

**MINUTES OF THE DISLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 2024 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 26th April 2024 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:</p>
<u>Present</u>	<p>Cllrs. Brownbill (Chair), Bull, Pattison, Ross, Scale and Windsor and the Parish Clerk. Members of the public = 27 Start time: 7.00pm</p>
2	<p><u>To receive, and if approved, confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 21st April 2023.</u> The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 21st April 2023 were confirmed as a true and accurate record. Proposed: Cllr. Pattison Seconded: Cllr. Windsor Unanimously agreed.</p>
3	<p><u>To receive a presentation from the St. Mary's Church 500 team outlining their plans for the year.</u> David Kidd from the St. Mary's Church 500 team addressed the meeting highlighting that St. Mary's Church was 500 years old in 2024 and that a programme of restoration was needed to preserve it for the future. Feedback from a recent church survey showed that villagers valued the heritage of St. Mary's even if they were not church-goers. David reported that the first priority was to restore the tower. This would cost approximately £200,000 and the church was applying for grants and fund-raising in the community. David highlighted that the day-to-day costs of running the church came from regular church-goers but this left no money for building restoration and upkeep. David reflected that the church had value to the community beyond its religious aspects such as outreach and the community support it offered. David thanked the Parish Council for the Community Grants it had provided and for its support with church grounds maintenance. David highlighted the next church events were the Fete 500 on the May Day Bank Holiday and a recital by Voci Voices. David said that some funds had been raised but that there was still much more needed and asked the village for any support it could provide. The Chair thanked David for his presentation.</p>
4	<p><u>To receive an overview from Disley Primary School of current and future plans</u> Unfortunately, due to an emergency at the school, the Head and Deputy Head were not able to attend the meeting. Alex Swift from NT Lyme kindly agreed to provide an overview of the latest developments at Lyme. Alex informed the meeting that the issues of parking and traffic at Lyme were still being addressed and that the focus this year would be on the Admissions Hut and speeding up entry to reduce traffic issues on the A6. A new hut had been installed near Admissions to test the effect of extra entry points and payment-on-exit on traffic flows. Lyme was collating feedback from tenants and visitors on trials of the new system. A resident asked if the bottleneck at the entrance gates could be addressed. Alex replied that, as the gates were listed monuments, they could not</p>

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	<p>be moved. Alex highlighted the dangers of the 40mph speed limit on the A6 at the entrance and that Lyme was lobbying for a speed reduction. Alex also explained that Lyme was trying to better manage traffic flows by splitting the timings of large events and by encouraging visitors to cycle or use public transport. A resident asked why the plans to move the car park had been shelved. Alex replied that as the Planning Authority and Lyme could not agree on the plans and details, the planning application would most likely have been rejected, so the decision had been taken to revoke the application. A resident raised the issue of the bottleneck around the café within the park and Alex said that a pop-up café was due to be trialled to take some of the strain off the Timber Yard Café.</p> <p>The Chair highlighted that the Parish Council and Lyme had worked closely together over the past few years and this had helped secure double-yellow lines on Coppice Lane which would prevent over-parking by Lyme visitors in that area. He also reported that a Cheshire East Highways speed assessment was imminent on Lyme Park bends to assess the speed limit. The Chair thanked Alex for her presentation and highlighted how fortunate the village was to have such a fantastic amenity nearby.</p>
5	<p><u>To receive an update on Policing in the village from the Disley Policing Team.</u></p> <p>PCSO Rob Evans and PC Jane Nuttall addressed the meeting and highlighted the Home Security Service initiative and Resident's Voice Survey. PCSO Evans introduced PC Nuttall who had recently taken over from long-standing Disley PC, Dave Jackson. It was reported that overall Disley had individual issues and not major on-going problems. PCSO Evans asked residents to use the Resident's Voice forms to provide feedback and invited residents to attend the regular Police surgeries at the Community Centre. PCSO Evans highlighted that the Police could be contacted through 999 for emergencies, 101 for non-emergencies, the Police website and social media and the new Call Point on the Community Centre wall.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Rob and Jane for their presentation and for all their help and efforts on behalf of the community.</p>
6	<p><u>To receive a report from the Chair of Disley Parish Council on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year and its' plans for 2024.</u></p> <p>Cllr. Simon Brownbill asked attendees to sign up for the Parish Council eBulletin and then presented highlights of the Chairs Annual Report which is reproduced in full below:</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>As our community continues to develop and grow, this past year has proven to be yet another busy period for the Parish Council. We now boast a record nine councillors, among whom is Cllr. Sue Adams, who also serves as our Cheshire East Ward Councillor. I wish to acknowledge Cllr. Adams for her tireless efforts, which have played a crucial role in reinstating a clearer demarcation between the functions of the Parish Council and Cheshire East. Whilst the situation at Cheshire East remains challenging, I am confident that we have the very best representation. I also extend my gratitude to my fellow councillors and council staff for their tireless dedication, often exceeding expectations to deliver top-notch services for our community. Additionally, I express deep appreciation for the numerous volunteers</p>

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who work alongside us contributing significantly to enhance life in Disley and Newtown.

Furthermore, I want to take this opportunity to offer a special thank you to Richard Holland, the Parish Clerk for the past eight years. Richard's leadership has been transformative for the Council, and he deserves our sincerest thanks and our very best wishes for his retirement.

Election of Officers for the year 2023/24

Borough and Town/Parish elections were held on 4th May 2023 at which five new Parish councillors and a new Cheshire East Council ward councillor were elected. At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May 2023, the Council appointed:

- Chair of the Council – Cllr. Simon Brownbill.
- Vice Chair – Cllr. Jackie Pattison.
- Chair of the Planning Committee – Cllr. Jackie Pattison.
- Chair of the Finance Committee – Cllr. Jean Windsor.

The chair recorded thanks to all the out-going Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the village. Cllr. Brownbill outlined his hopes that the larger, and more diverse, Council would be able to take on new initiatives and that there would be stronger engagement with Cheshire East Council.

Disley Parish Council Services and activities

1. Community Centre

- The Community Hall was utilised by regular hirers most weekdays and evenings and weekend bookings included Messy Church, children's birthday parties and many fund-raising events. The council continues to receive regular enquiries about hall availability.
- The Parish Council welcomed a new weekly hirer, the FIT Programme social exercise class.
- Saturday coffee mornings – the majority of Saturdays were booked with the library kindly covering any gaps.
- The programme of improvements at the Centre continued in 2023/24 with new chairs and curtains and renovation of the hall floor. Outside the building, additional hardstanding was installed front and back and new benches and bins were fitted.
- A 50" display monitor, donated by Cheshire East Council, was installed in the library window to advertise events and news for the village.

2. Ranger Service

Projects and work undertaken by the two Council Rangers in 2023/24 included:

- Installing benches and bins at the Community Centre.
- Installing new cycle racks, picnic table and fencing at Newtown Play Area.
- Renovating the youth shelter at the Station Ball Court.
- Installing a new defibrillator at Newtown Playing Fields.
- Removing fly tipping from village hotspots.
- Maintaining Council assets such as the Community Bus, Ranger Van, allotment sites and play equipment.

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- Partnering on specific projects with village groups such as Disley Footpaths Society and the Friends of Disley Station.
- Dressing the village for events such as Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Extravaganza.
- Regular tidying, litter picking, strimming, hedge-cutting and improvement work in the village centre.

3. Community Bus Scheme:

- A full programme of social trips has been provided throughout the year, many of which have been fully booked.
- Outings included pub lunches, garden centres, shopping trips and day trips to Holmfirth, Llangollen, Port Sunlight, Haworth, Colwyn Bay and many more.
- The Weekly Shoppers Group continued to be well utilised, providing a vital service to some less mobile residents.
- A team of 13 volunteer drivers gave their time and support to the scheme, for which the Council is truly grateful.
- Some new groups hired the bus during the year, and it was used as a shuttle service for Disley Show and the Community Bonfire and Firework display at Disley Golf Club.

4. Allotments:

- The Council owns 34 allotment plots across Hagg Bank, Springfield and Greystones in Newtown.
- 7 new tenants were welcomed over the past 12 months and the waiting list stands at 6 people.
- Two site inspections were carried out during the year to ensure that plots were fully cultivated and well-maintained.
- Council Rangers continued to maintain paths and vacant plots and undertook some minor tree and hedge work.

5. Parks and Play Areas.

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

Newtown:

- The new changing rooms are now fully operational.
- An external defibrillator was fitted to the changing room wall.
- The play area was relandscaped with new play area surfacing, fencing, gate, picnic bench and bins installed.
- A Community Tree Planting session in the top field created a new wood in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

Station ballcourt:

- The ballcourt shelter was re-painted and the lights over the ballcourt were repaired.

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Memorial Park

- Extensive bush and tree pruning was undertaken.
- The Jubilee stone and Memorial plinth have been cleaned.

6. Electric Vehicle ChargePoint:

- The Parish Council's EV ChargePoint at the Community Centre continues to be well used and averaged 75 vends per month.

7. Tree Management:

- The Parish Council commissioned a Trees' Safety Condition Assessment for all trees on Council land in March 2024.
- All Priority 1 (High) and some Priority 2 (Medium) work is due to be completed in 2024.
- Tree work is completed by a specialist tree surgeon, with smaller jobs undertaken by the Parks and Assets Ranger who has a City & Guilds Level 2 Crosscutting and maintenance qualification.

8. Communications:

- The Council's monthly eBulletin had 734 subscribers, receiving news updates and details of local events etc.
- Two editions of the Disley News hardcopy newsletter were distributed in the year. This was hand delivered to every home and businesses in Disley and Newtown.
- The website at www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk was regularly updated with council meeting information, news and events etc.
- The Council's freelance Media Assistant continued to increase the council's presence on social media and contributed to the eBulletin, Disley News and website.

9. Village Events:

The Parish Council has organised a varied programme of events over the past 12 months, including:

- **Coronation Weekend in May** – the Council decorated the village for the Coronation celebrations with Union Flags over the bins and planters, flags down Market Street and bunting at the Ram Green.
- **Civic Sunday** – Chair of the Council, Cllr. Simon Brownbill hosted this event in October which included the awarding of Community Star Awards. (See below).
- **Remembrance Sunday** – this was very well-attended and was a poignant occasion. The Parish Council engaged a Traffic Management company, supported by volunteers, to halt traffic at the Ram's Head crossroads to ensure the Service of Remembrance has due gravitas.
- **Christmas Extravaganza** – Fireworks, Santa's Grotto, face painting, festive food and live music all made the extravaganza one of the highlights of the

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community year. The Christmas trees, 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 2023.

10. Planning:

- During the year 2023/2024, the Parish Council debated and submitted comments on 39 planning applications.

11. Civic Awards and Commendations:

- 2023 saw the launch of the Parish Council's new Community Star Awards and a brand-new youth award presented in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- The awards acknowledged the extraordinary contributions made by Disley & Newtown residents to the lives of others in the local community. The 2023 recipients were:

Community Star Awards:

- Jane Ball for her tireless work of many years as a volunteer for 1st Disley Beavers.
- Helen Boardman for her dedication in looking out for the elderly in the community and being such a good neighbour to all.
- Kevin Breegan for litter picking, maintaining the Baptist Church gardens and making the Ram's Head bowling green such a beautiful space.
- Sarah Bunnage for providing volunteer support to the children of Disley Primary School as well as being a School Governor and supporting her neighbours in the wider community.
- Lindsey Pollard for her many acts of kindness including providing residents with transport, and helping with Cuppa an' a Chat, Good Neighbours and Community Speedwatch.

QEI Youth Awards:

- Connie Dean and Isabelle Payne for volunteering with 1st Disley Beavers as Young Leaders and being consistently helpful, cheerful and positive and being real assets to the Scouting community and to the whole village.

Civic Commendation:

- Jackie Pringle of Slimming World, Disley for her tireless dedication to supporting residents on their weight loss and healthy eating programmes.

12. Parish Council enquiry service:

- The Parish Council dealt with 64 logged enquiries in 2023/24.
- The main issues related to roads and pavements (28%), streetlighting (16%) and overgrown hedges and trees (9%).
- Other enquiries included drains and flooding, roadworks, disposal of dead animals, inconsiderate parking, vandalism and graffiti and fly tipping.

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- The Council continued to signpost residents to many outside bodies such as Cheshire East Council, BT, United Utilities, Cheshire Police, the Environment Agency and Peaks & Plains Housing Trust.

13. Community Grants:

In 2023/24 the Parish Council awarded Community Grants to:

- Disley Arts Society – for posters and flyers for a recruitment campaign.
- 1st Disley Scouts – for new dome tents for younger members.
- Ram's Head Bowling Club – for children's bowling kits to encourage youth involvement.
- Disley Community Choir – for the cost of a musical accompanist.
- Basement Youth Club – for a laptop for competitions and games.
- Disley Parochial Church Council – for a musical proms event.

14. Village Health and Well-being:

- Defibrillator and CPR Training – the Parish Council organised free community defib and CPR training in June.
- Warm Places – The Parish Council supported Warm Places initiatives during the winter months, such as soup and a roll lunches, a programme of Sunday afternoon film shows at Disley Community Centre and refreshments for users of Disley Library. It is hoped that these initiatives will restart in the Autumn.
- The Parish Council supported many other health and well-being activities such as Disley Friends Group for carers and the cared for, Disley Bereavement Group and FIT Classes for falls prevention.
- The Council also promoted and hosted health and well-being events such as an NHS Menopause Session, Community Connect for people with a learning disability and Time to Talk dementia advice,

15. Flexilink Bus Service: The Parish Council collaborated with Ansa to introduce a weekly Flexilink bus service from Disley to Handforth Dean and Poynton on alternate Tuesday mornings. Over 35 Disley and Newtown residents registered with the service and passenger feedback was excellent.

16. Air Quality:

The Parish Council and Cheshire East Environmental Health partnered to install a real-time analyser (RTA) near the Dandy Cock to measure particulates as well nitrogen dioxide levels. This has allowed far more regular and accurate air quality data to be collected in the village.

17. Disley and Newtown Parish Strategy

Councillors and Council Officers dedicated a day off site to develop a new Disley and Newtown Parish Strategy for the next four years. This is due to be published in Summer 2024.

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	<p><u>Specific projects and activities for 2024/25</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Centre – Further improvements are planned to include non-slip flooring in the foyer, rear entrance and toilets, replacement windows for hall, library and Clerk's office, plumbing improvements and a new storeroom in the rear lobby. • Disley Community Showcase – An event in July will showcase the fantastic array of clubs, societies and interest groups in Disley and Newtown. • Arnold Rhodes Playing Field – Improvements will include repairs to the play area surfacing, new goalposts and surfacing around the goalposts and the installation of car park barriers. <p>A resident asked about the availability of live air quality data from the monitor in the village. Cllr. Brownbill responded that unfortunately, Cheshire East Council cannot provide live data but that up-to-date figures are available on the Parish Council website.</p>
7	<p><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 2024.</u></p> <p>Cllr. Jean Windsor, the Chair of Disley Parish Council's Finance Committee, presented highlights of the Annual Finance Report which is reproduced in full below:</p> <p>The balance sheet and finance report for Disley Parish Council for 2023/24 (subject to audit) is presented in summary below. All income and expenditure has been accounted for.</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Since the inception of the present Council in 2023, in conjunction with Council Officers, we have updated the Parish Strategy to take us forward to 2027. By adhering to the Strategy, the Parish Council ensures that it still provides good value for money for residents. An increase in the precept was unavoidable but ensures that the Parish Council can continue to provide all the services it does, including the ever-popular Christmas Extravaganza. The figures below show how we met our aims for 2023/24 and the full accounts appear on our website.</p> <p>Income</p> <p>Total income from all sources (excluding reclaimed VAT) was £234,093 and the main items of income were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Precept - £164,600 (Previous £161,520) • Community Centre hire charges - £17,937 (Previous £18,275) • Recharge to Cheshire East Council (for Library Utility and Maintenance Costs) - £6,311 (Previous £6,504). • Community Transport Scheme – £10,421 (Previous £7,297) • Land rental income - £6,135 (Previous £7,905) • Electric Vehicle Chargepoints - £3,854 (Previous £3,517). <p>Expenditure</p> <p>Total expenditure was £238,675 with the main items comprising:</p>

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- Salaries and wages - £126,954 (Previous £115,806)
- Community Centre costs - £17,655 (Previous £15,808)
- Newtown Playing Fields and Play Area capital expenditure - £16,756 (Funded from Reserves)
- General office administration costs - £15,626 (Previous £19,375)
- Village Events - £11,526 (Previous £9,527)
- Community Centre capital expenditure - £6,567 (Funded from Reserves)

- Media Services – £5,850
- Community Transport Scheme costs - £4,675 (Previous £5,701)
- CCTV contribution - £3,819 (Previous £3,819)
- Parish maintenance - £3,396 (Previous £7,532)
- Councillor Expenses - £0.00 (Previous £0.00)

Community Centre and Parish Offices

The net cost of running the Community Centre and Parish Offices (including building supervision) was £12,989. (£24,248 income less £37,237 expenditure).

Community Bus Scheme

The Community Bus Scheme made a net profit (including admin charges) of £3,946 in 2023/24.

Capital expenditure (major items)

Streetlight LED replacement programme - £4,750.

Newtown Play Area landscaping, resurfacing and fencing - £13,907.

Newtown Changing Rooms defibrillator unit - £920.

Community Hall floor refurbishment - £2,091.

Community Centre exterior benches and litter bins - £4,210

Reserves

Working balance reserve - £44,061

Unallocated capital reserve - £23,132

Community Centre Development - £21,785

Community Bus Depreciation - £18,000

Arnold Rhodes Playing Fields improvements - £5,321.

Plans and budget for 2024/25

The Parish Council has approved a Budget for 2024/25 which is available to view on the Council's website at: <https://disleyparishcouncil.org.uk/your-council/council-policy-documents/>. The Budget allocates resources to the Council's priority areas for the coming year.

If Disley and Newtown residents would like more detailed information on the Council's 2023/24 finances or the budgets for 2024/25, please contact the council offices on 01663 762726 or email admin@disleyparishcouncil.org.uk
Further financial information is available on the Parish Council website at www.disleyparishcouncil.org

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	<p>2024/25 Precept</p> <p>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 residents.</p> <p>Over recent years, the Parish Council has tried to minimise the effects of higher inflation levels, but some of the Council's operating costs, particularly staff salaries, have increased significantly over the past 12 months. The Parish Council has also had to budget for the cessation of some Cheshire East Council services, such as grounds maintenance of some green spaces.</p> <p>The Parish Council appreciates that many Disley & Newtown residents are experiencing financial pressures, but after many years of zero or minimum increases, feels it has no option but to introduce an 8% precept increase for 2024/25. This new precept figure equates to £85.22 per year for a Council Tax Band D home, or the equivalent of £1.64 per week.</p> <p>The Parish Council believe that this still represents value for money, considering the many services it provides, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The Parish Council acknowledges the generous help given by village volunteers and 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.</p>
8	<p><u>Public forum - an opportunity for residents to raise any matters of Parish interest.</u></p> <p>A resident raised the issue of the large-scale fly tipping on Mudhurst Lane. The Parish Council replied that this matter was now being handled by Cheshire East Planning Enforcement.</p> <p>A resident raised the matter of proposed parking charges at the Community Centre car park. The Parish Council responded that it had submitted an expression of interest for the car park to be transferred to the Council. The Parish Council also stated that it had submitted its opposition to the introduction of car parking charges to Cheshire East Council.</p> <p>The imminent roadworks on the A6 were raised and if the work had been cancelled. The Parish Council was not aware of a cancellation but would investigate.</p> <p>A resident requested more Parking Enforcement Officers for the village. The Parish Council responded that it had requested more officer visits and that, over the past month or so, there had been weekly visits. Residents were also reminded that concerns regarding dangerous or obstructive parking could now be reported directly to the Police.</p>

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	<p>A resident addressed the meeting regarding local families with children with special educational needs (SEN). She said that a Disley SEN Facebook page now had 82 members and 26 local people had recently attended Disley Spectrum walk. The SEN group was now looking to arrange monthly meetings for children and parents/carers, a Forest School event and adaptive play equipment etc. The Chair responded that the Parish Council would be able to support the group with publicity and Health and Wellbeing contacts and that a Community Grant and coffee mornings may be available for fundraising.</p> <p>A resident raised recent issues at the Post Office and the closure of the Community Store. A petition was available regarding the service levels at the Post Office, which the resident encouraged everyone to sign. It was reported that the Community Store was due to continue on-line but would be a big loss to the village.</p> <p>A resident reported that the Community Speedwatch initiative was due to restart in the village shortly.</p> <p>A resident asked the meeting about the funds raised by the sale of land on Mudhurst Lane. A trustee of the Ouffs & Poors Charity, which owned the land, was in attendance and provided an update that once one more trustee had been appointed, the criteria for community grant allocation could be set.</p> <p>A resident raised the issue of blocked gullies on Buxton Old Road. The Parish Council responded that Cheshire East Highways had been requested to visit this and other sites in the village but had responded that they only have two gully-clearing vehicles and so have to prioritise. The Parish Council agreed to continue chasing Cheshire East Highways for a resolution.</p> <p>A resident asked for information regarding the fisherman's hut on the canal by the swing bridge. The Parish Council responded that there was not much it could do as it appeared that the land in question did not have any clear ownership.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all those present for attending the meeting.</p>
	<u>Finish time:</u> 8.30pm
	<u>SIGNED</u> <u>DATE</u>