



DISLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Holland *Disley Parish Clerk*

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Disley Parish Council Annual Report 2020/21

Chair's review of Disley Parish Council's (DPC) activities for 2020-21 prepared by Cllr. Jackie Pattison.

Introduction

Disley Parish Council has adhered to government recommendations regarding Covid-19 and social distancing during the year 2020/21 and, therefore, staff have only operated from the Community Centre when Covid-19 restrictions have allowed. However, staff and councillors have continued to carry out Council services whilst working remotely and Cllr. Pattison would like to thank them all for their support and cooperation during this difficult time and for maintaining a high standard of service and support for Disley & Newtown residents.

All Council meetings have been held remotely, and it has been possible for residents to join these meetings on-line and make representation to the Council during the public forum.

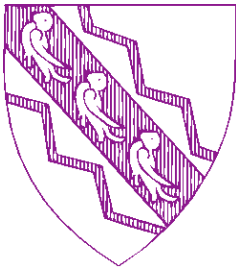
1. Election of Officers for the year 2020/21

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May 2020, it was unanimously agreed that Councillors would maintain their positions for the year 2020/21. Namely, Cllr. Jackie Pattison as Chair, Cllr. Sue Adams as Vice-chair, Cllr. Cath Birchall as Chair of the Finance Committee and Cllr. Sue Adams as Chair of the Planning Committee.

Council project team membership also remained the same as for the year 2019/20.

2. Disley Parish Council Services and activities

Community Centre: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all room bookings were cancelled in mid-March 2020 and the majority of the 55 regular groups have not yet resumed their activities. Three hirers started up classes again towards the end of August/early September in line with Government guidelines but, unfortunately, these bookings only lasted a few months before being affected by the further tightening of restrictions.



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The Parish Council was able to organise a number of weekly coffee mornings (by invitation only) during periods of lighter restrictions, for a small number of people under strict social distancing rules. These were well received and enjoyed by all attendees.

Due to the Coronavirus, the annual income generated by the Community Centre during the past financial year has fallen by approx. £14,500.

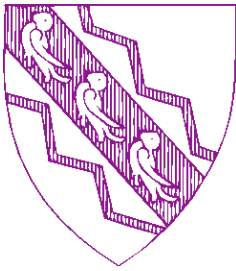
Village Handyman / Ranger Service: The Parish Council's Handyman Service continued to maintain and improve the village's appearance as well as looking after the Council's assets throughout the year. In November, following the departure of both handymen (one moved to another job and the other retired), we appointed a Parks and Assets Ranger and a Village Ranger to continue this vital service.

Projects and response work have included:

- working to resolve the Red Lane surface water drainage problem, including clearing the mud from the side of The Ram's Head and fitting a new silt trap.
- repairing a basket swing at Arnold Rhodes play area.
- repairing and re-painting village benches as part of a full refurbishment programme.
- repairing the roof and renovating the bus shelter at The Ram Green
- partnering with Disley Footpaths Society to clear larger trees and foliage and to improve the gateway to the Gritstone Trail by the railway station.
- removal of fly tipping which increased significantly during the past year.
- undertaking several improvements at Disley Community Centre.
- inspecting and maintaining play equipment in the parks and carrying out tree management safety work.

Community Bus Scheme: In mid-March 2020, the Coronavirus pandemic resulted in the cancellation of all community bus trips. However, in September, with the help of our fantastic volunteer drivers, we restarted the Weekly Shoppers Group trips to a local supermarket. This enabled less-mobile users to get out to the shops with our door-to-door service.

A Covid-19 risk assessment was completed and strict measures implemented to ensure the safety of our passengers and drivers. In between the November and January lockdowns, we managed to run a couple of shopping trips prior to Christmas but these were suspended again pending an easing of restrictions.



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Currently there are 13 volunteer drivers with 5 volunteers on the waiting list. DPC Admin Assistant, Helen Richards, has carried out invaluable work by keeping in regular contact with Community Bus users and regular coffee morning attendees.

Allotments: There are 33 allotment sites across the three locations at Hagg Bank, Springfield and Greystones. During the year, we welcomed 5 new tenants at Greystones and Springfield. There is currently 1 vacancy at Greystones. There are currently 14 people on the waiting list, seven of whom are waiting for a plot on Hagg Bank.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, just one site inspection was carried out in July to ensure allotments were being fully cultivated. Allotment holders enjoyed being able to continue to work their plots during the coronavirus outbreak following guidelines issued by the National Allotment Society.

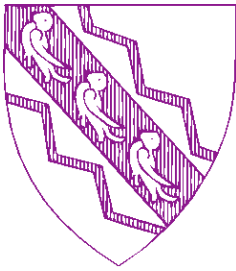
Work carried out during the year included repair of a leaking stop tap and installation of anti-climb spikes on the gates at Hagg Bank, provision of wood chippings and removal and disposal of accumulated rubbish at Springfield, together with path strimming. A number of large trees have also been removed from the sites for safety and overshadowing reasons.

The Parish Council continues to have good working relations with the local Allotment Association and rentals have remained fixed for the past four years.

Parks: Arnold Rhodes – this outdoor space has been much appreciated during the last year by residents of all ages. Improvement works scheduled for completion in 2020 will be continued as soon as possible.

Newtown – the installation of new changing rooms has been delayed and completion is expected by the end of May. Improvements to the play area are planned for 2021/22 and DPC is planning to install a Nature Trail around the whole of the Newtown green open space.

Tree Management: Disley Parish Council commissioned a full Trees' Condition Assessment for all the trees on Council land in early 2021. The report outlined the condition of all trees and prioritised those with safety concerns. The Council will undertake recommended work according to safety priority in a programme over the next three years. This work will be undertaken by a combination of specialist tree surgeons and the Village Rangers.



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Communications: The Council's bi-monthly ebulletin now has over 600 subscribers receiving regular news updates and details of local events and meetings etc. The Parish Council Twitter feed currently has 369 followers and the Council has a Facebook page at @disleyparishcouncil.

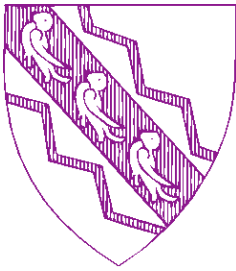
The Council continues to produce the hardcopy Disley News newsletter three times per year, and this is distributed to all homes and businesses in Disley and Newtown.

The Parish Council's website contains a wealth of local information such as business listings and was updated for greater accessibility in 2020. Further work to improve the accessibility of the site is planned for 2021.

Village Events: Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic and public safety guidelines, all the annual events normally organised by the Parish Council, regrettably had to be cancelled, including the Christmas Extravaganza which is one of the highlights of the community year. The only exceptions to this were two socially distanced Community Litter Picks in September and April, which were very well-supported and a large amount of rubbish was collected.

In order to add some festive spirit to the village, the Parish Council rolled out some seasonal initiatives which were extremely well received. These included:

- Christmas trees at the Ram Green and in Newtown
- Christmas trees and lights above the shops
- Village centre planters and bins decorated as large Christmas presents.
- A Christmas "selfie" wall located at the Community Centre. Eco friendly gift bags were given to all children who provided a selfie for uploading on to the Parish Council website
- The Rotary Club taking Santa and his sleigh around the Chantry and Duddy Road estates
- Santa recorded a message for Disley and Newtown children which was put on our website and social media.
- A "Happy Christmas and New Year" banner placed on the Ram Green.
- A Nativity Scene installed on the Ram Green.



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Planning consultations: During the year 2020/21, Cheshire East Council consulted Disley Parish Council on 61 applications. Disley Parish Council also sent a submission to Cheshire East Council regarding the wider consultation on a redrafted Site Allocations Development Policy (SADPD) as part of the Cheshire East Local Plan to meet housing needs to 2030. This SADPD will form the second part of the Local Plan, providing further detailed and non-strategic planning policies and land allocations in line with the strategy set out in the Local Plan. The meeting of Cheshire East Council on 19th April 2021 approved the report on the submission of the SADPD to the Secretary of State for examination by an appointed Planning Inspector.

Civic Awards: Each year the Parish Council presents awards to residents for outstanding volunteer work or for wider individual achievements. This year, it was not possible for the awards to be presented in person, so the 2021 awards were delivered to the recipients, some of whom provided a photo of themselves with the award for inclusion on the Parish Council website and in local publications.

Civic awards were given to:

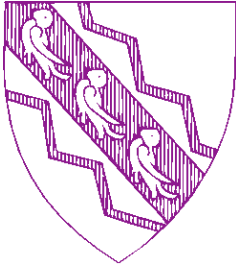
- Lisa Ashwood - for her work with 1st Disley Cubs
- Louise Dandy – for her work with 1st Disley Beavers and 1st Disley Cubs
- Ella Kalnins - for her work as a young leader with 1st Disley Beavers
- Zoe Lofthouse – for entertaining the residents of Disley & Newtown during lockdown and for many fundraising activities.
- Helen Martin – for her valued and varied contributions to the Disley & Newtown Community.

In addition, Civic Commendation letters were given to two local businesses for their contribution to the local community particularly at the height of the pandemic.

Village enquiry service: During the year, we dealt with 110 enquiries - main issues included streetlighting (12%), a substantial increase in fly tipping (11%), overgrown hedges and footpaths (10%), overflowing litter bins (10%), drains and flooding, potholes and pavement trip hazards, dog waste, inconsiderate parking and grit bins.

The Parish Council also dealt with fallen tree branches across part of Jacksons Edge Road.

Signposting residents to Cheshire East Council and other agencies such as BT, United Utilities, the Environment Agency and Peaks & Plains Housing Trust remained an important activity throughout the year.



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Community Grants: Parish Council grants were awarded to:

- 1st Disley Scout Group for new Beaver and Explorer flags
- Disley Football Club for football pitch drainage improvements.

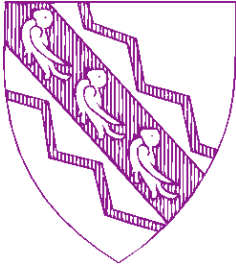
Coronavirus - Street Co-ordinator Scheme: Within hours of the official announcement of the global pandemic, Disley Parish Council and local volunteers had set up a network of Street Co-ordinators. Within days, every street in Disley and Newtown had a named contact and households received a calling card offering assistance.

The Scheme has undertaken hundreds of tasks for residents from delivering shopping and picking up prescriptions, to collecting library books and simply phoning for a chat. There are still over fifty residents available to help the community and all have pledged their commitment to keep supporting their neighbours for as long as necessary. This selfless group are providing a lifeline to many people and they should feel as proud of their volunteering, as the community is grateful for their support.

Disley Footpaths Society (DFS), Towpath Action Group & Friends of Disley Station (FODS): The Parish Council wishes to thank the hardworking members of these community-led groups. Much maintenance and improvement work has been carried out on the local footpaths and the towpath whilst complying with Coronavirus restrictions. The Cheshire East Council Public Rights of Way team has carried out resurfacing on the Gritstone Trail and DFS has also carried out repairs to the steps at the beginning of the Gritstone Trail. Disley Station has been transformed by the FODS volunteers who have worked closely with Network Rail and the High Peak Rail Partnership.

Disley and Newtown Parish Strategy 2020-2023: The Parish Council launched its Parish Strategy for 2020-2023 in 2020. This document sets out the Council's vision for Disley and Newtown, its core values and detailed goals and objectives. The full Strategy is available to view on the Council website and is being regularly reviewed by councillors and staff.

Air Quality & Traffic: This remains a significant concern in Disley and Newtown. Cheshire East Council continues to monitor vehicle pollution levels. Disley Parish Council has invested in a new Speed Indicator Device (SID) which is deployed across the village both as a deterrent and to gather traffic speed and volume data to support the case for highways improvements.



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The Parish Council continues to seek a reduction of the speed limits on Lyme Park bends and Seven Springs and has requested that CEC considers the implementation of 20mph zones on all residential roads within the village. Requests for cycle paths and cycle lane improvements have been made to CEC. Bike stands have been installed by DPC at the Community Centre and by the Co-op outside their store. DPC is currently investigating the installation of electric vehicle charging points.

Parking: Inconsiderate and dangerous parking has been a concern for DPC and many residents this year, particularly as people have understandably wanted to have access to Lyme. DPC has held meetings with the National Trust and Cheshire Police to discuss options to minimise the effects of additional visitors.