

## PARISH OF EVERTON

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 30TH APRIL, 2007

Present: Councillor E. M. Jefferies in the Chair.  
Eight members of the Parish Council, District Councillor A. Simpson  
and 12 members of the public were also present

#### 1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 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 Jefferies gave the following report:

##### **People**

At this time last year Everton was preparing for local elections. These brought some changes. Nip Martin who had been our District Councillor stood down. Being an active District Councillor is very demanding of time. Nip had offered us excellent service for many years and we wish him well in his retirement. Nip was replaced by Annette Simpson and I am delighted by her support for Everton and also for her real interest in rural issues.

Unfortunately only eight people stood for places on the parish council. We need more to stand at the next election. Jenny Marsh decided not stand but we keep representation from all parts of the village with Lynne Ferrar now representing Harwell.

We lost a valued friend and past councillor, Bob Troop, who sadly died last year. We plan to plant a tree in the recreation ground in Bob's memory.

##### **Achievements**

Well, what a year it was!

The good news started on 12<sup>th</sup> May, when Everton, along with Gringley and Misterton, became the first parishes in Bassetlaw to achieve Quality Accreditation. Achieving this took three years of hard work done mainly by the Clerk.

We followed this by winning Category C of the CPRE Nottinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition. We were delighted when we added the 'Best Kept Village in Nottinghamshire' title. This was a stunning achievement and a credit to all the people of Everton who made an effort. We also got great support from County Council Highways.

We plan to enter again this year. We expect strong competition from Mattersey and Gringley, who won Category C in 2005, as well as from Oxton, the runners up for the last two years. Our success will depend on the support we get from villagers. Judging takes place in June/July with a second round in August/September.

The judges look for a clean and tidy village, free of litter, dog dirt, fly notices, weed infested pavements, untidy gardens etc. We are hoping that individuals and organisations will help us improve on last year. This year we'll have the added help of Mr. Geoff Nelson, who is carrying out our voluntary litter picking, thus supplementing the efforts of the schoolchildren and the Brownies.

Our other big success of the year was in finally securing the installation of the interactive sign on the A631. This road creates many problems for the village but the parish council continues to press the County Council for action and has achieved some improvements over the years.

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

Parish Councillors recently met with Mr. Richard Statham from the County Council's Highways Department, to discuss issues including safety problems caused by on street parking outside the school and on High Street. The dialogue continues. We have tried to get a 20 mph speed limit in the village, but the County Council will not consider this until they get the results of a three-year trial of 20mph limits that they are doing elsewhere in Nottinghamshire.

### **Lafarge**

Most people will now be aware that plans have been submitted by Lafarge to develop sand and gravel quarries at Sturton-le-Steeple. We raised concerns about the extra traffic this could cause on the A631 when the County Mineral Plan was being drawn up five years ago. We have again lodged strong objections to the transportation of quarried goods by road and have argued for use of rail and river. Thanks are due to Sue Hughes and Councillor Annette Simpson for their help in this matter. The current position is that County Council officials are talking to Lafarge about the transport issue.

### **Tunneltech North Ltd**

Tunneltech has recently submitted a planning application, which has the primary aim of reducing smell nuisance. However, they are also proposing to expand their facilities to increase production. We have responded to the application saying that, whilst we do not object, we want a condition prohibiting increased production until such time as the smell is diminished.

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

The County Council has decided to close Daneshill on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009. We have protested and requested attendance at a public meeting. We are told that the national guidelines require that we should have a waste and recycling facility within five miles of our homes. The main thrust of our complaint is that Retford is more than five miles from Everton and the change would inconvenience us.

## **Robin Hood Airport**

The airport has recently consulted on an Airspace Change Proposal, which is intended to put the airport in controlled air space and to improve air safety. We have said we are happy with that proposal although we are going to consider the impact the airport is having on Everton shortly.

## **Planning**

We continue to study all planning applications carefully and make observations on them to the District Council.

## **Housing Needs Survey**

The survey was funded by the North East Bassetlaw Forum and carried out with the help of the Nottinghamshire Rural Community Council who have produced the draft report. We are now working towards the final report.

## **Village Charities**

Possible merger of small village charities was discussed at the last annual meeting as they were seen as being irrelevant to Everton in 2006. The Parish Council is currently working towards having trusteeship transferred to the Council.

## **Cemetery**

The cemetery remains in a really good condition and has just received the second cut of the season. The contractors continue to do an excellent job.

We do suffer problems with loosened gravestones. We are taking action to get them made secure.

## **Council Tax**

Our precept (local council tax) has risen from £9000 to £9300 mostly as a result of inflation. However, we have found it possible to make a donation of £300 towards necessary improvements to Misterton Primary School swimming pool as it is used by Everton schoolchildren. The Clerk is pleased to report that the improvements are now complete.

## **Local Information**

We try to keep everyone up-to-date with significant developments using Heds Together and also our website, [www.evertonvillage.org.uk](http://www.evertonvillage.org.uk). Minutes, newsletters etc are distributed with Heds but are also displayed in the notice board at Carr View.

## **Concluding Comments**

I feel that it has been a successful year. We are not yet sure what advantages our Quality status will bring to us. The County Council is looking to see if they can provide better service and perhaps a little extra funding. It seems to be a step in the right direction.

The Local Government Bill currently going through Parliament could bring big changes in the immediate future. Consultation on this and other issues continues with new documents out for consideration nearly every week.

We are fortunate that we have a well-qualified and dedicated clerk in David Wright. We need to thank David for all his knowledge and hard work on our behalf.

I also wish to thank the councillors for their work over the past year. Attendance at council meetings is good. Councillors represent Everton outside on committees the village and they even do physical work around the village.

I am conscious that many parishioners play an active part in keeping Everton running. The parish council gives some money to support 'Heds Together', now in its nineteenth year. We believe it performs a valuable role in the village and I would thank the whole Heds team for the part they play and especially Ann Hickman and Tony Connell who do so much else in the village as well. We are glad to offer some financial support to the Metcalfe Management Committee. Thanks must also go to the Groundsman, Richard Scott, Mick Boulby, Chris Hickman and others for all their work in maintaining the hall and field.

Everton would not be the pleasant place it is without the contribution of so many of its residents. Thank you all and keep up the good work!

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

The Parish Council commenced the year with an opening balance of £6,541. Income during the year came to £15,671 and expenditure £13,961, leaving a closing balance of £8,251. The closing balance included a sum of £1,806 earmarked for Parish Paths Partnership work.

The precept for the current year was £9,300, with a projected balance at 31st March, 2008 of £4,956.

#### **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 £2,662, all of which apart from the 2006/07 Scaftworth precept of £235 received early was earmarked for an eventual Cemetery extension. Income came to £3,796 and expenditure to £3,247, leaving a surplus of £549. This surplus would be transferred to the Cemetery Extension fund, with the exception of £271 being the Scaftworth element of the current year's precept, which was received early.

The precept for the current year is £2,709, of which Everton Parish Council would pay £2,438 and Scaftworth Parish Meeting £271.

## **6. PARISH PLAN**

Councillor David Bardsley gave the following report:

It is now nearly 3 years since the production of the Parish Plan. Progress has been made on a number of fronts, initially by “Action Groups”, but latterly as “Business as Usual” by the Parish Council.

The following is an overview of progress in the past 12 months:

- Continued to review the A631 problems – interactive traffic signs have been installed
- Made representations to Notts CC re a 20mph speed limit for parts of the village and over parking problems – this is still being pursued and looks like a very lengthy process
- Entered for the second time (and won) the best kept village contest
- Established that the drainage problems highlighted in the Plan Questionnaire (lack of mains drainage) concerned Drakeholes – we are presently liaising with the Wiseton Parish Meeting over this issue
- In response to the support (59%) for a small development of affordable housing, we have obtained grant funding for a Housing needs survey – which has been conducted by Notts RCC – a report will be presented shortly
- A response to the view that the facility most in need of refurbishment in the Village was the children’s playground was delayed in view of uncertainty over the possible siting of a new village hall. With a decision by the Metcalfe Trust to refurbish the existing hall, we have approached the Metcalfe Recreation Committee for views on requirements (this body has established a small working Group that is involving Everton School in an exercise to provide an initial view)
- No progress has been made on the provision of a shop/Post Office. In view of the Post Office’s rationalisation programme (on which the Parish Council has been consulted) this is looking extremely unlikely. BDC has (twice) rejected a planning application from Everton Nurseries to open a shop on their premises.

## **7. PAROCHIAL SCHOOL ENDOWMENT**

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

Capital Reserve Account	£6,060.00
Current Account	£47.64

The six monthly current account statement, due in June, 2007, was awaited before the trustees allocated the next distribution.

In 2006, three groups each received £35, being:

Adventures Club  
Toddlers Church (Everton)  
Guide Group

**8. EVERTON UNITED CHARITIES**

Councillor Jefferies gave the following report:

This charity is funded mainly by the Tithe Wells Charity and exists to support the elderly poor of the parish. For many years payments of £5 have been made to households inhabited by the older people in Everton. Last year 49 gifts were made.

The Tithe Wells Charity re-invested its money last year and Hayes, Son & Richmond, the Gainsborough solicitors who act for Tithe Wells, have yet to donate any income for distribution this year.

United Charities currently have £478.46 in their account at the HSBC in Bawtry.

**9. WELLS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Councillor Jefferies gave the following report:

This is one of the charities we are hoping are hoping to combine under the trusteeship of the parish council. It exists to help Everton families with the costs arising from the secondary education of their children. In recent years it has made small gifts of money to children from the village who were going on to secondary school. It has also given donations to the village school for its library.

No money was donated in the last year. There is currently £210.04 in the Halifax account in Retford. No money has been received from the Tithe Wells Charity this year.

**10. FUTURE OF THE VILLAGE CHARITIES**

Councillor de Bel reported that, although little progress had been made over the past year with regard to rationalisation of the village charities, there were recent indications that the Charity Commission might after all be prepared to move in the right direction.

**11. EVERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Mr. Tony Connold gave the following report on behalf of David O'Connor, Chair of Governors who was unable to attend:

While the demand for places at Everton Primary School remains high, all concerned with the school are aware that the future of small rural primary schools cannot be guaranteed. Collaborative links with other schools within neighbouring villages remain strong thanks to our involvement in the Blue Skies Project. A good example of this is the expansion of the pre and post-school childcare provision at Mattersey Primary School, to accommodate pupils from Everton, and the provision of transport to facilitate its use. Such links will become increasingly important if schools such as ours are to continue to thrive.

The preceding year has seen further construction work and the installation of new playground equipment, which has proved very popular with the children. Shortage of classroom space continues to be a concern to both staff and governors with consideration currently being given as to how we can best resolve this issue. The achievement of all children remains high across all aspects of the curriculum and the school continues to provide its pupils with a firm foundation on which to build further success as they continue their education.

As a governing body we endeavour to work closely with all parents and prospective parents for the benefit of all our pupils. We ask that people remember that we are required to meet the diverse needs of a range of children and families, while working within constraints that are applied to us rather than by us. We cannot always respond positively to individual requests, but will always strive to work collaboratively for every child at the school, as every child matters to us.

The school shares the Parish Council's concerns regarding the inconsideration shown by some parents whilst they undertake the 'school run'. We will continue to remind parents and pupils alike regarding the dangers inherent in driving and parking close to the school and would respectfully the Parish Council to suggest that families living in the village consider walking rather than driving their children to and from the school.

The staff and governors of the school continue to look for ways to engage positively with the wider community and we hope that the coming year will provide further opportunities for such collaboration to continue.

## 12. METCALFE CHARITABLE TRUST

Mr. C. StJ. Hickman read out the Annual financial statement of the Metcalfe Charitable Trust for 2005/06:

The activities of the Trust and the Recreation Committee are covered by the report presented by the Secretary of the Recreation Committee.

<b><u>Income</u> £</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
Insurance Claim	247	
Investments	62,065	64,653
Donation	6,000	1,000
Misc. Income		4,113
Interest	<u>1,959</u>	<u>1,412</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>70,271</b>	<b>71,178</b>

### **Expenses £**

Administration	16,586	19,873
Institute & Grounds	26,903	52,965
Let property costs	10,144	8,001

### **Grants**

To organisations	240	240
To Recreation Cttee	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	54,623	81,829

Net outgoings/income 15,648 (10,651)

### **13. 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.

One major improvement was the provision of new goal posts for the senior and youth pitches; this work was part funded by the Football Foundation, Football club and Trust.

All the trees on the recreation ground have been assessed as part of ongoing health and safety checks. A number of trees have been removed and others have had remedial work carried out on them.

The Trust has finalised the plans to refurbish and upgrade the Village Hall. The final details are currently on display in the village and the Trust and Committee are now looking at funding options.

Last summer, the groundsman was absent from work following major surgery. Happily he is now back at work and we are grateful to the team of volunteers, C. Hickman, M. Boulby and J. Fretwell, for looking after the facilities in his absence.

The Committee is involved with two new projects, one to replace the staging in the Hall with a more user-friendly system. So far we have received pledges of money for over £3500 and are exploring options to complete this work.

The Committee is also working on the Parish Plan target of improving the children's playground. This project is being run as a joint project with the village school and should report back by July.

The financial position of the Committee is strong; we have now fully adjusted to the phasing out of direct grant support from the Trust. The Parish council continues to support us generously and we are grateful for its 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 £9350 and our expenditure £7275, leaving us with operating reserves of just under £3000, and £1500 set aside for the support of current projects.

The Committee was deeply saddened by the death of Bob Troop, a long-standing member of the committee and a great supporter of our activities. We are pleased that he will be commemorated with the planting of a new tree at the recreation ground.

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

Looking forward to the new year, the cricket club is completing 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.

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

Mr. Tony Connold, Editor of HEDS Together, read out the following report:

We have just delivered Issue Number 225 for the month of May 2007, which comprises 32 pages of interesting subject matter interspaced with adverts from local companies. The Parish Council's Spring Newsletter and Christian Aid envelopes were also enclosed inside the 400 copies distributed throughout Harwell, Everton, Drakeholes and Scaftworth.

Ideally we would like to be financially self-sufficient with advertising revenue covering our printing costs, but this has not yet been possible despite our efforts and so we are again most grateful to the Parish Council for their annual grant.

Jen Marsh agreed to join our team in January this year in order to put Harwell issues into the monthly village magazine, so we are again a team of eight volunteers serving the local community.

Feedback from readers indicates their satisfaction; however we would like to expand our magazine to include readers' own input about their interesting hobbies, theatre and film reviews as well as to continue with the present range of items covered.

We do have plans to interview older residents with a view to publish some interesting real life stories of times gone by in this local community.

Every new Everton resident receives a HEDS welcome booklet and a village telephone directory from a member of our editorial team and this seems to be very well received and something of a nice surprise.

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

Mr. Tony Connold submitted a brief report on the Church's year, in the unavoidable absence of Revd. Smithurst.

**16. EVERTON SPORTS & SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Mrs. Ann Hickman read out the following report:

Sports Day last year was not as well attended as usual, but we obviously struck a weekend when a lot of people were out of the village. We still have a few people who do not seem to think it is appropriate to donate any money in the bucket, so this year we will be reverting to selling the programme door to door before the event.

The Parochial Party in November was very successful. It is a good team that organise it and with the help of the Brownies and Guides it all runs very smoothly. Thank you to them all, particularly the Guides who were part of the entertainment last year.

The December Carol singing was better attended than ever, and thanks to Richard's route planning, we managed to go via the two hostelrys in the village. The amount collected was £131 donated to the school project to build a school in The Gambia.

This year's Sports Day will actually be a weekend, with a bit of a do in the village hall on the Saturday evening and the Sports Day on the Sunday – we hope we have not clashed with anything this year and it will be well supported.

Thank you to all those who support and attend the events.

**17. PARKING AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS**

A discussion took place about parking congestion, particularly at the junction of Chapel Lane and Long Meadows. It was also suggested that a traffic advisory sign be erected at the junction of Chapel Lane and Ferry Lane. These matters would be referred to the Parish Council.

**18. PROPOSED CLOSURE OF DANESHILL HOUSEHOLD WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE**

In response to a question from a resident, it was explained that the Parish Council was waiting to hear if a County Council representative would attend a public meeting over this issue.

The discussion then ranged on to trials which would possibly involve a four-bin household refuse collection service, to include garden waste and glass.