

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 20th May 2024

Litton Village Hall – 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Saxby (Chair), Brunt, Gamble, Gregory, Rennie & Rooke
Clerk G Turner & District Councillor Neil Buttle

There were 8 members of the public present.

Councillor Saxby opened the meeting by welcoming residents and outlining the Parish Council's responsibilities.

- Looking after the Cemetery and Garden of Remembrance
- The mowing of the Village Greens, Playground & Memorial Playing Field
- Maintenance of the trees on the Village Greens and the Cemetery
- Maintenance of the Playground and Memorial Playing Field
- General maintenance of Parish Council assets and grounds, i.e. tubs, seating and flowerbeds
- Reviewing Planning Applications in the parish
- Liaising with other authorities

The Clerk then gave an overview of the income and recurrent expenditure for 2023/24 against the budget and gave details of the types of expenses covered by the various headings, pointing out that the biggest expense came from managing the parishes open spaces.

The Clerk went on to explain the Council's reserves and how much had been ringfenced against various projects and why. The main reserves relate to the cemetery £5,447, tree maintenance £915 and a general reserve of £6,700 which does not have any restrictions on its use and is held in case of unexpected events or emergencies. The general reserve is set at 40% of recurrent expenditure.

Councillor Saxby outlined what the Council had achieved over the last year:

- Seating installed in the bus shelter in Litton
- New Wilding area proposed at the Cemetery- Councillor Gregory explained to those present which areas of the cemetery will be left wild.
- Wall near the cemetery pedestrian gate rebuilt
- Four unsafe trees at the cemetery have been removed
- Acquisition of Cressbrook Memorial Plot - the Parish Council took ownership of the 850sqm neglected plot of land containing the Cressbrook War Memorial.
 - In order to enhance its future biodiversity the Parish Council has commissioned an Ecology Survey. This is the first step in bringing the plot to a more manageable state and developing the space for quiet contemplation.

- The dangerous Wych Elm tree on the plot has been removed – grant received from DCC’s MLCS and DDDC’s Local Projects fund towards the cost.

Councillor Brunt stated that the Wych Elm stump has been left higher than the suggested 10 foot but that is to accommodate a great nesting hole just below the cut off.

The Chair then outlined what is currently planned for 2024/25.

- A survey of all the trees in the parish has been carried, funded partly by a grant from PDNPA which covers 50% of the cost. Councillor Gregory explained that the Parish Council will now look in detail at the recommendations in the survey report and decide who best to instruct to undertake the work.
- Once the Ecology Report on the development and management plans for Cressbrook War Memorial plot has been received the community will be consulted.

Councillor Gamble presented Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) slides which had been prepared by the Co-ordinator, James Warriner, who was unable to attend the meeting.

The aim of Neighbourhood Watch is to help you protect yourself and your property and to reduce the fear of crime in your community.

Litton NHW was set up in December 2021 via a Whatsapp group following a spate of burglaries in the village around that time. A grant for £200 was received from Alastair Sutton from Derbyshire District Council of which £87 is still available for NHW initiatives. To date there are 53 households signed up to Litton NHW.

The main information sharing portal is WhatsApp with the NHW co-ordinator also meeting with all the other local NHW village co-ordinators monthly as well as the local police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).

The success of this scheme has resulted in the sharing of crime with the police and almost immediate communication of information to the police resulting in criminals being able to be tracked across the Peak District when a crime occurs with several criminals caught before they leave the county.

The Police Crime and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire is committed to reducing rural crime and one of their objectives is to introduce more Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras to local villages to allow the police to gain intelligence on the movement of criminals/ vehicles across the area and County. Litton Parish Council has indicated its interest in being involved in this scheme.

At a village level James will continue to work with the police and if anyone would like to join the village NHW then please contact him to sign up.

Bakewell’s Safer Neighbourhood Team sent an update:

The following crimes have been reported over the last 12 months

- Litton Village - 2x Criminal damage, 2x theft and 1x public order
- Litton Mill - 1x theft of fish from private fishing grounds
- Cressbrook Village - 3x theft

Following consultation with the community in April this year and review of concerns passed to Bakewell SNT at Community Engagement events and through surveys, residents have indicated that they wish for Road Safety and Burglary to continue as priorities.

Bakewell SNT will therefore continue their efforts to improve Road Safety and provide crime prevention / target hardening advice to reduce burglaries from taking place in the local area over the coming months.

Information provided by Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport (BECT) was circulated with the main points being:

BECT provides accessible transport for rural communities across Derbyshire Dales and High Peak areas, which includes:

- **Community Transport** – subsidised trips and tours offer door to door transport to help with social isolation and rural exclusion.
- **Group Transport** – available to groups involved in community activities such as WIs, church groups, scouts and guides, schools and lunch clubs
- **Car Scheme** – volunteers use their own cars to provide tailor-made journeys for vital medical appointments for people who struggle to use conventional public transport. Wheel chair accessible vehicle available – 5 working days prior notice must be given.

John Yuole a director of Friends of Litton Village Ltd, addressed the meeting about its role in helping to stage community events in the village.

The Company was formed about 15 years ago and was set up to support the various groups in the village such as Wakes, Well Dressing, Christmas Lights and Remembrance as well as the numerous other events that take place in the village during the year. It supports Litton Night by providing the insurance for all the various organisations and committees that put-on events during the evening. It also makes small donations to various local clubs/organisations and helps with raising funds through grants etc

John Butler, spoke on behalf of Cressbrook Club. The club was gifted to the village over 100 years ago by the then owners of Cressbrook Mill and has seen a revival over the last few years, with the bar at the Club now opening every Friday evening. Although membership is available there is no requirement to become one or to be a resident of Cressbrook, as everyone is welcome.

Cressbrook Club is a multiuse venue used by numerous groups and events during the year, such as:

- Yoga session on Tuesday evenings at 6.15pm. Limited to 10 places so it's essential to book a space.
- Film club with a movie shown monthly between October and May. There is a nominal membership fee.
- Cressbrook Band, who are always looking for new members.
- Biannual book swap, quiz nights, games afternoons, Lego night, wine tasting events, talks of local interest, community updates and consultations and music events. In short, the Cressbrook Club is the hub of the community.

It is also home to Cressbrook Community Group who organise such events as Well Dressing and the Cressbrook Crawl fell race.

Anyone interested in keeping in touch with forthcoming events, can email news@thecressbrook.co.uk and ask to be added to the subscription email. Or, they can follow the club on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/cressbrooksocialclub>

District Councillor Buttle outlined Derbyshire Dales District Council's intentions for providing affordable housing in the area.

DDDC's target is to build 50 homes per year in the Peak District going forward, in the hope that this will enable people with young families to stay in the area and thereby keeping communities alive. A more community

focused approach is being used, so anyone who knows of a suitable pocket of land that could support a small development should get in touch with DDDC.

John Butler asked whether the restrictions around distance to school, shop etc would be relaxed with the new approach. He stated that a piece of land had previously been identified by residents in Cressbrook but that it had been dismissed by the authorities as not viable, due to it being too far from the school. DC Buttle said that this would still be the case as lower income families are unlikely to have a car.

Councillor Gamble asked what was meant by 'affordable'. DC Buttle said that the houses would be for rent or sale at 20% below local area market rates, which he agreed did not necessarily make them affordable for everyone.

Another question was whether these houses would be subject to the 'Derbyshire Residency Clause'. DC Buttle said that they would, but firstly work had to be undertaken to standardise what the 'Derbyshire Residency Clause' meant, as there are currently around 5 different clauses.

The Chair then asked residents for any other issues they wished to raise.

Comments from Residents

The first question was whether the Parish Council would consider providing a Bleed Control Kit in Litton. It was agreed that this is something that the Parish Council would be prepared to look at. It was suggested that kits could be purchased through the Daniel Baird Foundation and funding may be available through the Safer Neighbourhood Partnership.

It was also noted that Cressbrook carpark could do with a tidy up as ivy is growing over the wall. The Council agreed to take ask the handy person to take a look.

Several residents requested that the circular bench that had been around the tree near the school be replaced. Councillors explained that a replacement had been looked into but that it was prohibitively expensive at the moment. A representative from Friends of Litton said that they might have some funds to put towards the cost and it was also suggested that this could be a scheme that the Better Derbyshire Fund might support. It was agreed that the Council will take another look.

The issue of lorries driving through Litton village at 4.30am was brought up again as a continuing disturbance to residents. Councillor Gregory explained that this issue had been raised numerous times to DCC but that they were not prepared to take any action. Councillors reiterated that the Parish Council is just one voice and that if every resident disturbed by the lorries complained then DCC were more likely to take notice. A resident stated that the frequency of the lorries travelling through was also increasing.

DC Buttle stated that when the mineral extraction licences come up for renewal the issuing authority will take the number of complaints into account, especially with regard to the quarry lorries.

Councillors informed the meeting that they had tried to get the 30mph signs moved further outside of either end of the village but this had not been possible.

Friends of Litton asked whether it would be possible to affix permanent holders to the trees on the village green to make it easier to put up and take down the lights. Councillor Gregory stated that this was probably not going to be acceptable as the tree survey had identified issues with the lights damaging the trees.

The Chair informed the meeting that there is currently a Councillor vacancy. Anyone interested should contact any Councillor or the Clerk

Further details on the procedure and an application form can also be found on the Parish Council website.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and John Butler thanked the Council for their efforts throughout the year.