1 Disley Parish - Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Disley Community Centre on Friday 21st April 2023 at 7.00pm.

All Disley and Newtown residents are invited to attend.

At a meeting held in pursuance of the above notice (copies having been displayed throughout the Parish) the following business was transacted:

<u>Present</u>

Cllrs. Adams (Chair), Mrs Birchall, Hutchins, Pattison and Windsor and the Parish Clerk.

Members of the public = 8 Start time: 7.00pm

2 <u>To receive, and if approved, confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held</u> on Friday 8th April 2022.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 8th April 2022 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr. Pattison **Seconded**: Cllr. Windsor **Unanimously agreed**.

3 To receive an update from National Trust Lyme on upcoming project works.

Kellie Scott and Alex Swift from NT Lyme addressed the meeting, stating that the current planning application was a proposal for a new car park, and was the first of a series of developments at Lyme, which aim to reduce the impact of flooding events at Lyme and in the wider community; provide a better experience for people who visit and reduce the impacts that operating Lyme has on the local area. Moving the car park will allow watercourses under the current car park to be uncovered, to reduce the impact of heavy downpours. Moving the car park will also allow better accommodation for the cars visiting Lyme, meaning they can get through the admissions but and off the A6 at a quicker pace.

The proposal is not about increasing the number of cars, it is about having surfacing and drainage to improve and speed up the cars getting off the A6 and into the property.

The admissions hut and car park planning application have been separated but the design for the admissions area will be available in the coming months. If the proposals are accepted, the car park and the admissions area will be done together to resolve the underlying issue of the A6 as speedily as possible.

Other works hoped for Lyme include improved accessibility for both visitor facilities and around the garden and the house; green travel through the Travel Plan in partnership with other organisations and community groups to support rail transport and cyclists.

A resident highlighted the objections to moving the car park on social media and the damage that may be caused to the dressage area. Lyme responded that they were trying to engage with all objectors as much as possible. A resident also reported that Lyme needed to consider transport inside and outside the park, particularly over the summer. Cllr. Pattison invited Lyme to use the Community Centre for a local community engagement session. A resident asked for details of how admissions and the entrance was due to be improved and Lyme explained the

challenges of the narrow entrance and the need for flexibility for quiet and busy times. Lyme confirmed that the final plans would be announced shortly.

The Chair thanked Kellie and Alex for their presentation.

4 To receive an update from Disley Library regarding library services.

Pam Jones, the Senior Library Assistant at Poynton and Disley Libraries addressed the meeting, highlighting that all library opening times were under review and requesting residents to use the library as much as possible.

As well as being a lending service of books, the library also performs a lot of Cheshire East Council services such as verifying evidence for blue badge, bus pass and benefit applications, issuing codes for senior and disabled railcard applications, verifying evidence for DBS applications.

Disley Library was a designated warm space with hot drinks and jigsaws that people can help to complete. There is a Keen Cooks Reading Group and computers that people can use for free.

Library members can also borrow e-books, e-audio books and e-magazines which are completely free. There are free online services available to library members such as Ancestry and Which magazine.

The home library service provides a service to those who are housebound through age or infirmity with library staff choosing books or audio CDs and volunteers delivering them. The library provides work experience opportunities for school students and volunteering opportunities for young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh award. The Summer Reading Challenge provides more volunteering opportunities

Children's events and services include free weekly Baby Bounce sessions, Rhymetime, Lego Club and craft activities during the school holidays.

The Summer Reading Challenge programme challenges children to come to the library at least 4 times during the school summer holidays and read 6 library books.

Disley Library staff were proud to receive a civic award in October for their services to the community and the click and collect service during lockdown was specifically mentioned.

A resident asked for details about the proposed change of opening hours and Pam responded that every library had to reduce its hours by $1 \frac{1}{2}$ days. The specific for Disley had not yet been decided and there would be further consultation after the May elections.

The Chair thanked Pam for her presentation.

To receive an update from the Schoolhouse Surgery on the Middlewood Partnership.

Dr. Maurice addressed the meeting and began by stating that the Schoolhouse Surgery would not be closing or reducing its hours. He highlighted the difficulties within the NHS, both in hospitals and general practice. Dr. Maurice said that over 900 GP surgeries had closed over the last 10 years, but the number of GP appointments had increased. The Schoolhouse Surgery's appointments had increased by 33%. He highlighted that the Schoolhouse was offering an 8am to 8pm

service most days. Dr. Maurice welcomed the Governments' commitment to new GPs but was worried that too many doctors were still leaving the country or the profession.

A resident asked about hospital waiting times e.g., for x-rays, and Dr. Maurice agreed that waiting times were too long. Particularly for urgent treatments. A resident reported that he had been offered an appointment in Bollington or Poynton but as he couldn't drive, he had to wait for a Disley appointment. Dr. Maurice commented on issues with NHS supplies and cited an example where a Covid vaccine session had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a lack of vaccine supplies.

Cllr. Pattison asked if there were plans for an out-of-hours service, like New Mills but Dr. Maurice said that Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Trust was not using this model and the only options were the pharmacy or A and E. It was highlighted that Disley residents could use New Mills Out of Hours in an absolute emergency.

A resident asked if the Schoolhouse Surgery was having issues recruiting clinical staff and Dr, Maurice replied that there were no issues with this.

The Chair thanked Dr. Maurice for his presentation.

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 2023.

Cllr. Adams presented highlights of the Chairs Annual Report which is reproduced in full below:

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.
- 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.

• 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 strim 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.
- 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 <u>www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk</u> 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.
- 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.

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.
- 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

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.

7 <u>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 2023.</u>

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 2022/23 (subject to audit) is presented. All income and expenditure has been accounted for.

Introduction

At the start of the present Councils' 4-year tenure we worked with the staff on a strategy to guide the Council's priorities for 2020 to 2023. Obviously, events side-tracked us somewhat, but we regularly checked and updated the strategy to ensure day to day operations were still in line with the vision and core values and to determine which capital projects we wished to prioritise. This review took place at the start of this financial year and the figures below demonstrate how the funds available were used to meet these goals in 2022/23.

Income

Total income from all sources (excluding reclaimed VAT) was £215,749 and the main items of income were as follows:

- Precept £161,520 (Previous £156,614)
- Community Transport Scheme £7,297 (Previous £3,200)
- Community Centre hire charges £18,275 (Previous £11,726)
- Recharge to Cheshire East Council for Library Utility and Maintenance Costs £6,504 (Previous £4,224).
- Electric Vehicle Chargepoint £3,517 (Previous £1,039).
- Land rental income £7,905 (Previous £6,910)
- Cheshire East Council Connected Communities Grant £3,000

Expenditure

Total expenditure was £226,369 with the main items comprising:

- Salaries and wages £115,806 (Previous £94,507)
- Community Centre £15,808 (Previous £12,637)
- General office administration costs £19,375 (Previous £16,054)
- Parish maintenance £7,532 (Previous £9,731)
- Community Transport Scheme £5,701 (Previous £3,057)
- Village Events £9,527 (Previous £8,787)
- Emergency drainage works at Newtown Playing Fields £6,115
- Community Centre capital expenditure £20,237 (Funded from Reserves)
- Councillor Expenses £0.00 (Previous £0.00)
- CCTV contribution £3,819 (Previous £3,819)

Community Centre and Parish Offices

The net cost of running the Community Centre and Parish Offices (including building supervision) was £7,651.

Community Bus Scheme

The Community Bus Scheme made a net profit (including admin charges) of £394 in 2022/23.

Capital expenditure (major items)

Streetlight LED replacement programme - £1,497

Newtown benches and picnic tables - £1,188

Community Centre roller shutter door - £2,365

Community Hall repainting - £3,023

Community Centre chairs - £4,646 (Pro Forma)

Community Centre exterior groundworks - £8,800

Reserves

Unallocated capital reserve - £38.348

Community Centre Development - £9,430

Community Bus Depreciation - £15,000

Newtown Playing Fields improvements - £18,287

Arnold Rhodes Playing Fields improvements - £5,321

Plans and budget for 2023/24

The Parish Council has set a Budget for 2023/24 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.

If Disley and Newtown residents would like more detailed information on the Council's 2022/23 finances or the budgets for 2023/24, please contact the council offices on 01663 762726 or email admin@disleyparishcouncil.org.uk Financial information is also available on the Parish Council website at www.disleyparishcouncil.org

2023/24 Precept

Each year, Disley Parish Council sets a parish precept as part of the Council Tax, to help fund the many services it provides to Disley & Newtown.

Through prudent financial management, the Parish Council has minimised the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, and revenue from the Community Centre and Community Bus have now fully recovered. However, the results of the current financial crisis, particularly on energy costs and staff salaries, have impacted the Council's running costs.

The Parish Council appreciates that many Disley & Newtown residents are also experiencing financial pressures and, therefore, it is proposed that there will be a small increase of 2% to the precept for 2023/24. The new precept figure will equate to £79.20 per year for a Council Tax Band D home, or the equivalent of £1.52 per week.

The Parish Council believe that this still represents excellent value for money considering the services it provides, 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.
- The Council's website, Disley News magazine and eBulletins.
- Village events such as the Christmas Extravaganza.
- Electric vehicle chargepoints.
- Village streetlighting.
- Disley & Newtown hanging baskets and planting

The Parish Council acknowledges the hard work of its staff and the generous help given by village volunteers. It should be noted that Disley Parish Councillors receive no form of salary or allowance and give their time for the benefit of the Disley and Newtown community.

8 Public forum - an opportunity for residents to raise any matters of Parish interest.

A resident asked if the local pollution group was still running. Cllr. Adams replied that the new Real Time Analyzer (RTA) by the Dandy Cock was now working but was only providing quarterly reports. Disley is the only location in Cheshire East to have an RTA. Cllr. Adams raised the effect of wood burners on air quality as well as traffic and that this needed to be raised with Cheshire East Council. She also highlighted the need to continue encouraging the use of electric vehicles. A resident raised concerns that simply gathering data would not result in improvements and that other initiatives such as getting local quarries to transport more aggregate on the railways needed to be undertaken. Cllr. Adams suggested that air quality was likely to be reassessed as part of the new council in May.

A resident raised the importance of the Community Centre to so many residents and wished to thank PRIDE for all its hard work in the village.

Thanks were given to all the outgoing parish councillors for all their efforts over the past four years.

Finish time: 8.20pm
<u>SIGNED</u> <u>DATE</u>

