

**MINUTES OF THE DISLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 8th APRIL 2022 AT DISLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

1	<p><u>Disley Parish - Notice of Meeting</u> Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Disley Community Centre on Friday 8th April 2022 at 7.00pm. All Disley and Newtown residents are invited to attend.</p> <p>At a meeting held in pursuant to the above notice (copies having been displayed throughout the Parish) the following business was transacted:</p>
<u>Present</u>	<p>Cllrs. Adams (Chair), Mrs Birchall, Mr Birchall, Hutchins, Pattison, Windsor and the Parish Clerk. Members of the public = 19 Start time: 7.00pm</p>
2	<p><u>To receive, and if approved, confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 26th April 2019.</u> The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 26th April 2019 were confirmed as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Cllr. Pattison Seconded: Cllr. Hutchins Unanimously agreed.</p>
3	<p><u>To receive an update from the Schoolhouse Surgery on the Middlewood Partnership.</u> Dr. Maurice provided some historical context to the Schoolhouse Surgery and referenced his predecessor, Dr. Maxwell, and the move to the St. Mary's School Rooms to allow more space, better parking and increased services. Dr. Maurice said that things had moved on again and that in 2019 the Schoolhouse Surgery merged, with Poynton and Bollington surgeries, into the Middlewood Practice. This merger had helped make the Schoolhouse stronger and more secure in the long-term. Dr. Maurice is a senior partner in the Middlewood Partnership and represents Disley within the group. Dr. Maurice highlighted the 31% increase in demand for GP services and that although telephone and internet services had helped to meet this demand, face-to-face consultations remain critical. Cllr. Pattison thanked Dr. Maurice for his efforts in securing a GP service in Disley and Dr. Maurice thanked the whole team responsible for fighting for Disley. Dr. Maurice said that Middlewood offered a wider range of services to patients such as minor surgery and diabetes clinics. There were 16 partners within Middlewood, 15 clinicians and one manager, 15/20 nursing staff and new non-GP roles, such as physician associates and paramedics etc. Dr. Maurice highlighted that not all primary care requires immediate GP contact and many specialist nurses and healthcare assistants now attend Disley regularly. Cllr. Adams asked Dr. Maurice about communications and recognising the different age profiles of patients. Dr. Maurice responded that phones are still fundamental and that, although some patients prefer on-line options, alternatives continue to be available. The use of community networks for communications was seen as a way of improving communications. A resident asked what was driving the increase in demand for GP services and Dr. Maurice responded that it was a combination of more housing/residents, a pent-up demand post-Covid, pressures on hospitals to discharge patients into the community and the wider range of service being offered by GP surgeries. Dr. Maurice referenced the large self-help section on the Middlewood website but commented that this needed to be publicised more in the community. Cllr. Mr Birchall asked Dr. Maurice about respiratory issues due to the air quality in parts of Disley. Dr. Maurice thought</p>

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	<p>an air quality/respiratory comparison could make an interesting project for trainee GPs. He also pointed out that respiratory clinics were being held in Bollington and Poynton. Dr. Maurice concluded that the Middlewood Partnership had the power and local knowledge to effect the changes needed in local healthcare requirements. Cllr. Adams thanked Dr. Maurice for attending and for his presentation to the meeting.</p>
4	<p><u>To receive an update from the Friends of Disley Station (FODS) regarding improvements and plans at Disley Station.</u></p> <p>Cllr. Windsor announced that Disley Station had recently been awarded the Cheshire's Best Kept Garden Award. Cllr. Mr Birchall said that the reformed FODS group had been going for just over 2 years, most of it under Covid restrictions, and from 6 volunteers at the first meeting had grown to 19 volunteers. Cllr. Mr Birchall commented that Covid had possibly made the group stronger, as when indoor meetings were stopped, the group concentrated on outdoor work and making practical improvements. Cllr. Mr Birchall said that the station had been transformed, with the eyesore of the Buxton platform being turned into a garden with bird feeders and a bug house to encourage wildlife. Weeds on the platforms and approach ramps had been cleared and beautiful plants and shrubs had been planted and watered. Many of the plants, wood for the paths and other items had been donated by village residents. Cllr. Mr Birchall felt FODS had become part of the community, with the aim of making the station as pleasant as possible. Cllr. Mr Birchall reported that after much lobbying, Network Rail had re-tarmacked the approach road and car parking and clearly marked out the bays. Improved signage for the Gritstone Trail and Lyme Park, work on the path to Red Lane by FODS, Disley Footpaths Society and Disley Parish Council and new station notice boards and posters, have all been welcome improvements. The station buildings were also recently enhanced with 6 pieces of art funded through grants from partners in the Community Rail Partnership. Cllr. Mr Birchall concluded that FODS had achieved wonders in a short period of time, and the efforts of the wonderful volunteers have been rewarded by passengers getting off trains to take photos, articles of praise in the local press and the Cheshire Best Kept Garden award previously mentioned. A FODS volunteer had received a Parish Civic Award and all members benefited from the fresh air, rain and backache. Cllr. Windsor highlighted some plan for the future including funding for new planters, an application for funding for a bird bath and improving the remaining beds. Cllr. Windsor announced that the beds would be planted in Queen's Jubilee and Ukrainian colours in May. Cllr. Windsor reported that FODS would continue to fight for improved rail services and for a solution to the drainage issues at the station. She also highlighted that the group would welcome any new members. Cllr. Pattison thanked FODS for all their efforts on behalf of the village. A resident asked what plans there were for the shelters and waiting room and Cllr. Windsor replied that new shelters had been applied for and that FODS would continue to pressure for these. Cllr. Adams thanked FODS for their presentation.</p>
5	<p><u>To receive a report from the Chair of Disley Parish Council on the work of the Parish Council over the last year and its plans for 2022.</u></p> <p>Cllr. Adams presented highlights of the Chairs Annual Report which is reproduced in full below:</p>

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Introduction

As we start to live with Covid and try to get some normality back into our everyday lives, as Chair of Disley Parish Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank fellow Councillors, Council Officers and the wonderful Disley and Newtown community for all their support through challenging times. The strength and support of our whole community has enabled Disley and Newtown to come together throughout the pandemic.

Election of Officers for the year 2021/22

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May 2021 the Council unanimously agreed:

- Chair of the Council - Cllr. Sue Adams.
- Vice Chair - Cllr. Simon Brownbill.
- Chair of the Planning Committee - Cllr. Jackie Pattison.
- Chair of the Finance Committee – Cllr. Cath Birchall.

Disley Parish Council Services and activities

1. Community Centre

- Following the easing of Government Covid restrictions, regular hirers returned to Community Hall throughout the summer.
- Nearly all pre-Covid hirers have now resumed their activities.
- Saturday coffee mornings started regularly again in February 2022 and attendances have been growing.
- The Parish Council welcomed some new regular hirers including an art class and WI Bridge.
- Following extensive damage to a wall at the Community Centre the Parish Council maintained services throughout the rebuild.
- New, safer purpose-built storage cupboards were installed in the hall.
- Revenue for the Community Centre is returning to near pre-pandemic levels and total revenue for 2021/22 is £15,653.

2. Ranger Service

2021/22 was the first full year for the Parks and Assets Ranger and Village Centre Ranger. Projects and work undertaken by the Rangers included:

- A programme of repairing and re-painting village benches.
- Repairing the roof and renovating the bus shelter at The Ram Green.
- Partnering with Disley Footpaths Society to improve the steps at the Gritstone Trail gateway by the railway station and constructing a new planter at this location.
- Removal of large amounts of fly tipping which has increased in recent years.
- Refurbishing all the play equipment at Newtown play area.
- Improving paths at the Memorial Park and Arnold Rhodes Playing Fields.

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- Undertaking fencing repairs to Council land.
- Trees maintenance and emergency tree/branch removal.
- Regular tidying, litter picking and improvement work in the village centre.

3. Community Bus Scheme:

- The Weekly Shoppers Group continued throughout the year with a return to the 12 passengers per week in November 2021.
- Social trips resumed in August 2021, the majority of which have been fully booked.
- Outings included pub lunches, garden centres and the ever popular Bury Market.
- The bus has 7 regular volunteer drivers with 5 volunteers on the waiting list for training.
- Helen Richards, the Council's Admin Assistant, has been instrumental in maintaining contact with bus users and ensuring that this superb community asset remains successful and available to all.

4. Allotments:

- The Council owns 34 allotment plots across Hagg Bank, Springfield and Greystones in Newtown.
- 8 new tenants were welcomed over the past 12 months which has significantly reduced the waiting list.
- Two site inspections were carried out during the year to ensure allotments were being fully cultivated and well-maintained.
- The Council undertook improvement works on the allotments including repairing a leaking stop tap, removal and disposal of accumulated rubbish, strimming of paths and vacant plots and removal of a number of trees.
- The Parish Council continues to have good working relations with the local Allotment Association.
- Allotment rentals have remained fixed for the past 6 years (2017-2022) so, following a rent review in 2021, councillors agreed an increase from 1st January 2023.

5. Parks and Play Areas.

All Council parks and the outdoor gym are subject to an annual independent safety inspection and monthly safety inspections by the Parks and Assets Ranger who is ROSPA Play Area Inspection qualified.

Arnold Rhodes:

- A number of encroaching trees and trees of concern have been removed over the past 12 months.
- Safety work to the cableway, swing nest and gates has been undertaken.
- A programme of strimming and surfacing improvements is underway.

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- A new timber trail has been installed ahead of the Easter holiday.

Newtown:

- The new changing rooms are expected to be operational by the summer.
- The play equipment has been repainted and refurbished with new seats and chains etc.
- The surfacing in the play area is due to be replaced in 2022.

Station ballcourt:

- The ballcourt surface and surrounding area has been spruced up.

6. Electric Vehicle ChargePoint:

- The Council installed an EV ChargePoint at the Community Centre in September 2021.
- The ChargePoint is averaging 60 vends per month and approx. 180 charging hours per month.
- The ChargePoint has been very well received by users and usage has increased as awareness has grown in the community.

7. Tree Management:

- Disley Parish Council commissioned a Trees' Condition Assessment for all trees on Council land in 2021.
- All Priority 1 (High) work has now been completed including the removal of a large unsafe tree in the Memorial Park overhanging the A6.
- Priority 2 work is due to be completed in 2022.
- Emergency tree work is undertaken as required.
- Trees work is completed by a specialist tree surgeon or the Parks and Assets Ranger who recently completed a City & Guilds Level 2 Cross cutting and maintenance course.

8. Communications:

- The Council's monthly eBulletin has over 600 subscribers receiving news updates and details of local events etc.
- The Disley News hardcopy newsletter is distributed twice per year and is hand delivered to every home and business in Disley and Newtown.
- The website at www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk has been updated with Electric Vehicle Charging, Environmental and Disley Volunteer Network pages recently.
- The Council produced a fully revised version of the Parish Map and Walking Guide which has been well-received.
- An updated version of the Disley Official Guide is due to be distributed shortly.

9. Village Events:

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As lockdown restrictions eased, the Parish Council was able to resume a number of village events.

- Civic Sunday – hosted by the Chair of the Council, Cllr. Sue Adams, this event in October acknowledged and celebrated villagers' contribution and support to the Disley & Newtown community.
- Remembrance Sunday – the first public Remembrance since lockdown, this was a very well-attended and poignant occasion.
- Christmas Extravaganza – Fireworks, Santa's Grotto and live music all made the extravaganza one of the highlights of the community year. The Christmas tree, Nativity scene and Disley's unique big presents gave the village a wonderful festive atmosphere.
- Litter picks – the Council organised two successful community litter picks in 2021.

10. Planning:

- During the year 2021/2022, the Parish Council debated and commented on 47 planning applications.
- The Council attended the public hearing for the Cheshire East Local Plan and spoke in defence of the green belt in Disley under the Site Allocations Draft Planning Document for housing needs to 2030.
- The appointed Planning Inspector has recommended that no areas of green belt should be made available for development before 2030.

11. Civic Awards and Commendations:

Each year the Parish Council presents awards to residents or groups who have made exceptional contributions to the Disley and Newtown community. The 2021 recipients were:

- Rhiannon Adams for volunteering work with Disley Beavers, the Friends of Dane Hill Close Play Area and Disley Forest School.
- Disley WI Committee for supporting members and the community throughout lockdown.
- Jenny Kidd for her long-term community support through coffee mornings, St. Mary's Church activities, PRIDE Well-dressing and Long Table Lunches.
- Glenys Millins for the personal support given directly to a neighbour during the pandemic and beyond.
- Lucy Mitchell for her work with Disley Forest School and Disley Beavers
- Jean Oakley for playing a leading role in village life for many years with the Rams Head Bowling Club, Cancer Research U.K. and more recently running the whist club.
- Tim Rogers as a member of the Friends of Disley Station and for contributing ideas and inspiration to make substantial improvements at the station.
- Connor Wyse, a young man with incredible community spirit who became the Disley Spiderman to put a smile on the faces of the local children and adults.

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In addition, Civic Commendation letters were presented to:

- Suzanne Gregson and Disley's Community Store for invaluable fundraising for the Disley community and beyond.
- Friends of Disley Station (FODS) for the improvements to make Disley Station attractive and welcoming.
- The Long Table Lunch team for delivering lunches to people's homes throughout the pandemic.

12. Parish Council enquiry service:

- The Parish Council dealt with 176 logged enquiries in 2021/22. This is up by 60% from the previous year, when the Council Offices were closed for periods during lockdown.
- The main issues were roads and pavements issues (38%), overgrown hedges and footpaths (8%), fly tipping (6%) and streetlighting issues (6%).
- Other enquiries included missed bin collections, drains and flooding, roadworks, dead animals, inconsiderate parking and grit bins.
- The Council signposted residents to relevant outside bodies such as Cheshire East Council, BT, United Utilities, the Environment Agency and Peaks & Plains Housing Trust.

13. Community Grants:

In 2021/22 the Parish Council awarded Community Grants to:

- Disley Allotment Association – for new fencing at Springfield allotments
- Disley Policing Team – for bike security marking kits
- Thomas Ouff Charity – for Public Liability insurance of land with public right of way.
- Friends of Dane Hill Park Play Area – for replacement play equipment.

14. Coronavirus:

- The Parish Council adopted a cautious approach to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, encouraging the continued use of face coverings and good room ventilation at the Community Centre.
- The Council continues to support the Street Co-ordinator Scheme with the fantastic help it provides in supporting the community.

15. Disley Volunteer Network:

- The Parish Council has recently set up a network for Disley and Newtown volunteers to encourage community involvement.
- There is a page on the Council's website containing volunteering opportunities, resources and general information.

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- The Council is looking to organise training for volunteers e.g. defibrillator and health walk training.

16. Health & Well-being:

- Healthwatch Cheshire East Bus visited Disley in October 2021 and a number of local issues were raised by residents in the recently published report. These issues are being followed up by the Parish Council.

17. Air Quality:

- A real-time analyser (RTA) is due to be installed in Disley shortly and this will measure particulates as well nitrogen dioxide levels. This is as a result of the on-going partnership between the Parish Council and Cheshire East Environmental Health.

Disley Parish Council projects and activities for 2022/23

Newtown Nature Trail and environmental initiatives:

- The Council is looking to create a nature trail around its extensive grounds in Newtown to encourage exercise, well-being and environmental awareness.
- Benches and interpretation boards are planned.
- Improved land management will lead to better biodiversity.
- Tree planting scheme.

Disley Community Showcase:

- The Parish Council will host a new event on Saturday 30th July at Disley Community Centre.
- The aims of the event are to highlight the fantastic array of voluntary and interest groups across the village and encourage membership and involvement.

Community Centre improvements:

A programme of improvements to this widely used community space include:

- renewing the entrance path and surrounding area.
- Installing exterior benches and planters.
- New seats for the Community Hall.
- Repainting the Hall.
- Improved exterior signage.

Parks and Play Areas:

- Removing and replacing the play area surfacing at Newtown Play Area.
- Continue to support improvements at the Dane Hill Close Play Area, owned by Cheshire East Council.

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6

To receive a report from the Chair of Disley Parish Council's Finance Committee on the Parish Council's finances for year ending 31st March 2022.

Cllr. Cath Birchall, the Chair of Disley Parish Council's Finance Committee, presented highlights of the Annual Finance Report which is reproduced in full below:

The balance sheet and finance report for Disley Parish Council for 2021/22 (subject to audit) is presented. All income and expenditure has been accounted for.

Introduction

In spite of what continued to be a difficult period for all, I am pleased to report a balanced 2021/22 Budget with a reasonable carry forward amount to 2022/23.

The restarting of Community Centre bookings and Community Transport outings in a careful and safe manner reduced the Council's losses from those services. The Parish Council did not increase the Annual Precept in 2021/22 but a small increase in the Taxbase calculation led to a small rise in the Precept amount received. This meant the Council was able to staff the Parish Office, carry out Parish maintenance and offer a wide range of Council services in a Covid safe manner. It was particularly pleasing to be able to hold live events, such as the Christmas Extravaganza, in 2021 and see Disley and Newtown families and neighbours celebrating together.

Income

Total income from all sources (excluding reclaimed VAT) was **£196,266** and the main items of income were as follows:

- Precept - £156,614 (Previous £155,272)
- Community Transport Scheme – £3,200 (Previous £280)
- Community Centre hire charges - £11,429 (Previous £1,891)
- Recharge to Cheshire East Council for Library Utility and Maintenance Costs - £4,224 (Previous £4,003)
- Cheshire East Volunteer Coordination Point Grant - £5,000
- Dept. for Transport Electric Vehicle Chargepoint grant - £3,215

Expenditure

Total expenditure was **£188,151** with the main items comprising:

- Salaries and wages - £94,508 (Previous £89,831)
- Community Centre - £12,637 (Previous £10,235)
- General office administration costs - £13,052 (Previous £12,715)
- Parish maintenance - £9,672 (Previous £7,072)
- Community Transport Scheme - £3,026 (Previous £2,152)
- Village Events - £8,683 (Previous £4,502)

Expenditure continued:

- Community Grants - £1,499 (Previous £1,239)
- Councillor Expenses - £0.00 (Previous £0.00)
- CCTV contribution - £3,819 (Previous £3,800)

Community Centre and Parish Offices

The net cost of running the Community Centre and Parish Offices (including building supervision) was £1,112.

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Community Bus Scheme

The Community Bus Scheme made a net profit (including admin charges) of £174 in 2021/22.

Capital expenditure

Streetlight LED replacement programme - £4,037

Timber trail at Arnold Rhodes - £9,679

Electric Vehicle Chargepoints - £4,660

Community Centre storage - £6,435

Reserves

Unallocated capital reserve - £53,539

Ginnel improvements - £20,000

Community Centre Development - £10,077

Newtown Playing Fields improvements - £10,430

Arnold Rhodes Playing Fields improvements - £321

Plans and budget for 2022/23

The Parish Council has set a Budget for 2022/23 with reference to the Disley and Newtown Parish Strategy (<https://disleyparishcouncil.org.uk/your-council/council-policy-documents/>) and councillors have identified priority areas for the coming year. These include improvements in and around Disley Community Centre and a number of environmental initiatives at Newtown Playing Fields.

If Disley and Newtown residents would like more detailed information on the Council's 2021/22 finances or the budgets for 2022/23, please contact the council offices on 01663 762726 or email admin@disleyparishcouncil.org.uk

2022/23 Precept

The Parish Council appreciates that many Disley and Newtown residents continue to experience financial pressures and is, therefore, proposing a modest increase of 2.23% to the precept for 2022/23. There was no increase in 2021/22.

The 2022/23 precept will total £161,520 with the annual precept for a Council Tax Band D home being £77.62, or the equivalent of £1.49 per week. The Council will use this money to provide community services, including:

- Disley Community Centre.
- Disley Community Bus Scheme.
- Parks and play areas.
- Three allotment sites.
- CCTV monitoring in the village centre.
- Village Ranger service.
- Community Grants.
- Village events, such as the Christmas Extravaganza and Queens Jubilee Picnic.
- Electric vehicle chargepoints.
- Village streetlighting.
- Disley & Newtown hanging baskets and planting.

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	Disley Parish Councillors receive no form of salary or allowance and give their time for the benefit of the Disley and Newtown community.
8	<p><u>Public forum - an opportunity for residents to raise any matters of Parish interest</u> Several items were raised and discussed by residents:</p> <p><u>Village carbon footprint and air quality issues</u> Cllr. Steve Birchall explained that the Parish Council is reviewing its own activities and purchasing to reduce its' carbon footprint. This included green energy gas and electricity contracts. A resident asked about the carbon footprint of the whole village and whether initiatives such as community energy schemes had been considered. Cllr. Steve Birchall invited the resident to the next meeting of the Council's Air Quality and Environmental Improvements Project Team.</p> <p><u>Dandy Cock outside structure</u> A resident raised an issue regarding the gazebo and frame in the Dandy Cock car park and that it was in the Conservation Area. The Council agreed to establish the legality of the structure.</p> <p><u>Thanks to Disley Parish Council</u> A resident gave a vote of thanks for all the Parish Council's efforts on behalf of the village.</p>
	<u>Finish time:</u> 8.35pm
	<u>SIGNED</u> <u>DATE</u>