

# DISLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Richard Holland** *Disley Parish Clerk*

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## **Disley Parish Council Annual Report 2022/23**

Chair's review of Disley Parish Council's (DPC) activities for 2022/23 prepared by Cllr. Sue Adams.

### **Introduction**

2022/23 has been a very busy and successful year for Disley Parish Council. However, like the community we serve, we face a challenging economic environment. I would like to thank fellow councillors and council officers for all their hard work, often going above and beyond to help provide high quality services for our community, as well as the many volunteers who help make a huge difference to life in Disley and Newtown.

### **Election of Officers for the year 2022/23**

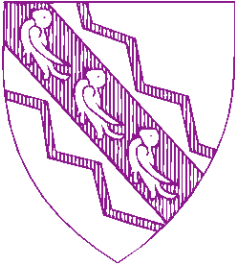
At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May 2022, the Council unanimously agreed:

- 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**

- The Community Hall is now fully booked most weekdays and evenings.
- Weekend bookings have increased significantly for private parties and one-off bookings and Council Officers are thanked for their help and flexibility to facilitate this.
- New regular hirers include a monthly NHS Children's Clinic and the Disley Friends carers group.
- A major programme of improvements at the Community Centre started in 2022/23 with a new roller shutter fitted to the entrance; the hall walls and woodwork being repainted; new curtains fitted and new exterior signage.
- The exterior of the Community Centre has benefitted from tarmacking of the rear side and new flags and turf being laid by the entrance.



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- Revenue generated by the Community Centre is at its highest ever level with a total in 2022/23 of £24,779.

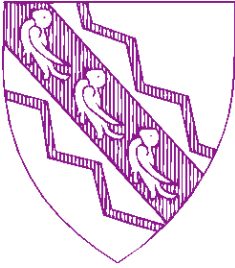
## 2. Ranger Service

Projects and work undertaken by the Parks and Assets Ranger and Village Centre Ranger included:

- Repairing and re-painting village benches and picnic tables.
- Removing fly tipping and graffiti at village hotspots.
- Installing new benches at Newtown Playing Fields.
- Installing new litter bins at Arnold Rhodes and the Ballcourt.
- Community Centre improvements such as installing storage racks, hanging acoustic boards and historical artefacts and installing shelving in the toilets.
- Maintaining Council assets such as the Community Bus, Ranger Van, allotment sites and play equipment.
- Locating the Council's speed indicator device (SID).
- Regular strimming, hedge-cutting and litter picking etc.
- Dressing the village for events such as Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Extravaganza.
- Creating safety railing for Remembrance Sunday at War Memorial.
- Safe use of pesticides training.

## 3. Community Bus Scheme:

- A full programme of social trips has been provided many of which have been fully booked. These include pub lunches and garden centres, and day trips such as Skipton, Southport, Liverpool and the ever popular Bury Market.
- The Weekly Shoppers Group continues to provide a vital service to some of the less-mobile members of the community.
- Six new volunteer drivers received accredited training this year, increasing the total number of drivers to 13, ensuring we can provide a regular and varied service.
- Sadly, the bus was the target of thieves and vandals in 2022/23 with the fuel tank damaged and a full tank of fuel stolen, and in a separate incident, the rear windows and a rear light were smashed. These led to the bus being off the road for a while, but Council Officers worked hard to secure and repair the bus in a very timely manner to minimise disruption.



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- Some new group hirers joined the scheme during the year and we were delighted to see the bus used as a shuttle service for Disley Show and the Community Bonfire and Firework display held at Disley Golf Club.

## 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 to 6 people.
- Rental charges had to be increased from 15p to 18p per square metre in January 2023. This was due to the fact that there had been no increase for 6 years and water charges and allotment maintenance costs had increased significantly.
- Two site inspections were carried out during the year to ensure allotments were being fully cultivated and well-maintained.
- Council Rangers continue to trim site paths and clear vacant plots as well as undertaking minor tree and hedge work.

## 5. Parks and Play Areas.

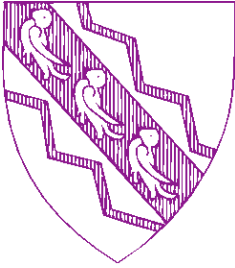
The Council's parks, play areas and outdoor gym are subject to an annual independent safety inspection and monthly safety inspections by the RoSPA qualified, Parks and Assets Ranger.

### Arnold Rhodes:

- Safety work to the cableway, rotator and multi-play unit has been undertaken.
- A programme of strimming and foliage removal has continued.
- A vandalised sign was repaired and reinstated.
- A new litter bin was installed.

### Newtown:

- The new changing rooms are nearing completion with just a few final snagging items to be completed.
- The surfacing in the play area is due to be relandscaped in 2023.
- Two new benches were fitted in the top field. One was kindly donated by a local resident.



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- Major drainage work was undertaken in a field adjoining the football pitch to repair a drain from a spring which was leaking significantly.

## **Station ballcourt:**

- A close-top litter bin was fitted near the shelter.
- Foliage around the entrance has been tidied up.

## **6. Electric Vehicle Charge Point:**

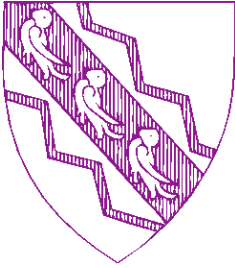
- The Council's EV Charge Point at the Community Centre is averaging 71 vends per month and approx. 252 charging hours per month.
- In the last 12 months over 17,000 kilowatt hours of energy was dispensed from the charge point.

## **7. Tree Management:**

- Disley Parish Council continues to manage the trees on its land in line with the 2021 Trees Condition Assessment Report.
- All Priority 1 (High risk) and Priority 2 (medium risk) work has now been completed.
- Additional trees were made safe on Red Lane and at Hagg Bank allotments.
- Major trees work is completed by a specialist tree surgeon and minor works by the Parks and Assets Ranger.
- A refreshed Trees Condition Assessment Report is due in early 2024.

## **8. Communications:**

- The Council's monthly eBulletin has 700 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 businesses in Disley and Newtown.
- The website at [www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk) is regularly updated and was used as a central source of information following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.
- The Parish Council has engaged a freelance Media Assistant to increase the council's presence on social media and assist with the e-Bulletin and Disley News.



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- The 2022/23 edition of Disley Official Guide was distributed in 2022.

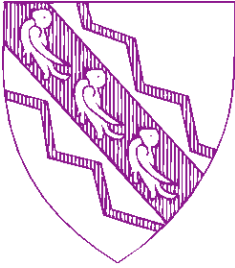
## 9. Village Events:

The Parish Council organised a varied programme of events over the past 12 months.

- **Big Jubilee Picnic** – this was one of a number of events held in the village over the jubilee weekend. Severe rain decreed that the picnic was moved indoors to the Community Hall but the event was enjoyed by everyone with the highlight being the Jubilee Cake competition. Village decorations put up by the Parish Council added to the weekend of celebrations.
- **Community Showcase** – this was a new Parish Council event aiming to show off the fantastic array of clubs, societies and interest groups in the village. The Showcase provided an opportunity for organisations to attract new members and visitors to meet like-minded people. Twenty organisations took part and the event was so successful, it is hoped to make it a biennial event.
- **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** – this was a very well-attended and poignant occasion. In response to resident feedback, the Parish Council engaged a traffic management company, supported by local volunteers, to stop the traffic for the service and 2-minute silence. The Council's public address system was used to improve the sound quality of Rev. Cornes' service.
- **Christmas Extravaganza** – Fireworks, Santa's Grotto, face painting, festive food and live music all made the extravaganza one of the highlights of the community year. The Christmas trees, Nativity scene and Disley's unique big Christmas presents gave the village a wonderful festive atmosphere.
- **Litter picks** – the Council organised a successful community litter pick in April 2022. Unfortunately, the Autumn litter pick was cancelled out of respect, following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

## 10. Planning:

- During the year 2022/2023, the Parish Council debated and commented on 35 planning applications.



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## 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 2022 recipients were:

- Charley Cooley and Hugh Wheeler for their work with the Disley Footpaths Society to maintain the local network of footpaths.
- Gaynor Casey for her contribution in creating Disley Community Choir and organising musical events in the village over many years.
- Jennifer Ingham as a representative of the healthcare workers of Disley & Newtown who contributed to village well-being during the Coronavirus pandemic.

In addition, Civic Commendation letters were presented to:

- Disley Community Choir.
- Disley Library staff.
- Disley & Newtown Good Neighbours.
- Disley Pharmacy staff.

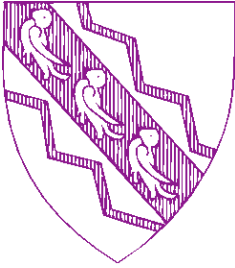
## 12. Parish Council enquiry service:

- The Parish Council dealt with 112 logged enquiries in 2022/23.
- The main issues were roads and pavements issues (17%), fly tipping (13%), missed bin collections (10%), overgrown hedges and trees (9%), condition of public footpaths (9%) and streetlighting issues (7%).
- Other enquiries included drains and flooding, roadworks, dead animals, inconsiderate parking, reports of vandalism and grit bins.
- The Council signposted residents to relevant outside bodies such as Cheshire East Council, BT, United Utilities, Cheshire Police, the Environment Agency and Peaks & Plains Housing Trust.

## 13. Community Grants:

In 2022/23 the Parish Council awarded Community Grants to:

- St Mary's Tots for running costs and replacement toys.
- Ram's Head Bowling Club for bowling green improvements.
- Basement Youth Club for a sofa, sports equipment and gazebo.



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- Disley & Newtown Climate Action Group for meeting room hire and publicity material.
- Disley Parochial Church Council for a musical proms event.

## 14. Disley Volunteer Network:

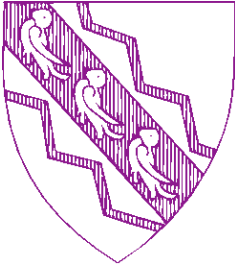
- The Parish Council administers the Disley Volunteer Network (DVN) to encourage community involvement.
- In 2022, DVN helped recruit volunteers for Good Neighbours, the Friends of Disley Station and Remembrance Sunday marshalling.
- DVN also facilitated volunteer training for atrial fibrillation ambassadors, Cheshire East Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.

## 15. Health & Well-being:

- Defibrillator & CPR Training – The Parish Council organised free defibrillator & CPR training in August with North West Ambulance Service.
- The Cheshire East Stay Well Squad visited Disley Community Centre in October and February providing free health checks and advice.
- Warm Spaces – The Parish Council received a grant of £1,000 from Cheshire East Council which was used to fund a simple soup and a roll lunch twice a month during winter months and a programme of Sunday afternoon film shows at Disley Community Centre. It is hoped that the lunches will continue as they have proved to be very popular, and the film shows, which were well attended, may re-start from next Autumn if volunteers come forward to help run them.
- Disley Friends Social – This is a new group for carers and cared for that started in January and takes place on the second Friday afternoon each month at Disley Community Centre. There is music, singing, various activities including bingo and plenty of tea and cake. It is a good opportunity to meet people and make new friends and the group is dementia friendly.

## 16. Air Quality:

- Real-time analyser (RTA) – This was installed recently on Market Street and measures particulates as well as nitrogen dioxide. The centre of Disley is an AQMA (Air Quality Management Area). The first quarterly report should be



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available from Cheshire East shortly. Going forward the reports will be available in April, July, October and January.

## **Disley Parish Council additional projects and activities for 2023/24**

- Newtown Play Area – Relandscaping of play surfacing, new gates, picnic bench and bins etc.
- Newtown Playing Fields – tree planting and creation of Queen Elizabeth II Wood.
- Community Centre – New chairs and renovation of the floor in the community hall. New exterior benches and bins.
- Coronation Weekend – Decorating the village for the Coronation celebrations.
- Refresh of the Disley and Newtown Parish Strategy.