

## **PARISH OF EVERTON**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE METCALFE TEA ROOMS ON MONDAY 10TH APRIL, 2006**

Present: Councillor J. Dunn in the Chair.  
Six members of the Parish Council  
and 10 members of the public were also present

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Councillors de Bel and Woods and District Councillor Martin.

#### **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 John Dunn gave the following report:

As this meeting will be followed by the last Parish Council meeting of this four year term, I would like, publicly, to thank all the Councillors who have given their time and energy to the tasks undertaken. Special mention should be made of Bob Troop who unfortunately resigned from the Council due to ill health.

Thanks also to our retiring District Councillor Nip Martin who has given us help on many occasions.

Eight of the current councillors are standing for re-election but we are sad that Jen Marsh will not be joining us in the new council and thank her for her sterling work on behalf especially of the people of Harwell. There is a vacancy for a co-opted councillor if anyone would like to be considered and we especially need someone from Harwell to represent their specific interests.

#### **Quality Accreditation**

We started down the road to Quality accreditation in September 2003, and are now at its end. The Accreditation Panel will consider our application on 12<sup>th</sup> May. We decided to go for accreditation for two reasons: the first was to demonstrate that we provide a quality service and the second was to give us the best possible chance of survival in any future local government re-organisation.

There is now no doubt that there will be a shake up of principal councils within the next two years and there is a lot of uncertainty about what is intended at 'Neighbourhood' level. It is commonly accepted that the Quality scheme was set up by the Govt. to test the resolve of local councils, and it is a fact that take-up has been poor. Hopefully those of us who've grasped the nettle will be looked on favourably.

**Website: [www.evertonvillage.org.uk](http://www.evertonvillage.org.uk)**

This is a village website not just for the Parish Council and although it is continually improving there is still little interest from village organisations in submitting information. Please provide some input to make the website more interesting.

### **Best Kept Village Competition**

Although our villages didn't win any of the main prizes last year, we did very well at our first attempt. We were awarded a Certificate of Merit in respect of the Metcalfe Recreation Ground and congratulations go to the Trustees, Management Committee and especially the groundsman who received the certificate at the awards ceremony last November.

This year Everton is entering the 300-700 population category with Harwell fighting again in the up to 300 category. Everton is going to be up against some tough opposition: Oxtun will want to regain their title from Gringley who will be fighting hard to retain their title. The village looked very good last year but we need a little more effort to improve our chances. The District and County Councils have already responded to our requests for improvements and several old signs have been replaced with more to come hopefully before the judging in June.

### **Rights of Way**

We shall shortly hear whether the old road from Eel Pool Road to Mattersey is to be granted public footpath status and we are endeavouring to obtain the same status for the long established popular walk along Nutcroft Way into Harwell woods. We need people to write to the Clerk explaining that they've used this route for over 20 years and stating why it's a necessary route.

We've provided two dog waste bins on Pinfold Lane, which are emptied courtesy of a small group of public-spirited local residents. We are also willing to provide others where residents perceive a need and are willing to empty them.

### **Tunneltech North**

No one should have to suffer odour nuisance on this level and Harwell residents get it pretty bad. There are new government guidelines in place but it's going to be some time before they really take effect. In the meantime we are doing everything possible to reduce the nuisance although it has to be said that responsibility for control of such nuisances lies with the District Council.

### **Aircraft Nuisance**

We are all aware of recent problems with low flying and night flying. Via the North East Bassetlaw Forum the Parish Council is represented on the Airport Consultative Committee and we are progressing the concerns voiced to us.

The airport will shortly be hosting noise workshops where local residents can visit the airport and view noise data, planning conditions, planning policy and be able to ask questions. Details will be publicised when available.

### **Planning**

Although we are now stuck with four large houses in Harwell, the fight to stop this development gave us one small victory, in that, threatened with being reported to the Standards Board for England, Bassetlaw Planning Department have realised that we can't be fobbed off all the time. They have finally provided information that we requested several times since last June. It doesn't get us anywhere with this development as the damage is done, but at least we've put down a marker for the future.

### **Highways**

The County Council erected the replacement bus shelter near the Harwell Road junction and it's an improvement on the old one in respect of design and visibility issues.

We've made a bid to the County Council under its Building Better Communities scheme for lighting at the Harwell Road/A631 junction.

Because of our concerns for road safety towards the southern end of High Street, we've made a further bid under the same scheme for pavement widening and an associated traffic priority scheme.

This year saw an end to the saga of the beacon on the pedestrian crossing and we have been promised that permanent interactive speed signs on the A631 have been ordered and will be installed shortly. Again thanks to our District Councillor who alerted us to the fact that the promised signs had been cancelled from this year's budget. We then managed to achieve a change of mind and have the signs agreement reinstated.

### **Cemetery**

We're pleased to say that the cemetery remains in really good condition and has just had its first cut of the season. The contractors do an excellent job. There is however still a problem with visitors leaving dead flowers, etc. in the cemetery instead of using the bins provided, this detracts from the overall tidiness of the cemetery and causes a nuisance.

We held a civic service in the cemetery on Remembrance Day to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of the Second World War.

One negative comment is that last year we had a problem with someone depositing nappies in the bins. We solved that one, but now there is someone dumping bags of garden refuse in the bins. These bins are emptied at the expense of the Joint Burial Committee and will obviously increase our costs if they have to be emptied more frequently than contracted.

## **Council Tax**

Our precept (local council tax) has risen from £8440 to £9000. Last year we subsidised the council out of balances, but there is a limit to how many times we can do that-hence the increase. Fortunately the phasing out of concurrent grant by the District Council has been put on hold and so we do continue to receive a small annual grant and a small cemetery grant.

## **Local Information**

Approved minutes, annual reports, information leaflets and quarterly newsletters can be inspected at local shops, public houses and libraries, the One stop shop in Retford Town Hall, at West Bridgford and on the village website. Copies are also posted on the Carr View notice board. We also try to keep everyone up to date with significant developments using HEDS Together.

Finally, you'll be pleased to hear, thanks go to David Wright for his sterling work, in this very busy year, to keep council business moving forward, acting as our Rottweiller where necessary and putting in a lot of hard work on the Quality Councils bid. As Chairman I can vouch for the tremendous effort he puts in on behalf of the Parish.

### **4. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK TO EVERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £4,834.74. Income during the year came to £13,623.10 and expenditure £11,916.11, leaving a closing balance of £6,541.73. The closing balance included a sum of £1,208.46 earmarked for Parish Paths Partnership work.

The precept for the current year was £9,000, with a projected balance at 31st March, 2007 of £4,554.

### **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 £2,401.26, all of which apart from the 2005/06 Scaftworth precept of £214.00 received early was earmarked for an eventual Cemetery extension. Income came to £3,312.53 and expenditure to £3,052.23, leaving a surplus of £260.30. This surplus will be transferred to the Cemetery Extension fund, with the exception of £235.00 being the Scaftworth element of the current year's precept, which was received early.

The precept for the current year is £2,348, of which Everton Parish Council would pay £2,113 and Scaftworth Parish Meeting £235.

### **6. PARISH PLAN**

Councillor David Bardsley gave the following report:

Our Parish Plan was published in August 2004. Since then there has been progress, I have to say somewhat patchy, in implementing the recommendations.

Shortly after the publication of the Plan, some “action groups” were formed to oversee implementation and at last year’s Annual Parish Meeting I was able to report some solid achievements on a number of fronts.

Action over the last year has been patchy, with some very good achievements and perhaps a lack of progress in other areas. The problem is a lack of active grass roots enthusiasm – so for example the youth action group has disbanded due to a general lack of support; although large numbers of residents favoured a formal good neighbour scheme, there was an almost total lack of volunteers to form one and this idea has been written off.

However the following good progress has been achieved in the last 12 months.

### **Community**

The views of residents have been made known to the Metcalfe Trustees, along with some detailed options for re-development of the Village Hall. The Trustees will be reporting at this meeting, but we understand that they now favour the re-development option.

A sub group of the main community action group has been founded to foster relations between the school and the community. This group has formed an association of local primary schools (Everton, Mattersey, Ranskill, Ranby, Sturton and North Wheatley) and has successful bid for over £8k of funding for this purpose. This will fund an event in Everton this summer of community sports activities for adults of all ages (more details from Sue Hughes, who is chairing the group).

### **Environment**

A new dog waste bin has been provided at Harwell (a need highlighted by the plan questionnaire) and the Parish Council is looking at the possibility of another for Everton Sluice Lane

The Plan highlighted a majority of residents were in favour of a limited small development of affordable housing in the village. The Parish Council have obtained funding from the North East Bassetlaw Forum for a housing needs survey, which is the first step in moving towards this aspiration.

There was much concern about the impact of Finningley Airport. Via the Parish Council’s membership of the North East Bassetlaw forum, we have a voice on the airport consultative committee and have been actively lobbying for the re-opening of Misterton railway station.

As part of “business as usual” the Parish Council have continued to pursue safety measures on the A631.

Following indications of widespread support, we entered Everton in the 2005 “best kept village” contest. Although we did not win, the Metcalfe Recreation Ground received a commendation and we have re-entered for 2006. This has proved a catalyst for getting the District Council to make a number of improvements, residents may have noticed a number of net traffic and street nameplates.

## **Next Steps**

Our experience is similar to other villages with Parish Plans. I would not be critical of residents; in many cases I believe their lack of involvement stems from a perception that there are relatively few problems combined with the busy lives most people lead.

I am aiming to raise the ongoing implementation of the Plan with the Parish Council and will be asking them to discuss a new approach of the Parish Council discussing and prioritising initiatives, concentrating on those which are relatively achievable, bring good benefit and that can be achieved by the Parish Council itself.

## **7. PAROCHIAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT**

There was no report owing to Councillor de Bel's absence from the meeting.

## **8. EVERTON UNITED CHARITIES**

Councillor Jefferies reported as follows:

At the end of April last year the Charity gave gifts of £5 each to 46 pensioners in Everton. Income comprised of £106.08 from the Tithe Wells Charity, £91.95 from investments and £8.19 from bank interest. The account at HSBC in Bawtry has £585.10 in it. I would like to thank the other trustees – Norma and Brian Charles, Chris Chadburn, Eveline Travis and Beryl Peck for their help in distributing the gifts.

## **9. WELLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Councillor Jefferies reported as follows:

In the last year £50 has been given to Everton Primary School for library books and five school leavers were given gifts of £15 each. Only residents of Everton and Scaftworth are eligible to receive money from this charity. As approximately half the children in the village school are non-resident in Everton, few gifts are made each year. Chris Chadburn distributed the gifts to the pupils. The charity received £116.08 from the Tithe Wells Charity and £1.53 interest from the Halifax Bank. It has £208.52 in its account.

## **10. FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE CHARITIES**

Councillor Jefferies made the following proposal, which was approved by the Meeting:

“The Parish Council should approach the Charity Commission for permission to transfer the funds/income of the Everton United Charities, Wells Educational Foundation and Parochial School Endowment Fund to the Metcalfe Charity, on the grounds that the charitable aims of the three small charities are irrelevant to Everton in 2006. All the residents of the village do benefit from the facilities provided by the Metcalfe Charity and so the money would serve the village better if it were used in this way.”

## **11. EVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Tony Connold on behalf of David O'Connor, Chair of Governors, gave the following report:

The school remains a vibrant part of the community. It has continued to maintain an enviable reputation within the region and has made the local area a much sort after residential location for families with young children. Its widespread popularity and the academic success of its pupils means it has a secure future and can continue to provide village children the opportunity to access high quality primary education within walking distance of their own homes – something which is denied to many living in rural locations. The school also has a vibrant nursery provision which is heavily subscribed.

The physical environment of the school has undergone a number of refurbishments recently, with the provision of a new admin office, a meeting room for community usage, disabled toilet facilities and a much-needed staffroom. We are grateful to our immediate neighbours for living with the disruption caused by the required building work and hope they have not been unduly disturbed.

Parking and traffic movement at the beginning and end of the school day remain a concern and staff and parents have produced a Travel Plan in the hope of reducing both the risk to pupils and the disturbance to local residents. The school shares the community's wider concerns regarding the traffic which passes through the village on the A631 and has made reference to this in the aforementioned document.

The staff and governors of the school are always looking for ways to engage positively with the local community and we hope that the coming year will provide numerous opportunities for such collaboration.

## **12. METCALFE CHARITABLE TRUST**

Mr. C. StJ. Hickman read out the Annual financial statement of the Metcalfe Charitable Trust for 2004/05:

The activities of the Trust and the Recreation Committee are covered by the report presented by the Secretary of the Recreation Committee. The Trust is pleased to report that the Trust's finances have returned to a modest increase in income over expenditure after a deficit in the year 2003/4 of £39,912. It is anticipated that to fully recover this loss will take another 2 years at least assuming there is no unexpected extraordinary expenditure in this period and that inflation and other costs do not increase substantially.

<b><u>Income £</u></b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
Insurance Claim	1,815	247
Criminal Damage Compensation	1,500	0
Sale of equipment	50	0
Investments	59,009	62,065
Donation	0	6,000
Interest	1,774	1,959
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>64,148</b>	<b>70,271</b>

#### **Expenses £**

Administration	24,975	16,586
Institute & Grounds	41,709	26,903
Let property costs	31,907	10,144
<b>Grants</b>		
To organisations	3,969	240
To Recreation Cttee	1,500	750
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>104,060</b>	<b>54,623</b>

Net outgoings/income(39,912)      15,648

### **13. METCALFE RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Richard Scott, Secretary to the Committee, read out the following report:

The committee has had a very successful year with the completion of the major refurbishment of the tennis courts and the provision of new tables in the village hall, being notable highlights. Neither of these projects would have been possible without the financial support of the Trust. The excellence of recreation ground facilities was formally recognised by the best kept village competition.

The Trust continues to work on plans to refurbish and upgrade the village hall, members of the committee have been involved in these developments and the committee is excited about the benefits these developments will bring.

The village hall entertainment licence has been updated following the introduction of the new licensing act. This has allowed us to simplify our operating requirements and to extend the licence to include theatre film and sporting events.

The financial position of the committee is strong; we have now fully adjusted to the phasing out of direct grant support from the Trust. We are grateful to the Parish Council for increasing their level of grant to £1300 and to the Trust for completing the necessary paperwork to enable us to receive discretionary relief from business rates at the sports ground. The efforts made by the clubs to meet the new, higher levels of subscriptions are also appreciated; most have seen increases of over 25% in the last 2 budgets.

Our income for the year was £7835 and our expenditure £7052 leaving us with operating reserves of just under £3000, the level set by the committee at the start of the year. This improved financial position has also allowed the committee to fund a number of minor projects and improvements without the need to approach the Trust.

The committee was sorry to lose two member organisations, Rainbows and the Fun club, both of who have served the committee well but was unable to find leaders to allow sessions to continue.

On the positive side we have seen the introduction of Tae Kwan Do sessions and greatly increased use of the facilities by school.

My thanks go to the many people who support the work of the Committee, in particular Chris Hickman, (Trust Secretary), Paul Wilson (Groundsman) who is currently recuperating after a major operation, Mick Boulby (Caretaker) and John Fretwell (Cleaner and odd job man).

Looking forward to the new year the cricket club are completing the installation of new practice nets, all self funded, the footballers have successfully applied for a grant to part fund the replacement of the goal posts and we are already starting to see the benefit of the Blue skies project that is generating new sessions and uses for the facilities.

#### **14. HEDS TOGETHER**

Mr. Tony Connold submitted a brief report in which he thanked everyone who had supported the publication. There had been positive public reaction to the Welcome Booklet, and he was able to report that the Parish telephone directory would be printed shortly.

#### **15. PARISH CHURCH**

Mr. Tony Connold submitted a brief report on the Church's year, and in particular the installation of the new vicar, which had been a memorable occasion.

#### **16. EVERTON SPORTS & SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Councillor Dunn read out the annual report of the Everton Sports & Social Committee, in which he mentioned successful events, being sports day, Christmas Party and Carol singing. He also reported that the swing boats had been sold.

#### **17. BUS SERVICES**

A resident referred to traffic congestion around the school, and observed that it wasn't helped by school buses using Ferry Lane. The Parish Council would consider the matter.

#### **18. TUNNEL TECH NORTH LTD.**

A resident referred to a yellow smog he had observed moving from the Newington area over the River Idle. The Parish Council would consider the matter.

**19. ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT**

References were made to frequent circling over the village that day. An observation was also made that night flying was causing a nuisance. The Parish Council would consider the matter.