

At a meeting of the Dene Valley Parish Council held at the Dene Valley Community Partnership One Stop Shop, High Street, Eldon Lane on **Monday 1 July 2024 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present:**

**Councillor K Beal** in the Chair

Councillors T Bird, I Bourne, J Clark, R Coleman, J Moore, J Nicholson and J Oliver.

Clerk Ian Croft

**1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Public Participation**

There were no Members of the Public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 10 June 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters Arising**

Councillor Moore reported a problem of rubbish accumulation in properties at Richard Terrace, and no action appeared to have been taken. Councillor Nicholson replied that the Council would first identify the owner of the property, then give notification and a length of time to remove the rubbish. This was a process which must be undertaken. Councillor Moore replied that the problem had been reported to the Neighbourhood Wardens. Council Bird replied that the Neighbourhood Wardens attended the PACT meetings, at which the issue could be raised.

Councillor Bird reported that the planned Fun Day at the end of June did not take place because volunteers could not be provided due to illness.

**5. Parish Council 5-year Plan**

Councillor Nicholson suggested that the Parish Council should have in place a plan to work towards over a period of time, which should include what the Council could achieve or aimed to achieve. If the Council had a baseline idea of projects it was aiming to achieve for the community, then this would assist in applying for future streams of funding.

Councillor Nicholson informed the meeting that she was still working on progress with the former Surestart building – there was a lack of youth activities in the area and no place for young people to congregate. Young people wanted a hub to go to, an area where they would feel safe, and possible funding for a youth leader could be sought. There was a need to engage with young people on their level. Councillor Nicholson referred to the Believe Housing on the Bishops Park development which would bring with it funding for community development.

Councillor Bird referred to the County Council Strategic Plan for the area and the need for the Parish Council to work within the Plan. Councillor Nicholson considered that the Plan had nothing to do with community or cohesion. The Believe Housing development would result in meeting a percentage of the population in the area to access Believe funding. There was a need for the Parish Council to have some Plan in place for when this funding criteria was met.

Councillor Oliver sought further information on the County Council Strategic Plan. Councillor Bird replied that a copy was available at the One Stop Shop or could be found on the County Council's website.

Councillor Nicholson suggested that Members should consider projects for the area which could fit in to a five year plan. Councillor Olover suggested, and Members agreed, that each Member give possible projects some thought over the summer recess and bring one suggestion back for any future Plan to the September Parish Council meeting to be held on 9 September 2024.

## **6. Police Update**

Councillor Bird reported that the CCTV camera had been working intermittently for weeks. He had been informed that the camera was not being constantly monitored and was only looked at when an incident was reported. Councillor Bird expressed concern that this would be the same for the second camera when it was installed, resulting in reactive responses rather than proactive.

Councillor Beal suggested that Kate Ward be invited to attend the next Parish Council meeting to clarify how the CCTV was monitored. The Parish Council had funded the second camera in the belief it would be monitored, not reviewed.

## **7. Play Areas**

There were no issues to report on Play Areas.

## **8. Planning Issues**

Councillor Clark circulated details of planning applications which had been received or determined in the Dene Valley Parish and surrounding areas since the last meeting (for copy see file of Minutes)

## **9. Footpaths**

Councillor Beal reported that Shepherds Bridge had been closed from the Auckland Park side.

Councillor Moore reported no issues with local footpaths.

## **10. Allotments**

In response to a question from Councillor Moore, Councillor Bird confirmed that there was still a requirement for 50% of an allotment plot to be cultivated.

The Clerk reported that all tenants of the Close House Allotment Site had been written to informing them of the new code for the lock.

Councillor Bird reported a local resident who had requested an allotment plot at Close House. Councillor Bourne replied that there was a possible vacant plot on the allotment site but this had no topsoil. Councillor Beal responded that if the resident was interested in the plot then they could take it for this year on a rent free basis.

## **11. Finance Update**

The Clerk provided the meeting with details of income and expenditure for the since the last meeting. The Chairman agreed the balances and signed the accounts and bank statements.

## **12. Any Other Business**

Councillor Bird referred to the seat at Gibson Street, near to the chapel, which had been burned and enquired about the possibility of it being replaced with a metal seat. Councillor Beal reported that there were two seats on the corner at Auckland Park, and one of these could be relocated, but suggested no work take place until the CCTV camera had been installed.

Councillor Nicholson reported that the top lat on the seat at Gurney Valley was broken. Councillor Bel reported that he had a spare lat which could be used for a repair. Any new seats installed by the Council would need to be of steel construction going forwards.

Councillor Bourne reported that there were issues being experienced by rats from empty houses in Close House and Gurney Valley.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would take place on Monday 9 September 2024.

The meeting finished at 8.00 p.m.

**Signed .....**  
**Chairman of the meeting held on 9 September 2024**