

OVER HADDON PARISH

Council Chairman: Zena Hawley

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The Annual Parish Meeting was held at 7:30pm on Monday 1st April 2019 at the Village Hall, School Lane, Over Haddon, DE45 1JE

Minutes

Attendance: 9 electors and 2 non-electors

1. Appointment of the Clerk to the meeting

The meeting appointed the Parish Clerk to take the minutes

2. Apologies

No Apologies were received

3. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of Monday 9th April 2018 were approved.

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes

None

5. Financial Statement

The clerk reported that the year had seen all items within budget. The honesty box has assisted by paying for almost two month's cleaning. The final accounts will be presented to the next council meeting and then published on the Council website.

6. Chair's Report

Your councillors this year have been myself as chair, Penny Aitken, Dick Foxon, Kay Staniforth and Roger Truscott (vice-chair).

Matthew Lovell has been clerk to the council once again this year and we thank him for all his hard work.

It has been an eventful 12 months not least because of work that has been put in by the parish council to ensure that the village's toilet block is retained.

You may recall that the block was subject to a review by Derbyshire Dales District Council, which agreed to keep open the toilets on a year-round basis and accepted responsibility for maintenance and on-going costs - despite trying to persuade us that we should be taking on the responsibility for running the toilets - something that we simply cannot afford to do as a small village.

The cost of cleaning the toilets for the forthcoming year however still rests with the parish - something we still feel that could be re-examined as we know there are income streams associated with the car park, going to the district council and which Over Haddon is not getting any benefit from.

It is a situation that it is still ongoing and it is likely that eventually the matter will come before village residents for comment as they bear the brunt of annual increased precepts, which is up £100 - to £4,800 to largely cover the cost of cleaning.

The increased precept will also allow more work to be done on what has become known as the "walled copse" on Main Street to bring it into future use by residents and visitors.

This triangular parcel of land, surrounded by a stone wall, has been sadly neglected over many years.

Back in 1919, it was identified as the site for the new war memorial, following on from the First World War.

Notes in a report from the time show that the committee assigned to identifying a site for the memorial thought this would be a prominent place to put it facing down Main Street.

But within a couple of months, the plan had been abandoned in favour of the current site along Main Street itself - but with no explanation given.

Recently, the parish council arranged for the copse to be cleared of some of the excessive vegetation - so now it is time to think of ideas for its future use.

The council had thought of a seated area for quiet reflection, accessed through a gate. But as an item on this agenda, it can be more fully discussed at that point and ideas from yourselves would be most welcome.

Also this year, the parish council, supporting the Finney family, has helped ensure the school route from Over Haddon to Bakewell has been designated as hazardous - previously it was regarded as non-hazardous by Derbyshire County Council.

And the clerk has also worked hard to register parish land with the Land Registry. The allotments have now been registered and the War Memorial is also secured under separate legislation.

Finally, we are sadly losing two members of the parish council next month - Kay Staniforth will be stepping down and leaves with our thanks.

Also retiring is Dick Foxon, after years of loyal service to the parish council - he has decided not to stand for re-election on May 2.

The council would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done during his time as a councillor, which over two stints has been in the region of 12 years.

Thank you both.

And that is the end of my report as chairman for 2018-19.

7. Report from representatives of County, District, Police, PDNPA attending

No reports received.

8. To consider items already requested for discussion:

Walled Copse suggestions for use.

The area is valued as natural ground and a request not to suburbanise it was received as was a request not to let the trees grow too high. It was noted that the holly and ivy is a valuable resource for decorating the church at Christmas. In general a seating area and entrance – not necessarily with a gate, plus controlled planting – mainly wildflowers and English Bluebells was considered the best route but further ideas will be sought in the next edition of the Voice and the new Council will be left to decide on a way forward.

9. To consider any other Parish matter that may be brought forward by the Council or local government electors

No further matters were raised and the meeting closed at 7:47 pm