

## **Mottram St Andrew Annual Village Meeting 23.04.2018**

### **Introduction. Councillor Pilkington.**

Good evening and welcome to this year's annual village meeting where it is your opportunity to raise any issues under item 9 on the agenda.

First of all can I introduce Hayley Shenton our deputy clerk and our new councillors who are Andy Levis and Yvonne Dodd.

Hayley has been shadowing Ron Taylor for about six months now.

Andy and Yvonne were recruited to replace Mike Holland who has provided loyal service over many years to the village decided to stand down due to business commitments and Tucker Wennell whose knowledge and experience helped us to respond to the air space change document issued for consultation by the CAA.

Several of you will know by now that Ron Taylor who has been the Parish Clerk since 2009 is handing over to his deputy Hayley Shenton at this

year's AGM of the Parish Council on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May in the village chapel.

During the nine years that Ron has been the Parish Clerk he has worked tirelessly on behalf of the community working many hours each week and I would like to place on record my thanks to Ron for all the help and guidance that he has given me during my seven years as the Chairman of the Parish Council. I know that he has been guiding and offering advice to Hayley to ensure that there will be a smooth transition when she takes over from Ron at this year's AGM.

Thank you.

### **Chairman's report. Councillor Pilkington**

Your Parish Council has again been extremely busy responding to the numerous planning applications and considerable time has been devoted to responding to the various consultations emanating from Cheshire East and other organisations.

The main consultations responded to were from Cheshire East and included the proposed

reduction in bus subsidies, proposed cuts to school transport services and their pre-budget consultation. The other main consultation was the proposed changes to air space procedure.

We objected to the proposed reduction in bus subsidies which would mean a significant cut to the community transport provided to the village, the proposed cuts to school transport, the proposed cuts in highway maintenance and the proposed closure of the libraries at Alderley Edge and Prestbury.

Due to the numerous responses received by Cheshire East they have increased the highways maintenance budget by £5 million and kept the libraries at Alderley Edge and Prestbury open. To date there has been no decision regarding community transport.

You will know by now that Cheshire East have increased the council tax for this year by 5.99% and more increases are likely in future years or budget cuts unless they find more efficient methods of working.

The Parish Council has also made a small increase in the village precept of 2.5% from £7,280 to £7,462 an increase of £182 and also made a similar percentage increase to the allotment rents.

During our examination of Cheshire East's budget we became aware of the suspensions, resignations and police investigations into the conduct of a number of senior officers and councillors at Cheshire East. We understand that the investigations so far have cost Cheshire East Council Taxpayers £720,000, money that could have been better spent on the provision of services or minimising the Council Tax increase. We took up our concerns with David Rutley our Member of Parliament who forwarded a response from Sara Barker, Head of Strategic HR at Cheshire East which we have responded to.

Her response stated that Cheshire East Council deals with concerns about senior officer conduct responsibly. The investigation and Disciplinary Committee has made decisions to suspend certain

officers while investigations into concerns about officer conduct continue.

They state that the Council is not able to make any more detailed comments about the matters that are under consideration by the investigation and Disciplinary Committee because these relate to disciplinary issues which are confidential.

They assured us that the Council is proceeding with all possible speed in relation to these matters which have been going on for about 12 months.

Moving on we have managed to get the drains and gullies dealt with this year by Cheshire East highways something that has not happened for some time. Many were found to be well and truly blocked.

There have also been many water main leaks in the village the worst ones being in Wilmslow Old Road which have now been satisfactorily dealt after much pestering by the Parish Council.

20 mph speed restriction signs have been erected on the approach roads to the village school that

are activated at the start and end of the school day.

Emily Blair who was our PCSO has now become a police officer with the Greater Manchester force. Hannah Jackson took over as our PCSO and has attended our Parish Council meetings when her duties permitted and always provided us with a report of recorded incidents in the village and surrounding areas. Unfortunately due to reorganisations in the local police force Hannah has been relocated within Cheshire and her replacement is Anna Jenkinson who unfortunately cannot attend this evening's meeting but Anna will be in attendance at our Parish Council AGM in May and continues to provide us with police reports.

The telephone box that the Parish Council bought and had repositioned outside the village hall has now been painted and shelving fitted and has now been opened as a library as intended. The opening ceremony was performed by Kath Hughes, a local best-selling author, who is the wife of Councillor

Rob Hughes who is the vice chairman of the Parish Council.

We have had the finger post direction signs repainted.

Fibre Broadband is hopefully a step nearer and Councillor Hughes will bring you up to date under item 5 on the agenda.

The parish council whilst obtaining quotations for the cleaning of the Mottram Cross that is a grade two listed monument near to the cross roads at the Bulls Head were approached by the chairman of Aura Conservation of Stockport who carried out the cleaning at no cost to the village.

At our regular meetings at the Airport we were advised that they are experiencing congestion problems on the Terminal forecourts and it has been necessary to consider solutions to the problem. Although they have invested in various programmes to increase capacity, they are limited by security issues that restrict how close vehicles can get to the Terminal front. The simple fact is the forecourts were not designed to handle the number of vehicles they do today and do not have

the capacity to cope with any further growth in the number of people being dropped-off immediately outside the terminals.

They are therefore investing in a dedicated drop-off site, from where a free shuttle bus service will operate to all three terminals.

In parallel, an Express Drop-off charge will be introduced in the areas directly outside the three terminals. From June if you are looking to drop off or be dropped off at Manchester Airport; this will be possible free of charge at their drop off point or you can choose to pay £3 for five minutes (£4 for ten) to be dropped off outside the Terminal front.

We were also advised of the Government's noise policy, effective from January 2018, which is to limit, and, where possible reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by adverse impacts from airport noise.

We were also advised of their planned dual use of both runways.

### **Parish Council Plans.**

This year we will be looking into the renovation of the village pump in Oak Road which is part of our village heritage.

We are still trying to get improvements for the sighting for vehicles exiting Mill Lane which is proving difficult due to the hedge being owned by Adlington Hall. We believe that only solution is for the hedge to be replaced by Cheshire Railings that can be seen through and we are trying to persuade them to take the necessary action.

After more than 50 years of complaining about the junction of Mill Lane and Woodford Lane with Lees Lane we understand that plans are currently being drawn up to improve the junction. Certain works have been carried out in the last few years after much campaigning by the Parish Council that have included the imposition of a 40 mph speed limit on Lees Lane, Lees Lane has been resurfaced and re-profiled on the sharp bends by Parkers Nursery where there had been numerous accidents, crash barriers are currently being installed and a safe area for children to await the school bus has been provided. The issue will be raised again at the Cheshire East highways meeting at which we will be represented.

We will also be raising our concerns over the poor state of the roads in the village, there being numerous potholes and damaged roadside verges which we keep reporting to Cheshire East highways. I would urge all of you to report any road defects to Cheshire East on their web site, the more complaints that they get might increase our chances of seeing improvements.

We are also looking at new ways of improving communications with you. Currently there is the village web site and the Mercury which is issued six times per year. The current editor has advised that her work commitments are making it impossible for her to continue and we have been attempting to find a new editor. Therefore if there are any volunteers please let us know. We would like to set up a circulation list of resident's emails with their permission so that important information can be circulated to all who sign up at the earliest possible moment. Hopefully this will not contravene the EU data protection directive that comes into force in May this year.

The 11<sup>th</sup> November this year will be the centenary of the end of the First World War and as a village we will need to decide if we wish to mark this event and if yes how. There will be the annual remembrance service in the chapel commencing at 10.30 when we remember all those men and women, especially the 23 men from our small village community, who gave their lives on behalf of their country.

Consideration will need to be given to the updating of the Parish Council Honours Board that is located in the Village Hall.

The emergency plan for the village will need updating and will be discussed at the AGM of the Parish Council on Monday 21st May and an updated copy will be available to view on the village web site. The Parish Council AGM will be held in the village chapel in Priest Lane and all are welcome to attend. The meeting will commence at 6.30pm as usual.

Are there any questions on the reports that you have heard and are there other issues that you would like to raise? The meeting is open to you.