicles and the associated crime.

There has recently been an upturn in GPS thefts from farm machinery and I would ask that the rural communities are and remain vigilant, and any suspicious people / activities / vehicles are reported to the police. Please keep the farmyards and machinery as secure as you can.

I have been approached in relation to Neighbourhood Watch in EVERTON but I am led to believe that all of the communication is now done online and through the Neighbourhood Watch website.

PCSO Dale has returned to work and is now available for contact along with myself.

We have been delivering training in relation to Community Speed Watch and if you are interested in having the training please contact either myself or PCSO John Dale for further details.

In relation to the monthly figures, it has been brought to my attention that the figures are not as accurate as I had thought. This is due to the numerous different ways that people can report crime to the police. Not all incidents reported show on our daily job screen and should members of the public report matters online that do not require police attendance this would if applicable, generate a crime number but there would not be an incident number created. As such I would ask that you take the crime stats directly from www.police.uk which appear to be a lot more accurate and as several parishes have asked for figures only related to their village this would seem the sensible way forward although this is around 6 weeks behind.

PC Pickersgill

4. Primary School Report

EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

This time last year I couldn't share with you that Everton Primary School was graded as a "Good School" by Ofsted after their 25th and 26th April 2023 Inspection. We were particularly delighted by the unanimously positive parent/carer and staff questionnaires about their thoughts and feelings towards the school.

We have endeavoured to maintain high standards throughout the teaching and learning of our students and the experiences given to them. Our children have experienced a wide range of 'cultural capital' opportunities, including: residential trips and class educational visits; individuals who have come into school to talk about charities, religious events/festivals etc; events within the community; drama and music productions; sporting competitions and festivals; as well as take part in clubs during and after school.

Everton Primary School is incredibly fortunate to have very supportive parents and carers who have supported the school throughout the year in a variety of ways. Our PTA have worked incredibly hard to fundraise for special items and experiences for the children to have during the academic year, but also towards a new multi-use building which will benefit children of all ages. As a school we are also very grateful to members of the community who have kindly donated their time and resources to us.

As Headteacher, I am very conscious about the school being at the centre of all things 'Everton' and therefore I always continue to welcome the school's involvement within our local community.

Andrew Green

5. Metcalfe Trust and Metcalfe Recreation Committee

The Trust is three years into our five-year strategy and this report is organised accordingly

Financial Report

After a major restructuring in 2018/19, most of the assets of the trust are now managed by our financial advisors "Progeny". The scheme adopted by the Trust seeks to cover all annual operating costs (currently ~ £80,000) and grow investments to cover inflationary pressure, so the Trust remains viable in perpetuity.

In the past year we have allocated further funds for the costs of the development of the proposed village hub.

Investments are held in three separate funds:

- Short term-low risk funds (£240,000) giving us a rolling 3 year fund to cover annual costs.
- A mid-term higher-risk fund (£1,000,000) balancing growth and mid-term funding needs.
- A longer term, higher risk (10 years + fund) aimed at capital growth into the future (£2,000,000).

In discussion with our financial adviser, the Trust reviews the performance of each fund twice yearly and moves money between the funds as and when appropriate.

Summary Financial Position for year 2023/24 (Not yet audited)

Summary of Trust Finances to nearest £1,000		
Value at 31/03/23	Expenditure for 2023/24	Value at 01/04/2024
£3,220,000	£99,000	£3,706,000

Long Term Asset Valuation

Summary of Trust Finances to nearest £1,000				
1/4/2020	31/03/21	01/04/2022	01/04/23	01/04/2024
£2,587,000	£3,276,000	£3,409,000	£3,220,000	3,706,000

Whilst the mid-term trend of asset growth has been strong, The Trust is conscious of the impact that a period of high inflation could have on future finances. We regularly review the position after discussions with our financial advisors.

EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Village Hub

Planning consent was granted in October 2023. Since then we have been in discussions with possible lead contractors to establish budgets and construction phases.

Environmental improvements

Working parties in the lost gardens, led by Sue Hughes, have created some different zones within it including a log circle for younger users and new planting in a seating area.

Develop a rolling programme of updates and improvements to the playpark area

The see-saw was replaced this year.

Promote greater use of the Trust facilities by engaging with the community in the area of benefit

We are seeing an increased usage of all the facilities, the merger of Everton with Bawtry cricket has brought new energy to that club who have made significant improvements to the pavilion and purchased new rain covers. Further new groups are using the hall, knit and natter and the Music Society are great new additions to community life.

Metcalfe Recreation Committee

The committee is very active and seeks further ways to enhance the community, in the last year they organised the village coronation celebrations, purchased a commemorative bench and organised the seniors Christmas party amongst many other highlights.

We are grateful for all their hard work.

Closing remarks

I wish to extend the Trust's thanks to our team Rachel Hyland (Secretary and Finance Officer), John Leach (Operations Manager), Doug Haynes (Caretaker/Bookings) and Nancy Rees (Cleaner) for their hard work this year and to our volunteers Mick Boulby and Bill Howe Senior for their continuing support. Finally, a word of thanks to Alan the contractor's groundsman, who has gone the extra mile to improve the appearance of the grounds.

Metcalfe Trust Chair

6. HEDS

This has been another busy year for the HEDS Team. It had been suggested that we needed a new version of the Welcome booklet as the other one was very out of date. We are grateful to Mike Harrison for taking up this project and joining the HEDS team. He and Adrian have put in a substantial amount of work on it and now that we have funding it should soon be in every house in the HEDS area. It has been formatted in such a way that the contact details for all the various entries are published in the monthly HEDS thus making it easier to keep up to date with changes.

We had one hiccup when our printer was taken ill and we missed an edition, the first time she has failed us in over 20 years. We also had an edition printed by another firm which enabled us to have an edition colour. Sadly the cost has precluded us doing this again.

We have our regular contributors to whom we are very grateful and our regular advertisers who are very loyal and between them and the help of the Parish Council and Metcalfe Trust we are able to continue delivering a copy to every home in the HEDS area. `

We have a very dedicated team who put a lot of work into HEDS and I would like to thank Adrian who produces the final edition of HEDS. Tony Hercok for controlling the purse strings, Ann Hercok for sorting out the advertising, Sue Redfern who deals with the distribution with Jean Winder and Christine Dunn, Mike Harrison who came on board to bring the Welcome booklet into being and Mick Boulby our eagle eyed proof reader. My very grateful thanks to you all. We know we have some challenges ahead this next year but I know the Team will deal with them and we are always open to new advertisers and also new contributors.

Be proud of HEDS

ANN HICKMAN, EDITOR

EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

7. PCC – Holy Trinity Church 2024

We have held the usual number of services this year with the Christmas and Clypping events particularly well attended. Our journey with Little Lambs (formerly Cheeky Monkeys) has met with success and numbers are increasing, notably with the newer babies whose mothers and grandmothers enjoy the company and activities. Last year we were pleased to welcome a new Curate to the Benefice (which is Bawtry with Austerfield, Mattersey, Misson and Everton) so we will see how this affects the number of services/activities in the coming years.

Last year, thanks to fundraising and generous donations we managed to pay all our commitments towards clergy/ministry costs and expenses of the building without having to use our very low reserves. This year we have the additional financial burden of works, earmarked as urgent by the architect in our 5-year survey, to ensure that the tower is watertight and safe. This will entail reroofing and securing the top stones on the tower to ensure there is no danger of any damage to bells or roofs or more importantly people in the Church and Churchyard. Provisional costing for all these essential works is £65,000 plus architects fees, plus vat. We are seeking grants towards this work plus there will be fund raising initiatives like the forthcoming Art and Craft Exhibition and a sponsor a square foot campaign. The Church is Grade2*, 12 century and, as well as being a key place of worship, is a prominent features in the village; it is liked and appreciated by many residents and visitors so it is essential that we raise the funds to ensure that work can be completed so the Church and grounds remain accessible. Any donations or ideas for fundraising will be gratefully accepted.

As ever our thanks to Becky Hancock, our vicar, for all the work she does in the Benefice and our thanks to the small number of regular helpers we are lucky to have.

J Dunn

All the reports have been sent to The Clerk/The Chair.
There were no other reports.

Public Discussion/Questions

There was discussion on fundraising currently taking place to fund the building of a multifunctional extension to the school with a request to make use of CIL funding to this end. The Headteacher felt that such a building would secure the future of the school. Cllr Taylor was able to confirm that there were no plans to close local small schools and that any such building would be the property of NNCC.

Meeting Closed at 7.45pm

Chair of the Parish Council

Date