

TICKNALL PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue 6 – June 2006

Welcome to our 6th newsletter

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27th June 2006 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall. The meeting will be preceded by a councillor surgery starting at 7:00 pm for anyone to have a private discussion with a councillor.

ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2006

The major change we have achieved this year is the introduction of the Parish Council Newsletter. The feedback we get indicates that this is proving to be very popular and useful. We are all very pleased about this. It does mean though that you already know what we have been doing! But that is how it should be and what we are going to do now is simply touch on the major aspects of the last year.

Last year was the first time that we had set a realistic precept for a number of years. But even so, we still underestimated the impact of the extra work on the Clerk, her education course, the costs of running the Grange, and the additional audit fees we would incur due to less than adequate guidelines we were given on the rules surrounding the funding of the pavilion extension 5 or 6 years ago. We have also had a break-in at the pavilion garage that incurred unplanned expense.

We have changed the way in which we charge for the Grange. As an experiment the Cricket Club is now charged on an annual basis (paid quarterly) plus the excess electricity charges over and above a specified amount. In return we have allowed them to use the pavilion as a clubhouse throughout the year. They have also paid off all the outstanding loans for the pavilion extension, which is a fantastic achievement. The football clubs still pay on a per match basis.

The overall effect was that we have had to increase the Precept substantially yet again. But this still only amounts to about £37 per average house per year, and is commensurate with that charged by other villages of comparable size. And we are now starting to

make discretionary commitments to make improvements to the village. You have already seen the improved Christmas tree lights; and we have recently committed to fund the replacement of some stiles with kissing gates (provided the landowners agree to the ongoing maintenance). There is however a backlog of work needed on the Grange, which we cannot avoid.

On the planning front we have handled some 36 applications. The ones on which we have had to spend significant time are where new dwellings are being requested, or where existing buildings are being redeveloped with a change of use. As reported last year our comments seem to be largely ignored as the pressure is increased to create more houses. We are finding that the major developments eg the Estate Office and the garage, and infill/tandem developments eg 4 Church Lane and behind 21 Chapel Street are having several applications made as developers iterate to maximise their return. And the subsequent Highways issue as a result of the additional house in the garden of Slade house is still ongoing, as you will hear a little later.

We are also in the process of attempting to resolve an issue of cricket balls and cricketers trespassing on Grange Farm land. The Parish Council is sponsoring an application for protection netting to be erected. If permission is granted then we have the issue of who pays for the netting, posts and installation – the farmer, the cricket club, the village? Or a combination of all three?

On the bus front, we hope that there is now a general understanding on how the bus system to and from Derby works. Given that it is far less than ideal, we have established contact with Community Transport in Swadlincote and had a meeting with them. Should the need arise we are happy that we could get Community Transport to provide assistance at reasonably short notice. We will be telling you more about this in the next Newsletter.

Continuing with transport, we have persuaded DCC to undertake several studies on traffic

speeds. Each time the result is that they are too high on average by 5mph or so. We continue to press for feasible proposals. This includes a second radar-activated sign for the Limeyards end of the village, the first one having had a perceived impact. Otherwise, as yet, we have nothing concrete to report. What we have achieved though is the promise of an additional streetlamp on Ingleby Lane near the village hall car park entrance and this will have the knock-on effect of extending the 30mph speed limit. So things do happen – albeit slowly.

Last year at this meeting we heard about Parish Plans. From the newsletters you will remember that we eventually decided to approach obtaining Quality Council status by a less costly and less laborious route. We are continuing down this alternative path and are confident that, given all the other issues with which we have had to contend, this was and still is the right decision. And the lack of any obvious desire for a Village Plan from either the village organisations or the residents confirms the correctness of that decision.

We have also started having surgeries this year. These are held for the 30 minutes before the main Parish Council meeting starts. Of the 6 or so held, 2 or 3 have resulted in residents coming to air a problem. And this is what they are for – a routine slot when the village residents know that they can bend the ear of a councillor in private.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2005/2006

Total balance at 31 March 2005	£5386.00
Precept	£5000.00
Total other receipts	£12,351.00
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	£22,737.00
Staff Costs	£2791.00
Pavilion Loans repayments	£5500.00
Total other expenditure	£10,227.00
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	£18,518.00

**Balance carried forward 1st April 2006
£4219.00**

The receipts other than the precept include £3704 fixtures fees, Reimbursements for work carried out for Lengthsman and other works for South Derbyshire District Council £2834.00, and Donations from the Cricket Club £5060.00. In addition reimbursement of VAT accounts for 752.00.

The payments other than staff costs and repayment of loans for the Pavilion extension, include Lengthsmans and footpaths work £850.00, Work on The Grange £4355.00, Highways £764.00 (which are reimbursed in part by SDDC and Derbyshire County Council, as above). Administration costs £2315.00, Insurance £665.00 (South Derbyshire District Council reimburses a proportion of which as shown as above. In addition payment of VAT accounts for £804.00, which the Parish Council claims, back each year.

CHAIRMAN’S OVERVIEW OF THE PARISH COUNCIL’S ACHIEVEMENTS

In my report last year I mentioned that I expected that Parish Council life would get more hectic – well, I am sure my colleagues would all agree that that was one forecast which was correct. What with the impact of the bus service reorganisation, starting work on obtaining Quality Status, problems with the Grange, Planning problem escalations, more involvement with local authorities and other Parish councils via training sessions and meetings, and producing newsletters, we cannot claim to have nothing to do. I would like to thank all of them, and especially Celia Bunston, our clerk, for their effort and commitment. Celia has been working diligently towards obtaining her Clerks’ qualification. I am sure you all join with me in wishing her every success.

I want to say that in my view, the actions we have taken to improve our own level of understanding and professionalism, and the interaction we have been getting from attending South Derbyshire District Council meetings where all Parish Councils are

present, is proving to be of great benefit. You may not have seen much of this yet but I can assure you that as chairman I now feel that I have a clear idea of what goals we need to aim for and how to get there.

I have already thanked the Parish Council team. During the past year we have received excellent support from our District Councillors and County Councillors and I would like to express my sincere thanks to them as well.

Finally I would like to thank all of you for your contributions to running the village, and for the feedback we have been getting on some of the initiatives we have started. Please do not be shy at talking to us, making suggestions etc, etc. But please bear in mind that we do have a limited resource and we do have limited funds (despite the further precept increase), so that you may find that we do not view a suggestion with the same priority as the person who raised it. But please do not let that stop you talking to us. We are here to serve you. Next year though the whole Parish Council will be dissolved and members will offer themselves for re-election. We need to have a contested election in order to qualify for Quality Status – at the moment we are allowed one co-opted member – so please do not let this put you off from putting your name forward.

CONTACT DETAILS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND CLERK

Stefan Green (Chairman)
4 Harpur Avenue
Ticknall. Tel: 863153
Email: green.Ticknall@talk21.com

Richard Parker (Vice Chairman)
181 Main Street
Ticknall Tel: 862925

Richard Arnold
5 Harpur Avenue
Ticknall Tel: 863774
Email: skyrichardjane@yarhoo.co.uk

Gill Holt

The Laurels
Main Street
Ticknall Tel: 863493

Dale Wolsey
29 Chapel Street
Ticknall Tel: 863773
Email: dale.Wolsey@btinternet.com

David Shepherd
The Firs
High Street
Ticknall Tel: 864773
Email: d.shepherd@11ticknall.freemove.co.uk

Ticknall annual report May 2006

Community Bus service

Swadlincote Community Transport provide services in your area for people who have problems using public transport, all their vehicles are fully accessible. If you need a door-to-door service Community Transport is there to help you get into town or to local health services on their Dial-a-Bus service or their Dial-a-Ride service.

There is also Group Transport for community groups of all ages and abilities, e.g. luncheon clubs, scouts, schools. Volunteers are always welcome and driver or passenger assistant training will be given.

The following Dial-a-Bus services are available from Ticknall and surrounding areas:

DAB 18 to Burton on Thursday mornings fortnightly.
DAB 23 to Sinfin Asda on Monday mornings fortnightly.
DAB 24 to Swadlincote on Friday mornings fortnightly.
DAB 33 to Derby on Tuesday mornings monthly.

Please note the Dial-a-Bus service is free to Gold Card users and at concessionary rate for anyone without a Gold Card. It is strongly recommended you contact your District Council office on 01283 221000 for more information about the Gold Card, which

allows FREE travel for the over 60's on buses throughout the County and outlying cities after 09.30 on weekdays and anytime at weekends plus half fare on trains.

A Dial-a-Ride service is available at a competitive rate and is subject to availability.

For more information please ring Swadlincote Community Transport on **01283 550764**

The Grange

The Parish Council has applied for planning permission to erect netting along the boundary of Grange Farm to help prevent cricket balls from entering the farmer's land. We have, on advice from the Planning Department at South Derbyshire District Council, adjusted the length of the netting to run some of the way along, not the whole length. We have also applied for permission to erect a satellite dish on the pavilion, and to create more parking in The Spinney. The application number is 9/2006/0236 and can be viewed at SDDC offices, or at the Clerk to the Council's house at 4 Slade Farm, (865226). If you have an objections or comments to the plan you can send them to Planning Department, SDDC, Civic Way, Swadlincote, DE11 0AH, quoting the application number.

The Cricket Club is hosting a Hog Roast on Friday 30th June to raise money for Cricket Club funds, starting 7.00 pm, £7.50 per ticket, £20.00 per family. Tickets can be obtained from Mary Magson on 863059, and all villagers are welcome.

School Holiday Activities

We have paid for a District Council playmobile to visit The Grange on Wednesday 2nd August between 10.00 am and 12 noon for local children to take part in play activities. If there is rain some of these activities will be transferred to the Village Hall for indoor play. There will be no charge, and an adult must accompany children under the age of 8 years old.

Public Enquiry: There is to be a public enquiry into the proposed change in the position of the

blocking piece in Rose Lane, on 5th September in Ticknall Village Hall at 10.00 a.m. Any interested person can attend. This proposal is connected with the application for planning permission by the previous owners at Slade House. Dame Catherine Harpur School has concerns that the new layout will be dangerous for the school children. The Parish Council has agreed to support the school and the local residents as far as they want to go with their objections. If you have any comments for or against the proposal you can write to:

Quoting ref: EMCM 505035/1/282,
The Inspector
Government Office for the East Midlands
The Belgrave Centre
Stanley Place
Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GG

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council website is in the process of being built up and is now available to view. The address is: www.ticknall.org.uk/tpc

Contact information for District and Council Councils

After picking up on some points received from our last newsletter we believe that it would be useful for the villagers to know and understand the various authorities and contact details for these.

South Derbyshire District Council: you can contact their Clean Team on 01283 221000 if you see any dumped materials that you would like to see removed. These items must be on the highway, not on private land. www.south-derbys.gov.uk

To inspect any plans for building or tree surgery etc that might affect your property, notification of plans are posted onto nearby telephone posts, informing neighbouring properties about any plans in their immediate vicinity. Plans can be inspected at SDDC offices in Civic Way, Swadlincote, or at the Clerk to the Parish Council's home at 4 Slade Farm, Ticknall (865226).

Derbyshire County Council can be contacted if you spot a pothole in the road you can telephone 01629 580000 to report this and you should receive a quick response.

www.derbyshire.gov.uk

If you notice that a streetlight has failed then you should note its number (on the post) and then you should telephone Derbyshire County Council 01629 580000. You can email the Clerk and we will report it but it would be useful if you could supply the street light number.

If foliage, trees or bushes are obstructing your passage on the footpaths you can telephone Derbyshire County Council on 01629 500000.

Celia Bunston - Clerk to the Parish Council
4 Slade Farm
Rose Lane
Ticknall
Tel: 865226
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