

## ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING – APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> 2019

### WELCOME

Welcome to the Annual Village Meeting. Tonight, we say goodbye and a big thank you to two retiring councillors, and hello and a warm Mottram St Andrew welcome to their two replacements. We also welcome Mr Paul Unwin from Cheshire East who is kindly providing a video presentation on Door Step crime. More of that later. Firstly, down to the more mundane items on the agenda.

### APOLOGIES

### MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

So, I mentioned earlier that two of our seven Parish Councillors, both long serving, have decided to retire. Bill Pilkington was my predecessor as Chairman, having joined the council in January 2007. Bill has worked tirelessly for this community for over 12 years and his dedication and forensic attention to detail will be sorely missed. Likewise, Angela Philpott, who has represented Newton Ward for a similar time period, and who up until May last year was Vice Chair, has been an outstanding contributor on all council matters. Bill and Angela regularly represented Mottram St Andrew at Airport and Cheshire Association of Local Council meetings and ensured that the views of our small community were always heard. On behalf of the Parish Council and all residents of the village may I thank you both for your years of service and present you with these parting gifts as a gesture of our gratitude.

There are places for seven councillors, and I am delighted to report that we have been able to add two new names to the list. Suzanne Davis and David Walker will join the Parish Council in May, both having lived in the Parish for many years. David will replace Angela as representative for Newton Ward while Suzanne will represent Mottram. Welcome to you both.

The person who hold it all together of course is the Parish Council Clerk. Our colleague Ron Taylor decided over 12 months ago that he wanted to retire too, and his replacement was appointed and trained. Unfortunately, Hayley could not continue for personal reasons and it is our good fortune that Ron decided he liked the role after all and agreed to stay on.

Hopefully you will all have noticed some changes to the appearance of the Mottram Mercury. We thank Claire Hatch for continuing to produce the magazine for us, even though she really hasn't had the time to do so for the last couple of years. During 2018 we appointed a new editor, Mana Shibata, and Mana has certainly done a fine job so far. Mana is always on the lookout for interesting articles so do please let her know if you have something you would like to see published. Thanks also go to the magazine's unsung hero, Syd Blakeborough, for his sterling efforts selling the advertising space, and without whose efforts the magazine simply couldn't exist.

Our Police Community Support Officer Anna Jenkinson continues to look after us and should you feel the need to contact Anna on any matter, we can provide you with her email address. We receive regular reports from Anna and, save for the odd traffic-related incident or livestock loose in the road, her reports demonstrate that we are fortunate to live in a relatively low crime location.

On the subject of roads, you may be aware that the Parish Council contributed £2,000 to the cost of alterations to the crossroads at Mill Lane and Woodford Lane. This was to discourage the undertaking of vehicles turning right into Mill Lane, which put in danger the lives of schoolchildren awaiting their bus in the mornings. Those alterations were carried out by Cheshire East a few months ago and, although they have improved the situation somewhat, we were not satisfied that we had received full value for your money. We made our views known at a recent Cheshire East Highways meeting and I am pleased to state that Cheshire East have allocated another £7,000 to make further improvements. These should not only benefit pedestrian safety but also improve visibility for drivers exiting Mill Lane.

We are also looking to enhance visibility to the left for drivers joining Wilmslow Road from Priest Lane, by the Bull's Head. An application has been submitted to Cheshire East and hopefully work will be carried out during the summer.

During the last twelve months your Parish Council has met with the Head of Mottram Academy to try to find a solution to the parking issues which clog the village at drop-off and pick-up times. There is, sadly, no easy solution to a problem which affects not just our community, but many others where a school is present. We would ask parents though to limit their parking time and to respect the rights of residents whose driveways are regularly blocked.

The Parish Council has also been active in trying to secure a fibre broadband connection for residents. Fast internet is now deemed by many to be as important as mains electricity, water and gas when it comes to valuing a house. Progress has been slow but many in the village are now connected and a couple of Community Partnership applications have recently been submitted to Openreach for clusters of properties which are not yet connected. Please see myself or Councillor Andy Levis if you wish to learn more about this approach.

Most of your council's time is spent reviewing planning applications and I'm pleased to say that very few are considered contentious. There were two notable applications submitted in the last twelve months which were deemed contentious by some local residents however and we have attempted to consider the applications fairly, for both the applicant and those affected by them. The final decision is always made by the planning department at Cheshire East and all we can do is make observations. A major change to planning consent has recently come into force in that developers and builders will in future have to pay a Community Infrastructure Levy, a portion of which will go to the Parish Council. In the event that Cheshire East approves any new builds in the Parish, the community will benefit financially, although there are limitations on how any such income may be spent.

Finally, a word about drones. Only last week a drone was reported flying over the village. In the right hands, drones are a very useful tool for police, utilities companies and other service providers. In the hands of individuals they can be a noisy nuisance and an invasion of privacy. If you see a drone flying over your property, please call 101 to report it. Thank you.

Robert Hughes  
Chairman  
Mottram St Andrew Parish Council