**CHURCH BROUGHTON**

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & UPDATE FROM THE COMMUNITY LED PLAN GROUP HELD ON THURSDAY 20TH APRIL 2023 AT 7.30PM**

Those present: In attendance:

Councillor Pedley-Chairman Helena Steeples-Clerk

Councillor Redfern

Councillor Speake

Councillor Thorpe

Councillor Warriner

26 Parishioners

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Woodhall, Mr Prince, Mrs Prince, Mrs Shanks, Mr & Mrs Hartas & Mr Partridge.

**2.0 REVIEW OF PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

The Parish Council’s primary areas of activity are:

* Cemetery maintenance – financial support for grass mowing
* Community Hall (former Methodist Chapel and Schoolroom)
  + Dedicated Management Committee with detailed Terms of Reference
* Dog fouling
  + Reminding owners of legal requirements
  + Provision of dog waste bins
* Environmental Improvement and Maintenance
  + Planting trees in open spaces and hedge cutting in public spaces.
* Financial support for various community groups and activities:
  + the Village Park
  + village flower tubs
  + village defibrillator
  + village website & email
* Highways and Traffic signs
  + reporting problems and escalation to County and District Councillors
* Litter and Litter bins
* Planning
  + Reviewing, commenting on planning applications and consulting where appropriate
  + Seeking support from SDDC e.g., DVP light pollution / use of Woodyard Lane
* Rights of Way, Footpaths and Bridleways
  + Maintenance of some key public footpaths on behalf of DCC
  + Liaising with local landowners, and DCC if required
  + Parishioner advised that he had previously reported 2 damaged stiles on the land to the north of the village, but nothing had been done. ACTION: CLERK TO ADVISE COUNCILLOR WOODHALL
* Supporting local volunteers

**3.0 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY LED PLAN ACTIVITIES**

Mr Weil submitted the following report on behalf of the Community Led Plan Group and presented the highlights to the meeting:

Following the formation of the Community Led Plan in May 2015, eight Working Groups were created. The status of these is as follows:

**Village Shop Working Group**

* The shop continues to thrive through use by a limited number of villagers. More footfall is required to enable it to develop.
* The area has been reorganised recently in an attempt to make the shop more accessible and appealing.
* The shop has a very supportive team of volunteers that enable it to maintain the current opening hours.
* Feedback is required from the community to assist in the development of the shop.

**Health and Well-being Working Group**

* The Group continues to maintain the defibrillator.
* The volunteers on the Village Emergency Telephone System have been given updated First Aid training and the First Aid bags have been restocked.
* The Community Support system created during the Covid emergency is still in place.
* The volunteer drivers’ scheme continues.
* Community get-togethers such as Coffee, tea and cake events, Soup and pud lunches and Breakfast events are held monthly.

**Work & Communications Working Group**

* Following the issue of reports relating to internet access and mobile phones, the Working Group has largely discharged its duties.
* The Group continues to maintain the Church Broughton Community Handbook which is available on the village website.

**Sports & Leisure Working Group**

* Under the auspices of the Group the Dance Fit class continues
* A new Yoga class has been organised.
* Ballroom dancing classes have been organised for Friday evenings.
* A highly successful Spring Wreath making workshop was run recently.
* A fun afternoon of board games was organised recently which appealed to all ages.

**Village Hall & Meeting Places Working Group**

* The activity of the Group is on hold during the renovation and modification of the Community Hall
* Once the Community Hall modifications are completed, the Group will assess the demand and consider options for a new-build Village Hall

**Environmental Working Group**

* Unfortunately, this Working Group is in abeyance without a chairman or members.
* Some interest has been expressed recently in reinvigorating the Group and anyone interested should contact John Weil

A Parishioner asked if the Parish Council could organise a Litter pick. ACTION: CLERK TO AGENDA FOR THE NEXT PC MEETING FOR DISCUSSION.

**Development & Housing Working Group**

* The Group has mainly discharged its duties by ensuring that all local Planning Applications are made available to all villagers in good time.

**Transport Working Group**

* The Group is in abeyance after reporting on bus services and car sharing systems.
* According to local bus companies a regular bus service through the village is not viable.
* Various car sharing schemes have been considered but none have proceeded.

A Parishioner asked if the PC could write to Midland Classic which operates a bus service between Bruton & Uttoxeter and enquire whether it could divert to Church Broughton. ACTION: CLERK TO AGENDA FOR NEXT PC MEETING

**4.0 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY HALL**

Mr Partridge was unable to attend the meeting but sent the written report below, the highlights from which were reported to the meeting by Councillor Pedley.

The Parish Council (PC) purchased the former Methodist chapel on behalf of the Church Broughton community at auction in August 2022. The PC quickly established a committee with formal Terms of Reference, which define all the tasks and responsibilities required to oversee all day-to-day functioning and minor maintenance of the building on behalf of the PC. The “Community Hall Management Committee” of seven local volunteers met for the first time in September 2022. In addition to a Parish Councillor (a mandatory requirement), the Management Committee (MC) consists of a Chair, Secretary, Finance Lead, and four others. The MC currently meets monthly, and minutes of meetings are posted on the Church Broughton Website. Notification of meetings are sent by email to all those registered on the Church Broughton website directory and posted on the hall notice board. As with all PC meetings, MC Meetings are open to the public unless there are closed agenda items which are declared at the meeting's start as necessary.

In its first 7 months the priorities and focus of the MC have been as follows:

- **Safety and Risk.** The MC has carried out a comprehensive general risk assessment on the building and the activities likely to be held in it. The MC alsocommissioned an independent Fire risk Assessment and arranged a site visit from a Derbyshire fire safety officer. These risk assessments have identified several action points which are being addressed and reviewed at each MC meeting. Weekly safety and cleanliness checks have been introduced.

**- Financial planning and stability.** The MC has established that the likely annual running costs for the building in its current condition is circa £3000, around two thirds of which are for electricity. In line with the original business plan and the MC’s Terms of Reference, these costs need to be *covered entirely by revenue* from hire of the hall and from the village shop’s fee for its license to occupy space. It is currently believed that revenues will just about cover costs, but equal recognition that the balance is fragile.

**- Communications and village engagement.** A very successful Open Day was held in November which was attended by well over 70 villagers. Ideas about the future use of the building and potential major refurbishment plans were the main themes (as well as copious tea, cakes, wine and nibbles). The MC is exploring the feasibility and costs of installing Wifi access within the building. Achieving the active engagement of people in the village to support the future of the Hall through their increasing involvement and use of the building will become an increasing focus of the MC.

**- Interim minor and moderate improvements to the building**

There was a significant clean-up operation in the early autumn and plans for a few simple decorations in the near future will help make the building less drab and more inviting to hire out.

The old altar platform has been dismantled creating more space and the sale of the organ and iron railing have supported revenue generation.

External lighting has been improved to assist access at night and old wall heaters and curtains removed to address fire risk concerns. The large notice board has been improved.

Major development proposals are being drawn up by a separate working group. These are likely to take a year or two to implement but will improve the operational efficiency of the building and reduce costs and make the building more attractive for hire and thus increase its revenues.

**- Improving the overall functionality of the building’s use**

Detailed rules for hire and associated booking form have been drawn up, with a simple booking diary held within the village shop. The MC has a vision to make this a web-based process in time. A key safe has been installed and a process for managing access is being drawn up.

Discussion:

Parishioners asked about the rules for use of the hall, and who to contact if there are queries, and what about the consumption of alocohol. Councillor Pedley stated that the rules on what functions or events are allowed to be held in the Community Hall are available for viewing on the website, and that if there are any clarifications required, they should be addressed to the Management Committee. The rules had been originally established in discussion with nearby residents to ensure that disturbances of any kind are minimised and kept to an acceptable level. There was some discussion about use of the hall for music events and it was stated the rules are intended to prevent loud amplified music which could disturb nearby residents. The intent is for another meeting to be held with the nearby residents sometime later in 2023 to review the rules and discuss how things are going, and make sure that the rules are working for everyone. It was suggested by a Parishioner that we need a better definition of “amplified music".

**5.0 NOTIFICATION OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

27th April 10am Coffee & Cake in the Community Hall

1st May 12pm May Day Merriment in the village

8th May 11.30am HM King Charles III Coronation commemoration open air service and picnic on the park with Newmount Brass Band

26th May 12pm Soup & Pud lunch in the Community Hall

24th June 10am Big Bap Breakfast in the Community Hall

8th July 6pm Music on the Park

**6.0 INPUT FROM OTHER COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Mrs Lydon outlined the highlights from the followingreport on behalf of the Village Park Committee (Registered Charity name Village Hall and Playing Fields Committee).

Thank you for giving the above committee a chance to explain about our history and what events etc we have done recently. I’ve been the treasurer of the committee for nearly 40 years so know quite a lot but I’m aware that quite a number of people here know very little about us.

Our charity was established in 1936 by the Parish Council to provide a recreation area in Church Broughton. We own and maintain the park for everyone’s enjoyment. As set out in our trust deed, we also organise events for fund-raising, entertainment, exercise and education for all villagers. The charity is managed by 3 trustees and a supporting committee, elected each year at the AGM in October, which is open to all.

Finances – all worked for by us by fundraising. We receive no government or local authority support although the Parish Council in the last few years has given us £600/year. Our main expenses are maintenance of the field and equipment, replacement or addition of equipment and public liability insurance for the park and for events organised by ourselves or the small village organisations affiliated to us. Our expenses each year tend to be £1500 to £2000 so we need to work hard to raise that.

We are very grateful for the support we receive from villagers – both financial and helping with maintenance and events. We could not manage without the A Team who are volunteers whom we call on when things need doing. And they come!

Events and other things we have organised in the last year or so – Music on the Park, Christmas Lights and Advent Trail, Christmas Party, Easter Trail, Village Quiz, May Day [in collaboration with the school], hiring of gazebos, 200 club lottery, installation of basketball hoop.

We are proud of our park and the organisation that funds and maintains it whilst providing enjoyable events for our fellow villagers.

**7.0 OTHER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COMMUNITY**

It was noted that a problem for groups within the village is on how they can recruit new members and it was suggested that a stall is set up on May Day to try and encourage new people to join in village activities.

A Parishioner suggested that the Community Hall could be used as a Polling Station and also by prospective District or County Councillors to hold local clinics. ACTION: Community Hall Management Committee to note.

A Parishioner raised concerns about the extent and frequency of local hedge cutting and its adverse impact on birds and wildlife. Councillor Redfern responded by saying that, as a hedging contractor himself, in fact quite a number of local hedgerows are only cut every two years, and this approach was being adopted by more landowners.

A Parishioner stated that he is concerned about the Derbyshire landscape and asked people to encourage more wildflower areas and tree planting. Parishioners were reminded that the Parish Council had planted trees on the entrance to the village for the Millennium; further trees were planted last year; and it is planned to plant a tree for the coronation of King Charles III. Councillor Pedley advised that he and Julia are hoping to plant trees on 2 ½ acres of their land.

**8.0 MEETING CLOSURE FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS & INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.