

## **PARISH OF EVERTON**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 28TH APRIL, 2008**

Present: Councillor D. J. Bardsley in the Chair.  
Eight members of the Parish Council and  
eight members of the public were also present

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted by Mr. Tony Connold.

#### **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 Bardsley gave the following report:

This meeting is an opportunity to take a look at the past year, some achievements, some setbacks, try to put this into an overall context and allow anyone the opportunity to question and hold the Parish Council to account.

##### **People**

We lost a valued friend and past councillor when Bob Troop sadly died in 2006. We've planted a tree in the recreation ground in Bob's memory. We identified this with a plaque and have also identified the tree planted in memory of Jack Bell with a similar plaque.

##### **Council Tax**

This year we raised our precept (the element of council tax that funds the Parish Council) from a total of £9,300 to £9,700, more or less in line with inflation. This equates to less than £30 per household per year, and is one of the lowest precepts in the area.

##### **The Parish Plan**

Our Parish Plan was published in 2004. This is a "living document" and the wishes of residents, as expressed in the Plan, are a major consideration in all the Parish Council does. At present we are in the process of reviewing and updating the plan to take account of subsequent developments. Rather than deal with these separately, I will mention the relevance of specific initiatives to the plan as I run through them.

## **Affordable Housing**

I think this is probably one of the most important initiatives the Parish Council is taking, one inspired by the Parish Plan and an area in which we really can make a difference.

We reported last year that we had commissioned Notts RCC (now Notts Rural Community Action - RCAN), to carry out a Housing Needs Survey.

RCAN completed their report, the key conclusion of which was:

“The results of the survey demonstrate a clear need for affordable housing in Everton. Taking into account the scale of the need shown by the survey, the requirements of the respondents, the support for affordable housing, evidenced in the Parish Plan questionnaire and in this survey and the views of the Parish Council, the nature of development to meet this need should be:

*A small development (maximum of 5) of two and three bedroom dwellings, made available via a shared purchase scheme, or possibly a combination of shared purchase and rental.”*

We have discussed this conclusion with Bassetlaw District Council Housing and Planning Departments, who accept this result and whose advice is that the District Council would consider a planning application for affordable housing within or adjacent to the village envelope.

We've established a small project team and our first step has been to meet ACIS Group (a “not-for-profit” housing association based in Gainsborough) and Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) with a view to identifying potential sites. ACIS have experience of working in partnership with local parish councils in order to provide affordable housing.

Our aspiration is to have achieved the build and sale/rental of the units by the end of 2009. This is at present a target rather than a firm plan, but should be achievable if all goes well.

It must be emphasised that this project is not certain of success. It will fail if:

- We cannot find a suitable plot of land, with a landowner willing to sell
- The housing provider (ACIS) fails to obtain a grant from the Housing Corporation
- ACIS cannot secure Planning Permission from Bassetlaw District Council

So there is no foregone conclusion, but this is something the Parish Council will pursue vigorously, with a view to meeting the needs of local people and improving the sustainability of the Everton community.

## **School & Community Working Group**

Following a response from Everton Primary School to the Parish Council's request for updates to the Parish Plan, a meeting of over 30 people took place in the Village Hall in February.

Jenny Lane (Everton School) and Sue Hughes (Blue Skies) gave presentations focusing on modern thinking about the future of schools, bringing these closer to community activities. The vision for Everton Primary School was of the school and the community working together and exploiting synergies to build a sustainable future, for example by making better use of shared facilities.

In essence it is all about the community coming together in "joined up thinking" rather than pursuing "silo initiatives".

The meeting was in unanimous agreement to moving the vision forward. To do this, a "School & Community group has been formed. As reported in HEDS (and on the village web site) a number of initiatives are being investigated. These include:

### ***Community use of new school facilities***

The school will be building a new study room, which may be suitable for community use. Possibilities discussed were as an "overflow" meeting room when the Village Hall is booked up and as a centre for visiting healthcare services.

### ***Future development of new play/sports facilities on the recreation ground***

The future plans of the Metcalfe Trustees/Recreation Committee include the re-development of the Tea Rooms/Changing Rooms area. There is synergy, and maybe scope to more easily attract funding, by looking at this together with needs to extend the children's playground (another Parish Plan initiative) to cater for older children and the school's need for additional sports facilities - possibly met by a "sports barn".

### ***Improved Web Site for the Village***

Merging the present School, Blue Skies and Everton Community web sites into a single site using more up to date technology.

### ***Producing a consolidated Village "Emergency Plan"***

The school already has an "emergency plan" and the Parish Council intends to produce one. It was felt there should be a single plan.

### ***Transport***

Lack of public transport is a long running problem in Everton. It was felt we should explore whether better use could be made of the Mattersey school mini bus, which is available to Everton.

## **Best kept Village Competition**

After the outstanding success of 2006, we did not fare quite so well in 2007, but we did manage third place in Category C of the CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition last year - an excellent achievement and a credit to all the people of Everton who made an effort.

The Parish Council decided to enter again in 2008. I'd emphasise that entering the competition is not all about winning prizes. The competition is a catalyst to generally improving the appearance of the village and can be a "lever" to get things done - for example improvements to signage and street cleaning.

So this year we'll be trying again. We'll be up against some tough opposition and it's up to us. Judging will be in June, but, if we get through to the finals, there'll be further judging in July.

The main thing the judges will be looking for is a clean and tidy village, free of litter, dog dirt, weed-infested pavements, untidy gardens, etc. We're hoping that individuals and organisations will help Everton to do well and win prizes.

This year we'll have the added attraction of a new flowerbed at Carr View, which is being established with the help of sponsorship by Everton Nurseries and County Councillor Bullivant, and is to be managed by Everton Garden Holders.

Once again, there was no interest in entering from Harwell.

Whilst on this subject, I regret that, despite appeals in HEDS a small number of dog owners are still allowing their dogs to foul within the village. If anyone has a problem with this the Parish Council can call out the dog warden, who has the power to issue a fixed penalty notice and a fine of £50, with a penalty of up to £1,000 for non-payment.

If residents are (quite naturally) reticent to "shop" offenders I have a supply of leaflets outlining the legal position that, if they so wish, they can give to offenders.

### **Road Safety and Traffic Management**

We've a few things to report:

- After an initial hiccup involving a plan by the County Council to carry out pavement improvements on the west side of High Street, and with the help of a concerned resident, we persuaded them to change their minds, with the result that much-needed works have been carried out on the east side of High Street
- The County Council has responded to our request for attention to Long Meadows. Potholes will be repaired. The road has also been put forward for inspection and assessment as part of the 2008-09 resurfacing programme
- We're working with the school and NCC to try to get a safe crossing point on Chapel Lane
- We have been pressing the County Council to carry out repairs and re-surfacing to the A631 footpath to Bawtry. Some interim improvements have been made and NCC is looking at more comprehensive improvements this year.
- We asked the County Council to lay kerbing on Everton Sluice Lane, between Roe Lane and Northfield Farmstead, in order to protect the grass verge from damage by parked vehicles. Unfortunately, there was not the finance available, but this is still "on the list".

At a more general level we are pressing the County Council (it has to be said so far without success, but we intend to be persistent) for greater consultation with the PC at the time budgets and plans for road improvements are. We believe that taking the input of local priorities will better meet local needs and save the taxpayers' money.

### **Tunneltech North**

Basically, the smell from the mushroom compost factory still persists; probably its occurrence and intensity has more to do with variations in weather conditions than the efforts of the operators (Tunnel Tech).

However, pressed by recent legislation, Tunnel Tech is constructing new facilities to enclose the fermentation process. These are due to be completed this autumn, and will also allow increased production at the site.

The PC pressed for the expansion side of the scheme to be put on hold until the efficacy of the new enclosure arrangements was proved, but to no avail.

We continue to keep the situation under review and are in regular contact with the BDC environmental department.

Tunnel Tech has indicated their willingness to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain their new processes, but so far we have been unable to arrange this.

### **Daneshill Household Waste and Recycling Centre**

The County Council has decided to close Daneshill on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. We've protested, and requested an explanation at a public meeting, but our request was turned down.

### **Planning**

As always, we study all planning applications carefully, before making our observations to Bassetlaw District Council. Unfortunately we feel that the District Council do not always give the weight to our comments that we believe they deserve; several applications we opposed have gone ahead, and a number we supported have been rejected.

One of these was the recent Everton Nurseries application to open a new coffee shop Deli and General Store, which we strongly supported. We attended the appeal against the rejection of this application by the District Council in order to support the application, but the rejection was upheld.

At County level, the County Council has granted planning permission to Lafarge Aggregates UK Ltd. to open sand and gravel quarry at Sturton-le-Steeple. This was in the face of opposition from a number of parish councils. A PC representative attended the planning meeting at County Hall to speak against the environmental impact of the increased traffic on the A631 that this proposal would result in. District Councillor Annette Simpson and County Councillor Ken Bullivant supported us; however this was not to be our finest hour, and, as we all know, the application was allowed.

## **Policing**

The past year has seen a new initiative by the police to try to demonstrate that they are responding to local agendas. They have established “Safer Neighbourhood Groups”, to discuss local concerns with local representatives and help set priorities. The Parish Council is represented, via our Vice-Chairman, Robin Maclagan, on our local group.

We have some reservations in that the groups do not have burglary and car crime on their agendas, and the court is still out on their effectiveness.

A welcome development has been the appointment of PCSO Stephanie Jones and the inclusion of Everton within her areas of responsibility, bringing more police resources to the village. However, within months of her being appointed she has been given responsibility for Misterton and West Stockwith on top of her existing beat.

This is bad news, as although we feel Stephanie does an excellent job, she will inevitably have less time to spend in Everton.

It was a further disappointment that the police decided to do this with no consultation, despite the advent of the new safer neighbourhood groups. We’ve written a letter of protest to the Chief Constable, and Robin Maclagan attended a recent meeting of Misterton Parish Council (who share our concerns) to protest to the Police Inspector responsible.

## **Community Speedwatch**

The current position with this is that we’ve written to the Chief Constable, asking that Nottinghamshire Police have a rethink and agree to provide personal accident insurance cover for volunteers. We’re awaiting a response, but until such time as cover is provided, we’re unable to promote Community Speedwatch in Everton.

## **Parish Council Emergency Plan**

Following last year’s floods, we agree with the County and District Councils over the desirability of parish councils producing their own emergency plans to link in with the County and District plans. This, of course, is not just about floods, but also about any sort of emergency that can arise. We’ll be taking this initiative ahead under the aegis of the new school & community working group.

As regards the floods, the County Council has responded to our request to test the surface water drainage on Gainsborough Road and Mattersey Road. This has only recently been done and we have yet to obtain any feedback from the Council.

On a more general note, the District Council is looking at feasibility studies relating to village drainage systems affected by flooding.

## **Village Charities**

Plans to consolidate trusteeship of the village charities in the Parish Council have finally been dropped, following a decision by the trustees of the Parochial School Endowment to keep trusteeship with themselves.

## **Cemetery**

We're pleased to say that the Cemetery remains in good condition and the contractors responsible for the maintenance continue to do an excellent job.

## **Closing Remarks**

After nearly 29 years in Everton, I still think it is a privilege to live in such an environment and such a community.

To a large extent we are at the mercy of events in the wider world, but we can still have some influence to make Everton the sort of place we want to live in. To me this is about striving to remain a "sustainable community", something Everton has been for perhaps a thousand years.

This means a community of people who have an element of common purpose, who exploit local synergies, who look out for each other and I'm conscious that a large number of parishioners play an active role in doing just this and many are here, or are represented here by their organisations tonight.

To mention some is inevitably to run the risk of missing others equally deserving, but I should like to highlight those financially supported by the Parish Council - the HEDS team, who perform a valuable role in an age when good communications is so vital; the Recreation Committee, who look after the day to day running of the village hall and recreation ground, and the Metcalfe Trustees, who provide the vast bulk of the funding for these excellent facilities and are this year embarking on the refurbishment of the village hall.

I'd like to thank all the members of the Parish Council for their good work over the past year. The attendance at council meetings has been excellent. Councillors also represent Everton on a number of committees outside the village.

The council is very fortunate to have David Wright as its clerk. I'd like to thank David for all his sound advice and hard work over the year.

Finally it has to be said that it is the residents of Everton who make it such a good place to live in.

## **4. QUESTIONS AND ISSUES ARISING FROM COUNCILLOR BARDSLEY'S REPORT**

An elector expressed surprise that Councillor Bardsley did not mention noise nuisance from Robin Hood Airport, making the point that training flights over Everton continued to be a problem.

After a brief discussion about the line of contact the Parish Council ought to be making, Councillor Bardsley agreed that this issue would be discussed at the Annual Parish Council meeting.

The Clerk drew attention to the fact that Beckingham cum Saundby Parish Council has also written a letter of protest to the Chief Constable over the recent staffing changes affecting local PCSOs. Letters of protest to appropriate police personnel had also been sent by Councillor Mike Quigley, Leader of the District Council, and Councillor Hugh Burton, Chairman of the NALC Northern Area Committee.

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

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £8,251. Income during the year came to £14,455 and expenditure £14,874, leaving a closing balance of £7,832. The closing balance includes a sum of £2,742 earmarked for Parish Paths Partnership work.

The precept for the current year is £9,700, with a projected balance at 31st March, 2009 of £4,092.

## **6. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE CLERK TO EVERTON AND SCAFTWORTH JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE**

The Joint Burial Committee commenced the year with an opening balance of £3,209, of which £2,938 was earmarked for an eventual Cemetery extension. Income came to £3,516 and expenditure to £3,086, leaving a closing balance of £3,639. The balance included the Scaftworth element of the 2008/09 precept, £314, which was received early. The Cemetery extension earmarked reserve rose to £2,974.

The precept for the current year is £3,135, of which Everton Parish Council will pay £2,821 and Scaftworth Parish Meeting £314.

## **7. PAROCHIAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT**

Councillor de Bel reported that the balance of the accounts was as follows:

First Reserve Account	£6,060.00
Current Account	£91.47

In 2007, £15 was donated to the Parochial Church Council for church work within Everton School, and £40 to the Toddlers Church.

## **8. EVERTON UNITED CHARITIES**

Councillor Jefferies gave the following report:

United Charities currently have £267 in their account at HSBC in Bawtry. Income this year has comprised of £14 bank interest, £117 from investments in Charishare and Charinco through Black Rock Merrill Lynch Investment Managers and £99 from the Tithe Wells Charity - £230 in total.

The Trustees are in the process of delivering monies to 44 elderly people in the village. On this occasion payments of £10 are being made.

Mrs. Eveline Travis has resigned as a trustee. We would like to thank her for all she has done for the charity over the last 10 years.

## 9. WELLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Councillor Jefferies gave the following report:

There has not been a meeting of the charity this year although I am currently trying to arrange one. I had hoped that we would be able to combine this charity with the Parochial School Endowment Fund at some stage during the year as proposed at a previous Annual Parish Meeting and so delayed making payments. It appears unlikely that this will now take place.

The charity currently has £310 in its account at the Halifax in Retford. Income this year was £97 From the Tithes Wells Charity and £5 bank interest.

The Tithes Wells Charity is administered by H S R Law in Gainsborough. We received no payment from them last year as they reinvested the charity's funds and this caused the payment date to us to alter.

## 10. EVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

No report was given owing to Mr. Connold's absence.

## 11. METCALFE CHARITABLE TRUST

Mr. C. StJ. Hickman read out the Annual financial statement of the Metcalfe Charitable Trust for 2006/07:

The activities of the Trust during the past year (2007/08) are covered by the Secretary of the Recreation Committee. This is to avoid duplication.

<b><u>Income</u> £</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>
Investments	64,653	68,858
Donation	1,000	
Misc. Income	4,113	
Interest	1,412	1,802
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>71,178</b>	<b>70,660</b>

### **Expenses £**

Administration	19,873	21,153
Institute & Grounds	52,965	32,453
Let property costs	8,001	8,929

### **Grants**

To organisations	240	160
To Recreation Cttee	750	550
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>81,829</b>	<b>63,245</b>

Net outgoings/income(10,651)            7,415

## 12. METCALFE RECREATION COMMITTEE

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

The Committee has had another successful year completing a number of projects and embarking on new ones.

Our biggest single project remains the refurbishment of the hall; the Trust has secured a £40,000 grant from WREN to part fund the refurbishment, a contractor has been appointed and work is expected to start in July or August. The Trust is funding the other £35,000 of this work. The hall will be unavailable for 8 to 10 weeks during the refurbishment work.

The Committee has continued to work on replacing the staging block system in the hall; there is now around £4,500 in our funds and we would have proceeded with the purchase. However, we have deferred purchase until the completion of the hall refurbishment.

The cricket club has completed the installation of new practice nets, all self funded, several new clubs and teams have been introduced and the facilities are being used more than ever.

The children of Everton Primary School have designed and built 30 nest boxes for use around the Recreation ground. These were installed in October and a usage survey will be undertaken shortly. We are grateful to the individuals who generously sponsored the costs of the materials for the boxes.

We have completed the first steps towards improving the young people's play facilities at the ground. Again much of the work was carried out by children from the school. They prepared a questionnaire; interviewed more than 120 users of the park; analysed the results; met with 4 companies to discuss options and prepared a presentation for the Recreation Committee, Parish Council and Trustees.

A general summary of their findings is:

- Most children below the age of ten are happy with the current provision.
- Older users would like some more challenging play equipment and other facilities.
- The general feel of the park could be made more welcoming by changing the colour scheme and refurbishing some of the existing equipment.

We hope to start work on these findings after the hall refurbishment is completed.

The financial position of the Committee remains strong. The Parish council continues to support us generously and we are grateful for their continued support. We also remind the village that the committee deals only with day to day running expenses, the Trust covering most of the costs of the operation the facilities.

Our income for the year was £9745 and our expenditure £6,637, leaving us with operating reserves of just under £5000 and a further £3000 set aside for the support of current projects.

We were saddened by the closure of playgroup, who have been members of our committee since the early 1970s; we thank all playgroup organisers for their work over the 4 decades. The present Committee worked hard to find new members to take over the Committee, but it is increasingly difficult for all our organisations to find volunteers to take on committee roles.

My thanks go to the many people who support the work of the Committee, in particular Ann Hickman (chairman), Paul Wilson (groundsman), Mick Boulby (Caretaker), Barbara deBel (volunteer cleaner) and John Fretwell (Cleaner and odd job man) whose efforts keep the facilities in superb condition and make my job easy. John has recently stood down from cleaning duties and we are now seeking a replacement.

### **13. HEDS TOGETHER**

Mrs. Ann Hickman, in the absence of Mr. ony Connold, Editor of HEDS Together, gave the following brief report:

- 420 copies of HEDS Together are now produced monthly.
- Advertising revenue is good.
- More contributions still required.
- More input is required into the diary.

### **14. PARISH CHURCH**

No report was given owing to Mr. Connold's absence.

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

Mrs. Ann Hickman read out the following report:

The Social Committee has been responsible for two major events during the last year. Sports Day was held, for the most part successful, though rain meant that not all the events took place, though all the ones for the trophies were completed. We are still in need of more help with this event – we hope this year to publicise it more in HEDS with a history of the event, and we will endeavour to sell programmes door to door. It is also hoped to make it more of a communal event with organisations being asked to run stalls for their own benefit.

The Parochial Party was held in November and was attended by more people than in the previous years. A home cooked meal was provided and then entertainment. We are particularly grateful to the Brownies who provide the table decorations and the Guides who take coats, seat people and then serve the meal and help with the washing up – they are wonderful and to be congratulated for all they do at this event in such a happy way. It is also heartening that we have a good team organising the event and helping with it.

We would also like to thank the Parish Council and Metcalfe Trust for their financial help with this event – we make no charge whatsoever to those who attend.

This year, as well as the two events I have already mentioned, we hope to revive the Village Quiz and run this as a fundraiser towards the cost of the renovations of the Hall.

We would welcome any help on the Committee.

## **16. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Resolved: That future Annual Parish Meetings commence at 7.30 p.m.