

**MINUTES OF THE DISLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017 AT DISLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

<b>1</b>	<p><b><u>Disley Parish - Notice of Meeting</u></b>  <b>Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Disley Community Centre on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm.</b>  <b>All Disley and Newtown residents are invited to attend.</b>  <b>There will be refreshments and informal discussion available from 7.00pm.</b></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>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	<p>Cllrs. Kidd (Chair), Pattison (Vice), Chavasse-Hadfield, Davenport and the Parish Clerk.  <b>Members of the public = 29</b>  <b>Start time: 7.30pm</b></p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><u>To receive, and if approved, confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016.</u></b>  Attendees who had been at the previous year's meeting inspected the minutes. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 were confirmed as a true and accurate record.  <b>Proposed:</b> Mrs. M. Webb  <b>Seconded:</b> Cllr. H. Davenport  Carried unanimously.</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><u>To receive an update from Cheshire Constabulary regarding Disley Policing matters.</u></b>  PCSO Alex Simpson addressed the meeting with a Disley and Newtown Crime Update for the year 2016/17. PCSO Simpson reported all crime categories and commented as follows:</p> <p><b>67 x Personal nuisance / ASB</b> - Parking and Neighbour disputes and dogs out of control. No reports of "Youth" ASB  <b>91 x Violence/Harassment</b> – Many from High Peak School  <b>9 x Sexual Offences</b> – Including children "sexting" each other.  <b>13 x Burglary Dwelling</b> - Last burglary was in January 2017. 4 males arrested for 3 burglaries  <b>11 x Burglary outside dwelling</b> - Last one was January 2017. 2 males arrested for 3 shed breaks  <b>1 x Theft of motor vehicle</b> - Related to a burglary. 1 male arrested car recovered.  <b>7 x Theft from motor vehicle</b> - Last van break-in was January 2017  <b>1 x Robbery</b> - Phone stolen from shop, 2 males arrested numerous forces involved.  <b>5 x Shoplifting</b>  <b>32 x Theft Other</b>  <b>48 x Criminal Damage</b> – Mainly High Peak School  <b>5 x Fraud</b>  <b>1 x Firearms</b> – Legal culling of livestock  <b>3 x Drugs</b>  <b>6 x Lost/Found Property</b>  <b>16 x Advice</b>  <b>107 x Missing Persons</b> – Mainly High Peak School.  <b>56 x Concern for welfare</b> - Mainly High Peak School  <b>34 x Domestic Incidents</b>  <b>64 x Suspicious Activity</b> – High reading shows good public reporting.</p>

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	<p><b>1 x Industrial incident</b>  <b>3 x Animal/Wildlife</b>  <b>24 x Abandoned Calls</b>  <b>70 x Road Traffic Collisions</b>  <b>63 x Highway disruption</b>  <b>31 x Road Related Traffic Offence</b> - 3 x arrested for drug driving, 2 vehicles seized for no MOT/no insurance, 1 vehicle removed for obstruction.</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b><u>To receive an update from the Disley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.</u></b>  The Chairman informed the meeting that an update from the Disley and Newtown Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would be included in the Chairman's Report.</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b><u>To receive an update from Disley Footpaths Society and Towpath Action Group</u></b>  Mr. Tony Jackson, Chairman of the Disley Footpaths Society (DFS), began by commenting how blessed Disley was to be on border of so much beautiful countryside. Mr. Jackson explained that DFS undertakes walks, talks and footpath maintenance. The Society has had talks from many interesting speakers including Cheshire East Rangers, Lyme Park and an expert in ancient rights of way. DFS is keen to promote health and well-being and is one of only three societies of its type in Cheshire.  The Society has five walks planned throughout the Summer 2017 and details of these can be found on the Footpaths Society webpage of the Disley Parish Council website at <a href="http://www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk/disley-footpath-society/news-2016-walks-programme/">www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk/disley-footpath-society/news-2016-walks-programme/</a> Most of the walks are local, use public transport and are of approx. 5/6 miles distance.  DFS helps maintains the 70+ footpaths in Disley and Newtown and their condition is monitored by the members. Projects undertaken include installing bridges and steps and cutting back overgrown foliage. The Society has good relations with Cheshire East Council Public Rights of Way team who assist with larger projects such as the new steps at Higgins Clough from the canal.  Disley is a "Walkers are Welcome" accredited area and DFS will help with resident's footpath issues wherever possible.  Mrs. Jean Windsor spoke about the Towpath Action Group (TAG), a sub-division of the Disley Footpaths Association. TAG has 10 regular volunteers and meets every month for 3 or 4 hours to make repairs to the canal towpath. The Canals and Rivers Trust are very supportive and provide a barge for transportation as well as help and expertise. Recent repairs have included a section of path in Newtown near the Swizzles factory and at the bridge near Strines. The TAG made a large contribution to the Peak Forest Canal being awarded a Green Flag award in 2016.  Disley Footpath Society and the Towpath Action Group welcome new members and it is a great way to socialise, learn new skills, get fit and have fun.  Cllr. Kidd thanked DFS and TAG on behalf of all Disley and Newtown residents for all the hard work they do.</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b><u>To receive a report from the Chairman of Disley Parish Council on the Parish Council's work over the last year and its plans for 2017.</u></b>  Cllr David Kidd, Chairman of Disley Parish Council, read a pre-prepared report as follows:   <b>Election of Officers for the year 2016 /17</b>  At the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held in May 2016, Cllr. David Kidd was</p>

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elected Chairman, Cllr. Jackie Pattison was elected Vice-chairman. Cllr. Liz Chavasse-Hadfield was elected Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Cllr. Pattison was elected Chairman of Planning Committee for the year 2016/17.

**Summary**

Following changes in staff reported towards the end of last year the new Parish Clerk, Richard Holland and the Parish Administration Assistant, Helen Richards settled in well during their first full year. There was a smooth transition in the Parish business and a number of on-going projects progressed, some nearing completion.

**Community Centre**

The Community Centre provides an important community hub to support health and well-being in our community. Six new groups have hired the Centre during the year giving a total of 45 groups with no loss of regular bookings. I would like to thank Steve Taylor who joined the team in May as the new Caretaker. The previous Caretaker, Ray Webb, retired and I would like to thank him for all his work and wish him well. Steve has carried on the quality of service in cleaning and maintenance and for ensuring community groups booking the Centre were well looked after. We continue to receive positive feedback from users

Internal alterations for the relocation of the Parish Council offices have commenced with the project due to complete in early August 2017. Part of this work will include improving the entrance foyer which will include the new office reception area. The proposed extension to the Community Hall remains as a future second stage project to be informed by a further consultation of users to refresh the needs assessment information previously obtained in 2013/14.

**A6 MARR Mitigation for Disley**

Throughout the year, the Parish Council have been working with Cheshire East Borough Council and Jacobs to secure A6 mitigation measures to improve future traffic management through the village to mitigate the effects of projected traffic increases. The MARR planning consent contains a planning condition requiring implementation of A6 mitigation measure prior to the MARR completion in October 2017.

Cheshire East Council presented A6 mitigation proposals in a community exhibition held at Disley Primary School over two days in February. This included a consultation to invite ideas for improving the Fountain Square as a village centre feature. A first stage of the A6 mitigation work commenced with the installation of a permanent traffic light one way system on Jackson's Edge Road bend, near the Amalgamated Sports Club. This work included a permanent new footway to incorporate pedestrian safety.

Discussions also continued with Network Rail and the High Peak and Hope Valley Rail Partnership to secure improvements to attract more use of rail travel into Manchester. Improvements to the Disley station appearance and station parking are proposed in future.

**Village Handyman Service:**

This is both a proactive and reactive service and continued to provide an important contribution to both maintaining and improving the village appearance on a day to day basis and in managing Parish owned land. Work included maintenance on the allotment sites, parks and play areas, trees and hedges on parish land and clearing street litter. The village suffered a prolonged torrential downpour in June which gave rise to considerable flooding rarely experienced in the village and the Handyman Service was able to react by helping Cheshire East Council cleaning up the debris. Once again, I would like to thank Daniel Hodgkiss and Colin Eckersley for all their work delivering this service.

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**Community Bus:**

The Community Bus is now in its third year helping to improve accessibility in our community. There are currently 134 members signed up as individual users and 13 group members. During the year trips have been very popular and have included; Bury, Ashton, Chesterfield and Bakewell markets, Marple Village, Bramhall Hall, Lyme Park and Chatsworth Christmas market

A passenger survey was undertaken which provided very positive feedback particularly for the volunteer drivers. There are presently 9 volunteer drivers and I would like to thank them all for their commitment and flexibility. Without them the bus would not run. I would like to thank Helen Richards for her work in co-ordinating the bookings and promoting the scheme.

Operation of the bus does generate some income but the scheme is still mainly dependent on the initial funding awarded from Cheshire East when the vehicle was secured. The longer-term viability is being kept under review together with exploring future funding sources.

**Business Group:**

Thanks to Richard Holland, a new business group, called Disley Business Group, was established during the year to attract members from a variety of business sectors in the village. Main aims included; promoting local businesses, providing a network to address local issues and building a community spirit. Seven meetings were held across various business locations. Businesses came together for a Royal Treasure Hunt initiative to celebrate the Queens 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in June 2016. A Business News ebulletin is now circulated to 90 business subscribers.

**Village car parking:**

Parking in the village continues to give rise to complaints and feedback from Neighbourhood Plan consultations have highlighted this concern. The Parish Council has been working with Cheshire East Council to ensure parking enforcement is carried out in the village on a regular basis and is using the Neighbourhood Plan feedback as a basis to inform future strategic actions.

**Allotments:**

There are 33 allotments located across three sites in the Parish; Hagg Bank, Springfield and Greystones. There are seven residents presently on the waiting list. During the year, a review of the allotment management was undertaken and new agreements were introduced with an annual rental based on 15 pence per square metre. Two site inspections were undertaken during the year to ensure allotments were being fully cultivated.

**Communications:**

The Parish Council continues to publish and distribute the popular Disley News Newsletter 2 or 3 times per year. In 2016, the Council relaunched its eBulletin which now has over 550 subscribers and can be joined through the Council's website. The Council also has a Twitter feed, **@disleypc**, which provides local information such as events, news and roadworks.

**Christmas tree lighting:**

Once again, the annual Christmas tree lighting event in the village, culminating in a firework display was very successful and well supported by the community and local traders. The event was formally opened by Dame Sarah Storey.

**Grants:**

Community Grants were awarded to Bridgfords (Business Group) for treasure hunt prizes; Disley PRIDE for public liability insurance; Disley under Fives for a shopping bag fund raising scheme, Disley Junior Cricket Club for equipment, Robbie Farris towards a Camps International expedition to Ecuador and St. Mary's Parish Church for

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	<p>graveyard maintenance,</p> <p><b>Awards:</b> The Parish Council gave a very special Honorary Freedom Award to Dame Sarah Storey in recognition of her becoming Britain's most decorated female Paralympian in the history of the Paralympic Games between 1992 and 2016. Her award was presented at the Christmas tree lighting event. Civic Awards were presented to Andrew and Sharon Pringle on Civic Sunday in October. Mr. and Mrs. Pringle selflessly undertake many jobs on behalf of the village such as planting flower beds, clearing the Memorial Park and being members of the PRIDE group.</p> <p><b>General:</b> A main day to day function of the Parish Council is being a central point of contact for the community, signposting residents to the Principal Authority, Cheshire East Borough Council and to other agencies for securing and confirming actions where needed. During the year, over 200 enquiries were dealt with and issues ranged from street and road maintenance, litter and graffiti, street light and parking. A loose horse and loose sheep were among some of the more obscure enquiries. The Parish Council is also a statutory consultee on planning applications submitted to Cheshire East Borough Council. During the year 2016/17, 44 applications were considered by the Council.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish staff and fellow Councillors, for their help, support and hard work during the year in maintaining a very busy Parish agenda.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p>	<p><b><u>To receive a report from the Chairman of Disley Parish Council's Finance Committee on the Parish Council's accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Liz Chavasse-Hadfield, the Chairman of Disley Parish Council's Finance Committee, read a pre-prepared report as follows:</p> <p>This is the finance report for Disley Parish Council for the year to the end of March 2017 based on accounts which are subject to audit. The Council believes the finances of the Parish Council continue to be in good order.</p> <p><b>Income</b></p> <p>Our total income from all sources was £172.2k of which, 78% (or £134.5k) was raised through the precept. Non-precept generated income was lower in 2016/17 than the previous year by £5.5k reflecting a continued decline in the availability of grants &amp; funding from Cheshire East and other sources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £11k was raised from Community Centre Hire Charges, which is in line with last year. The Parish also reclaimed £5k of the community centre running costs back from CE council.</li> <li>• £7k was raised from rentals of land, allotments and Disley Dam, which is broadly in line with last year.</li> <li>• £0.8k investment account interest on Parish Council long term investment account.</li> <li>• The community bus also raised nearly £2k in fares, hire and membership fees, which is used specifically to offset the £2.8k operating costs and maintain this popular service for as long as possible. All drivers are unpaid volunteers.</li> <li>• The Parish benefitted from £9k of grants to support the ongoing development of the village Neighbourhood Plan.</li> </ul>

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**Our Expenditure**

**Overall**

Total expenditure in 2016/17 was £176k, which was £4k more than total income. The difference has been funded from the Parish general reserve fund.

**The Major Items:**

- The single biggest cost facing the village comprises the employment costs & expenses relating to the five members of the Parish council team. For 2016/17 employment costs were £86k and reflect how critical the clerk, assistant, caretaker and handymen are in maintaining the amenities and services that the Parish is responsible for. These include: (but are not limited to)
  - Arnold Rhodes, Village Centre Ballcourt, Memorial Park & Newtown recreational park facilities.
  - Support and management for three allotment sites.
  - Ownership & running of the Community Centre and Community Minibus.
  - Website, e-bulletins, posters & newsletters.
  - Administration and support for twenty ongoing village improvement projects.
  - Support for projects affecting the village but funded directly from CE council e.g. Arnold Rhodes park development and SEMMMS mitigation.
  - Supporting the Parish Council to act as Disley's voice on many issues, including Cheshire East local plan & defending the Green belt.
  - Management of the Parish finances.
- General administration costs of Parish Council projects and activities were £15.6k.
- The total costs of the Community Centre (including Caretaker) were £21k. This cost was offset by £16k income from hire charges and a recharge to Cheshire East. The overall cost of the Community Centre to the village was therefore £5k. This is more than last year by about £4k and is mainly due to less of the maintenance costs being able to be recharged to CE council this year.
- £11.9k Parish Council contribution to the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) service; this contribution remains the same as last year and will continue at the same level in 2017/18.
- £5.5k on the purchase of the village CCTV monitoring service from CE council. The council actively monitors usage & effectiveness of this service to ensure it remains value for money.
- £15k on general maintenance of the village and amenities e.g. allotments and parks.
- Approximately £3k was spent on running the Parish Council office.
- £4.4k on summer and winter village centre flower tubs and hanging baskets to enhance the village centre environment.
- £4k to dress the village for Christmas and hold the annual Christmas Tree lighting event.
- £2k grants were awarded to local charities and good causes.

**Councillor Expenses**

Parish Councillors are elected on a voluntary basis and are unpaid. The elected

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	<p>Chairman of Disley Parish Council receives an annual allowance of £540. Since being elected in May 2015, the total amount of expenses incurred and claimed by councillors in the course of conducting council business for Disley Parish, remains £51.20.</p> <p><b>Looking forward to 2017/2018</b> Every year the Parish Council raises a precept to pay for the range of services it provides. For 2017/18, we have made an increase to the Parish Precept, which will raise £150k compared to the £134.5k raised for 2016/17. This additional £15.7k represents an 8.7% increase equating to £73.75 per year for a Band D property – an increase of £5.90 per annum or 11.3p per week for a Band D property.</p> <p><b>Why increase the Parish Precept?</b> The precept will raise an additional £15.7k this year. The council has sought to make savings; however, in addition to unavoidable inflationary costs, the precept increase will be mainly used to cover increases in costs or reductions in income that are beyond the Parish Council's control. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £2k to cover the withdrawal of a council tax support grant from CE council.</li> <li>• £4.4k increase in nationally agreed employment costs &amp; activity driven expenses.</li> <li>• £6k of the increase will also be used to pay for non-routine, health and safety driven and unavoidable maintenance activities e.g. streetlighting safety audit, tree safety audit and other unavoidable maintenance costs.</li> <li>• We have also included small increases for the benefit of residents. £1.5k on planned village events £1k to improve the Parish Council website £0.5k additional Community Grants</li> </ul> <p>The Parish Council are continually seeking opportunities to increase funding from non-precept based sources, improve services for a comparable cost or reduce operational expenses. The planned move of DPC to the community centre is expected to both benefit residents and reduce council overheads.</p> <p>The village will benefit in 2017/18 from significant investments in Arnold Rhodes and Newtown recreational areas and the SEMMMS mitigation projects. The funds associated with these projects are managed directly by CE council.</p> <p><b>General reserve notes</b> General Fund (General Reserve) at 31/03/2017 was £28,600 (21% of Precept). In 2017/18 looking to increase this to £37,500 (25% of new Precept)</p>
8	<p><b><u>Matters arising from the minutes and the Chairman's Report</u></b> A few queries relating to the Chairman's Report were raised by residents:</p> <p><u>Sale of Parish Council Office</u> A resident asked about the sale of the current Parish Council Offices. Cllr. Kidd replied that the proceeds would go into the Parish Council's reserves and be used to fund future projects.</p> <p><u>Community Centre expansion</u> A resident asked what future plans there were for expanding the size of the</p>

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	<p>Community Centre as it no longer reflected the needs and size of the population. Cllr. Kidd replied that users would need to be consulted before investment was made and that funding would come from Council reserves.</p>
<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b><u>Public forum - an opportunity for residents to raise local issues.</u></b> Several items were raised and discussed by residents:</p> <p><u>A6/MARR mitigation measures – Air quality</u> A resident stated disappointment at the level of investment in the mitigation measures and stated that air quality issues had not been highlighted or addressed. The resident asked the Parish Council to fight for air quality improvements. Cllr. Kidd assured the resident that the Council was doing so and stated that the Local Authority, Cheshire East, has a legal obligation to monitor and address air quality issues. Cllr. Davenport highlighted that air quality was a major part of the A6/MARR mitigation. Another resident said that air quality should be treated as a cross-border issue and Cheshire East should be involving neighbouring authorities. It was pointed out that the proposed new lights at Redhouse Lane would not have a detrimental effect on air quality and a resident commented that these lights were essential for road safety.</p> <p><u>A6/MARR mitigation measures – Bus stops</u> A resident queried the repositioning of the bus stop from the White Lion and the loss of car parking spaces this would entail. It was suggested that the new location would be a safety issue as the pavement was not wide enough. The need for bus shelters not just bus stops was also raised. Cllr. Pattison said that Cheshire East had been responsive to other resident concerns and that she would report this issue back to the A6/MARR team. Cllr. Kidd said that all resident concerns on mitigation would be reported back to Cheshire East.</p> <p><u>Arnold Rhodes pedestrian crossing</u> A resident suggested that this crossing would not be necessary once the new Redhouse Lane traffic lights were in place. Councillors reported that Cheshire East proposed to leave the crossing in place and analyse the impact once the Redhouse Lane lights were installed.</p> <p><u>Village parking</u> A resident asked if there would be parking provision available at the Arnold Rhodes play area as part of the improvement works. Councillors confirmed that there was no parking provision in the plan. Parking on Chantry Road was raised as with the idea of double-yellow lines on one side and a parking permit scheme discussed. Cllr. Kidd suggested that all residents in the area needed to agree a scheme and present it to Cheshire East Highways. Cllr. Davenport suggested that restricted parking times could be introduced but this would require enforcing by Cheshire East Council.</p> <p><u>Village CCTV</u> A resident asked the PCSO if the CCTV being funded by the Council was of benefit. PCSO Simpson replied that CCTV was a great help to him and that he was looking to work with local businesses to increase the private CCTV coverage.</p> <p><u>A6/Lyme Park traffic congestion</u> A resident raised the issue of traffic backing up along the A6 due to the positioning</p>

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	<p>of Lyme Park entrance kiosks and that this needed to be raised with the National Trust.</p> <p><u>Traffic speeds</u> Councillors reported that the speed limit was due to be reduced on Lyme Park bend but that further speed limit changes in the village were not supported by Cheshire East Highways or the Police.</p> <p>A number of residents thanked Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the village.</p>
	<p><b><u>Finish time:</u></b> 9.15pm</p>
	<p><b><u>SIGNED</u></b>.....<b><u>DATE</u></b>.....</p>