

PARISH OF EVERTON

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL, 2011

Present: Councillor J. A. Dunn in the Chair.
7 members of the Parish Council, County Councillor Yates
and 4 members of the public were also present

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted by Revd. J. Smithurst, Mrs. C. Dunn and Messrs. C. Hickman and R. Scott.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting were read, in summary, by the Clerk and approved.

3. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL AND EVERTON AND SCAFTWORTH JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Dunn gave the following report:

Opening Remarks

As well as all the good things which have happened in the village this year there has been the deep sadness at the passing of so many village stalwarts, including former parish councillors, all of whom have contributed so much to the village. We should remember them and their families in our thoughts and prayers.

Some of the good things I will be referring to began life in the Parish Plan, published in 2004, but with a lifespan of at least ten years. Examples include affordable housing and the new play park.

People

Perhaps I should mention that, in addition to Richard Evers and Kevin Scott joining the Parish Council at last year's elections, David Kerford has filled the one vacant position following a hotly contested co-option exercise. All three are playing an active role in village life.

Achievements

Well, an outstanding year for Everton village with victory for the second year running in Category C of the CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition last year and a further win in Wilko Best of Notts, following our glorious Best of Notts win in 2006, when we were Category C champions that year too. We'll be trying hard again this year.

We're one of a small band of Bassetlaw parish councils to have achieved Quality status, being co-first together with Gringley on the Hill and Misterton in 2006. Last year we became the first parish council to receive reaccreditation.

Then there's the excellent news about funding for the revamped play park. Not a Parish Council achievement this time, but we cannot miss the opportunity to congratulate the Metcalfe Charitable Trust, Metcalfe Recreation Committee, donors and volunteers, and not forgetting the part played by David Wright in helping to prepare the WREN grant application. They've all done a superb job.

The Conservation Area

It came as a surprise last year to discover that the District Council had significantly extended the Conservation Area. We understand why no-one was told in advance, but it created a problem insofar as no-one was told afterwards. We only found out through Liz Jefferies reading a small public notice in the Retford Times. Having become aware, we liaised with the District Council in order to draw residents' attention to the changes.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is still very much on the agenda, and we continue to work with Acis Group Ltd. There's not much more I can say at the moment, but we remain optimistic.

Rights of Way

We've built up a reserve of grant money received under the Parish Paths Partnership agreement with the County Council, and recently used £2,265 to carry out all necessary work, signage, etc. Unfortunately, owing to the government's budget reduction programme, the County Council has now abandoned the Parish Paths Partnership, and we wait to hear what's to replace it. In the meantime, we've enough money left to keep the spring and autumn vegetation clearance going for a while.

Cemetery

We continue to maintain the Cemetery in excellent condition, and last autumn carried out extensive tree work using professional tree surgeons. The winter has since taken its toll, and more tree work has recently been carried out.

We'd like to say thank you once again to the Stevenson family for replacing the old seat in the Cemetery with a very nice new one.

Tunneltech North

We continue to work towards a resolution of the smell nuisance. We've recently made odour monitoring forms available through HEDS, and hope that people will keep a record of smell nuisance.

Street Furniture

Everyone will have noticed our prestigious, new notice board at Carr View, given us by the County Council under its Local Improvement Scheme.

We've also provided further dog waste bins to complement the existing ones at Pinfold Lane and Eel Pool Road. The new ones are on Everton Sluice Lane, Broomhill Lane and the junction of Chapel Lane and Harwell Lane.

We've put in a grant application to the County Council for funding for village gateway signs on Bawtry Road, Gainsborough Road and Mattersey Road, and are awaiting the outcome, which may not be until next year.

The County Council has agreed to examine our request for a bus shelter on High Street, or other suitable location.

Road Safety

The County Council has recently replaced the interactive sign on Bawtry Road with a more-modern version – funds didn't run to replacing both. We've now made a further grant application to the County Council to have the old Bawtry Road sign relocated to Mattersey Road. Again, we may have to wait a year to hear the outcome.

Village Website

We're currently working with the North East Bassetlaw Forum towards development of a village website, where village organisations can have their own pages and make their own amendments.

Liaison with the Police

Unfortunately, due to the cutbacks, the police are no longer to attend parish council meetings. Instead, a revamped form of safer neighbourhood group is to be established. We don't have any more details at the moment. The police are, however, to retain a presence at The Misterton Centre, having had a change of heart following an earlier decision to pull out.

Planning

As always, we study all planning applications carefully, before making our observations to the District Council. We worked hard with the District Council to ensure that residents were properly consulted over future housing allocation.

Council Tax

Our precept (local council tax) rose to £10,200 this year – the first increase since 2008. The increase is only £500, being less than £1 per resident per annum.

Closing Remarks

I wish to thank all the councillors for giving so much of their time and energy to keeping the Parish Council effective and efficient, and special thanks to David Wright for his diligence and assistance.

4. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK TO EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £8,955. Income during the year came to £15,741 and expenditure £18,285, leaving a closing balance of £6,411. The closing balance includes a sum of £2,444 earmarked for Parish Paths Partnership work. The main reason for the reduced closing balance is significant expenditure on improvements to the rights of way network.

The precept for the current year has increased from £9,700 to £10,200.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK TO EVERTON AND SCAFTWORTH JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE

The Joint Burial Committee commenced the year with an opening balance of £4,704, of which £3,026 was earmarked for an eventual Cemetery extension. Income came to £4,555 and expenditure to £4,430, leaving a closing balance of £4,829. The Cemetery extension earmarked reserve rose to £3,027 – a tiny increase because of low interest rates.

Because of the healthy state of the revenue balance, the precept for the current year has reduced from £3,135 to £1,592 of which Everton Parish Council will pay £1,433 and Scaftworth Parish Meeting £159.

6. PAROCHIAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT

Mrs. de Bel that the balance of the accounts was as follows:

First Reserve Account	£6,060.00
Current Account	£30.18

The Trustees met in August, 2010 and it was agreed that two donations would be made as follows:

£20 to the Toddlers Church.

£20 to Cheeky Monkeys playgroup

Mrs. De Bel was very sorry to report that a trustee, Mrs. Norma Charles, had died after a long illness. Norma was appointed by the Church and was sadly missed.

7. EVERTON WELLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION AND EVERTON UNITED CHARITIES

Councillor Jefferies gave the following report:

Charities in Everton were originally set up to look after the poorer members of the community. They were often quite small and had very little capital. Most existed to look after a certain section of the adult population and were combined to form the Everton United Charities. The Wells Educational Foundation and The Parochial School Endowment Fund were to provide for children and so remained separate.

Both United Charities and the Educational Foundation received funding from another charity, The George Wells Charitable Trust. This Trust divided its annual income between charities in Everton, West Stockwith and Misterton. Both of the Everton Charities receiving 1/6 of the income each year.

In recent years the income has fallen to the extent that the solicitors, HSR Law of Gainsborough, decided that even their nominal fee for looking after the George Wells Trust made it unviable. As a result the trustees decided to wind up the Trust last May and I was informed in November when our share of the remaining money was paid into the Everton Charity's bank accounts. Each received £1319.72 being £10.52 of income and £1309.20 of capital. At present this remains in the bank whilst a decision is made about the Future.

United Charities have some money in Charishare and Charinco Common Investment funds and this has paid dividends of £111.70 this year. There is currently £2151.93 in the bank account but it has been agreed that payments of £10 should be paid to 42 older people this year in line with our practice in the past. We shall be communicating with the Charity Commission about the future use of the money. It is felt that Everton people generally are not in desperate need of £10. We also feel that there are now many Everton residents whom we do not know and so it is difficult to decide who should be on the recipients list.

The Wells Educational Foundation now has £1406.43 in its bank account and has lost its only source of finance. As usual last summer we gave £15 each to Everton Children who were leaving the village school to go on to Secondary Education. A meeting will be held at the beginning of the summer term to decide what should be done this year. If we wish this charity to continue it will be necessary to start fund raising.

9. EVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mr. Tony Connold gave the following report:

I am very pleased to report to the Annual Parish Meeting that our local village school remains the primary school of choice for most parents resident here in Everton as well as those who live in the surrounding towns and villages.

This is clearly self-evident when you read the Head of School's Reports stating a total number of 132 was reached during the current term. The pupil number includes nursery and years 1 to 6. The recent changes in the management structure, which relate to the collaboration with Sutton and Ranby, appear to be working well, with Richard Browne now Head of School reporting to Clare Mackinder who is Executive Head of the three-school collaboration.

Everton school pupil attainment shows steady progress on most main subjects and the sporting achievements are very good indeed. The children have a very active time at our local school, with organised trips out several times each term, in order to provide a rounded education with a broad scope of interests to stimulate young, inquisitive minds.

Sprint Term ended with an Easter Service at Holy Trinity Church, Everton, attended by the whole school and many parents, guardians and carers. After an opening prayer and hymn, we were treated to an hour of musical delights performed by the children. There were 9 solos on piano, recorder and guitar as well as KS1 & KS2 recorder groups. Songs by pupils in EYFS, Year 6 and Class 1 kept us entertained and a final hymn was sung prior to merit awards being handed out by Richard and Clare to the high achievers.

This will be the last time I present this report to you since I have now retired from the Governing Body, having completed some 7 years as Community Governor and Finance Governor.

10. METCALFE CHARITABLE TRUST

The Clerk submitted the Annual financial statement of the Metcalfe Charitable Trust for 2009/10, on behalf of Mr. Hickman:

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Investments	71,797	68,260
Interest	4,776	1,237
Donations	2,100	--
WREN Grant	40,000	--
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>18,673</u>	<u>69,497</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Institute & Grounds	66,793	35,659
Administration	5,658	5,406
Let Property Costs	15,882	16,203
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>88,333</u>	<u>57,298</u>
<i>Net (Outgoings)/Income</i>	30,340	12,199

Mrs. B. De Bel, Chairman of the Trustees, gave notice of Mr. Hickman's impending retirement as Secretary, and the consequent need to appoint a successor.

11. METCALFE RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ann Hickman, Chairman of the Committee, reported as follows, on behalf of Richard Scott:

The biggest project of our year has been the development of the play park and we recently received confirmation that all the funding is in place and work will start in early May. A huge thank you to everyone involved, including Barbara and Paul, and especially Richard Evers for leading the project and David Wright for preparing the successful funding bid.

We are also pleased to report the reforming of a Brownie pack and youth theatre, *however we also* saw the demise of one of our founding members, the Golden Age and a huge thanks goes to Brian Charles for his leadership of the club.

We are also seeing increased use of the facilities from other new users including quilting salsacise and "fitness ball" and we are hopeful of renting out the football pitch to a club for next season.

Member organisations have again been active in helping to improve facilities, the WI contributing to the new water boiler and the bowls club making a number of improvements to the green.

With sadness we note the passing of our Vice chairman Nip Martin and our Garden Holders rep Mick Miller both of whom gave great service to the community.

Financially we face challenges particularly from rising fuel prices, the new members and increased hall income are a great help in offsetting these increases. We thank the parish council for their continued support of £1,300 per year, representing around 20% of our budget, and the support from the Trust for all capital works, insurance and staff costs.

Finally a personal thanks to everyone involved for all their hard work.

12. HEDS TOGETHER

Mr. Tony Connold gave the following report:

The HEDS editorial team have just produced the May 2011 Issue Number 273 which hopefully will be delivered to some 400 homes in Harwell, Everton, Drakeholes and Scaftworth by 30th April.

It was light relief to our team that for once we did not have to include an obituary, reporting on yet another death. As many of you will be aware, we have had to report the passing of some 16 local residents all within the last 12 months, and the village is poorer as a result.

Your village magazine remains true to its original format of a vertically folded A4 sheet with a mixture of adverts, newsworthy items of merit and information from the local police, neighbourhood watch and other village clubs and activities. It is free to all simply because of the advertising and an annual award from Everton Parish Council, to whom we are most grateful.

We remain open to ideas of how to make HEDS more entertaining and try to encourage our readers to send us articles of interest, with periodic reminders in the monthly issues.

Thanks to a £250 donation we are soon to publish a revised HEDS Telephone Directory that replaces the earlier one dated June 2006.

I am personally most grateful to my loyal team of volunteers without which I could not produce HEDS Together and to the distributors to get the magazine to you all.

13. PARISH CHURCH

Mrs. B. de Bel gave the following report:

On the practical side, the fabric of the Church is basically sound and in as good a condition as a 12th century building can be. This is due to a small army of volunteers who clean it, organise repairs and maintenance, keep the boiler going, make sure that fresh flowers are in place and not forgetting the daily opening and closing.

2010 was a testing time for Everton which had its fair share of funerals, a sad loss for the village. Many were longstanding active members of the congregation, in particular our Verger, Norma Charles.

Attendance for serves is small, but regular. We could definitely accommodate more. The various Church events such as Carols, Cheese and Wine, etc. were well-attended and the Christmas Eve crib service is always special.

The Toddlers Church continues to flourish under the steady hands of Carol Stewart and helpers, and the School has a regular service.

Every year is a challenge whether it's to increase the attendance or upgrade and refurbish the Church, but a challenge I'm sure Holy Trinity is up to.

14. EVERTON SPORTS & SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ann Hickman gave the following report:

We held two events last year. The Sports Day which was well supported, and in November we held the Parochial Party which increases in number of participants each year. We are grateful to the Parish Council and the Trust for their support of this event.

16. PARKING OUTSIDE THE SUN INN

Mrs. Ann Hickman once again expressed concern over the dangerous parking situation on the A631 outside the Sun Inn, but accepted the Clerk's assurance that the County Council was not prepared to address the matter.