

**A meeting of Parwich Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in Parwich Memorial Hall at 7:30pm.**

**Present:** Chair, M Compton, I Manning, S Chambers, L Coyne, J Turnbull, Clerk A Martin.

Three members of the public.

Derbyshire Dales District Councillor Nigel Edwards Walker attended the latter part of the meeting.

### **03-26-1 Apologies/Councillors' attendance register.**

Apologies: None.

Councillors present duly signed the attendance register.

### **03-26-2 Declaration of personal/pecuniary interests of Councillors.**

None.

### **03-26-3 Minutes of the previous meeting.**

The draft minutes of the meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> February had been forwarded to members in advance of the meeting and displayed on the Parish Council's website.

**Resolved:** To accept the draft minutes as a true record of proceedings.

### **03-26-4 Public speaking.**

One member of the public spoke raising concerns about flooding in the village and asking for the Parish Council's support. The possibility of an informal arrangement to allow the drainage of the lower part of Parson's Croft was raised.

Two members of the public spoke requesting that the triangle at Creamery Lane be mown immediately and then left until the summer to encourage the growth of wild flowers.

### **03-26-5 Items from public speaking.**

The triangle at Creamery Lane is not owned by the Council. The Council has no powers or responsibilities to regulate what anyone else does there.

The Council can arrange for it to be mown or strimmed, but this is not in the current mowing contract. The Council's previous position has been that it would wait to see how the area developed without mowing before deciding if it should be cut.

A variety of opinions have been expressed by residents at different times. It would not be appropriate for the Council to make a new decision (e.g. to mow sooner) without the matter being placed on an agenda in advance so that residents have an opportunity to speak with Councillors, or to address the meeting.

**Resolved:** To bring forward item 13 on the agenda, "Flood concerns at Parsons's Croft".

### 03-26-6 Flood concerns at Parsons Croft.

The Council considered comments made during public speaking and a number of questions e-mailed by a resident.

**Resolved:** The possibility of an informal arrangement to allow the drainage of the lower part of Parson's Croft to be undertaken by a resident will be placed on a future agenda. The Council requested that a written description of what they were being asked to agree to be provided to assist with this discussion. This should include any groundworks anticipated and a description of how any area affected will be left after the work is complete.

The Council had been requested to attend a walk around the village to raise awareness of flooding pressure points. Some Councillors, but not all, indicated that they would be willing to do this.

**Resolved:** If a walk is arranged those who are willing, and available to do so, will attend. It was noted that participation should be for information gathering only. Councillor's taking part will be unable to speak on behalf of the Council. They cannot imply that any particular decision might be taken by the Council as this can only happen in a properly constituted meeting.

**Resolved:** Residents raising concerns about flooding will be asked to provide an annotated map showing

1. Where problems occur.
2. What action they would like to see taken, and where.

The Clerk will provide a blank map for this purpose.

The Council had been requested co-ordinate multiple requests to the relevant authorities regarding flooding issues. Principally the Lead Flood Authority, Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and the Highways Authority (also DCC). The Council has no special line of communication with DCC; only the same reporting platform as can be used by residents. It was noted that the experience of getting repairs to the pavement at Croft Avenue suggested that the most effective way of getting action was if multiple requests are received from residents.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will provide a blog post with links to the relevant authorities and guidance on how to use them.

The Council had been requested to support residents in making contact with their local Councillors and MP.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will provide a blog post with their contact details.

The Council had been requested to contact property owners to request the clearance of ditches.

**Resolved:** If an annotated map illustrating the areas where action is requested is received, the Council will consider these on a case-by-case basis.

The Council had been requested to publicise the potential for a volunteer Flood Warden to come forward. To assist with this DCC have been approached for more information about the Flood Warden Scheme they operate. So far all they have said is that due to the level of demand they are considering running a course for Flood Wardens in June. They have been

asked for further detail of what the role would entail so as to help with identifying a volunteer who might attend the course. A reply is awaited.

**Resolved:** When further information is available the Clerk will provide a blog post asking if a volunteer would be willing to take on this role and the training.

The Council had been requested to ensure that all publicly owned assets (i.e. owned by the Parish Council) are protected from flooding and that this protection is maintained.

**Resolved:** The Council believes that, where appropriate, it already does this. However, if specific requests are received these can be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **03-26-7 Clerk's report.**

Completed

1. Clerk's estimate of time 7.0 hours per week over almost five weeks.
2. Bird spikes fitted on toddler swing.
3. Mowing contract.
  - 3.1. Copies have been signed by the Clerk and the contractor.
  - 3.2. A copy of the 3rd party liability insurance has been provided.
  - 3.3. Mowing should start as soon as ground conditions permit.
4. New website contract agreed.
  - 4.1. The Clerk declared the receipt of a welcome gift of low value received from the new Website provider. It contained a number of small free samples which were shared.
5. Pavilion Electricity supply.
  - 5.1. Second contract with Yu Energy should start automatically on the 9th of April.
  - 5.2. Rates agreed with Yu Energy are less than those offered for renewal by British Gas.
6. Increase in Council tax.
  - 6.1. The Clerk advised that a 10% increase in payments results from the 7% increase in the precept to be raised and a 3% reduction in the equivalent number of households paying it.
  - 6.2. Movements of this kind in the effective number of households (both up and down) are not uncommon.
7. Noticeboard.
  - 7.1. Statutory notices posted for the election of an East Midlands Mayor and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
8. Toilets
  - 8.1. Weekly cleaning will recommence shortly.

Ongoing

9. The Derbyshire Dales Housing Enabler has advised that discussions about suitable sites are continuing.
10. Annual Return.
  - 10.1. Instructions have been received from P K F Littlejohn for 2023-4.
  - 10.2. A basic external review carried out by P K F Littlejohn is required.
    - 10.2.1. This is because the Council's expenditure over this year exceeded £25,000. (tipped over by the third-party contribution paid to Tarmac to secure the Landfill Communities Grant for the

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playground Equipment).

10.2.2. The cost will be £210 plus VAT.

10.3. A bank reconciliation for the year up to the 30th of March will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

11. Miscellaneous works for mowing contractor.

11.1. Repair to stone kerb between brook and path by Japonica. Not done.

11.2. Regrowth of Ivy on Nethergreen walls to be treated.

11.3. Clearance of paths on Gibbons Bank.

11.3.1. Invoice received.

11.3.2. Cost to be claimed back using the minor maintenance scheme.

12. Pavilion roof repairs.

12.1. Awaiting improved weather.

Waiting response or action

13. King's portrait.

13.1. A free framed portrait has been ordered.

14. Requested cost of insuring Pikehall defibrillator. Waiting reply.

15. Waiting advice regarding funds from the Tennis club to pay for court cleaning.

16. Sale of small part of Parsons Croft. Waiting written confirmation of Oddfellows decision not to allow a sale.

### 03-26-8 Items of account.

#### On-line payments approved by Clerk since last meeting.

Payee	Item	Amount
None		

#### On-line payments due.

Payee	Item	Amount
Clerk	Q4 Salary (Jan, Feb, Mar)	£985.14
Memorial Hall	February hire	£25.00
Contractor	Path Clearance	£60.00

**Resolved:** These invoices are approved for payment.

#### Notes:

1. A cheque for a £1,000 donation from the Parwich United Charities to pay for replacement swing seats and chains has been paid in. Thanks have been sent.
2. Balance at 26 February 2024. £14,676.07.

### 03-26-9 Bank Mandate.

The changes to add Martin Compton, Stuart Chambers and the Clerk to the Bank Mandate have been completed.

A request has been raised to remove former Councillors from the mandate. This requires the following resolutions to be passed and minuted.

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1. If we add or remove Authorised Signatories in the “Add or Remove Authorised Signatories” section on the “About your request” page of the form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's “About your business” section.
2. If we change the Signing Rules in the “Change the Signing Rules on the Mandate” section on the “About your request” page of this form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's “About your business” section.

**Resolved:** These resolutions were passed.

NatWest have confirmed that it is not possible to give “view only” access to internet banking.

### 03-26-10 Planning applications.

#### New

NONE

#### Updated

1. Pits Lane (and main highway)
  - 1.1. Access road only for potential agricultural dwelling. (Other matters reserved for a later application).
  - 1.2. SUPPORTED by Council.
2. Pits Lane. Hillcrest Barn.
  - 2.1. Conversion of Outfarm to Dwelling
  - 2.2. SUPPORTED by Council.

#### No change

3. Old Barn. Smithy Lane.
  - 3.1. Conversion from barn opposite Townhead to a holiday let.
  - 3.2. SUPPORTED by Council.

#### No consultation

4. Tree Conservation Approval.
  - 4.1. Removal of Portuguese Laurel at Littlewood Farm. AGREED by PDNPA.

### 03-26-11 Playground.

An order has been placed for new equipment and unsuccessful bidders have been notified.

1. When the installation date is confirmed, the Clerk will prepare a blog post advising residents.
2. Derbyshire Environmental Trust have been kept up to date.
3. Replacement toddler swing seats and new chains for all swings.
  - 3.1. Quotation from Wicksteed to supply and fit with other equipment. £ 874 plus VAT.
  - 3.2. Catalogue price from alternative source to supply only. £1,117 plus VAT.

**Resolved:** To place an order with Wicksteed for the replacement chains and swings.

4. The Clerk will prepare a blog post asking if volunteers would be willing to paint the existing swing frames before the new chains are installed.

### **03-26-12 Pump Hill. Boundary wall.**

Informal advice on options and costs for work on the wall at Pump Hill is expected shortly.

**Resolved:** Once options are described the Clerk will seek an opinion from the Peak District National Park Authority as to whether any of these might require planning permission.

### **03-26-13 Biodiversity Duty.**

A draft policy and action plan had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This largely reflects current practice. It is a requirement of recent legislation that Parish Council prepare and publish this document.

**Resolved:** Subject to minor amendments this policy is adopted.

### **03-26-14 Rented land.**

Bagshaws have advised that the tenant at Parwich Moor North has signed the Farm Business Tenancy agreement. Copies for the Clerk to sign on behalf of the Council have been received.

“Mystery circles” at Parwich Moor South.

1. The Peak District National Park Authority have requested the Council’s agreement to carrying out further investigation.
2. It would be carried out in June. It would all be hand-excavated. The soil and turves would be reinstated afterwards. They would not need to exclude stock from the fields, but would erect temporary mesh fences around the narrow trenches.
3. They will also be approaching the tenant to request their agreement.

**Resolved:** To agree to this request.

### **03-26-15 20 mph speed limit.**

The Highways Authority, (Derbyshire County Council, DCC), have rejected the Council’s request for a playground sign near to the playground on the green on the grounds that

1. A clear need has not been identified.
2. They wish to avoid signage “clutter”.
3. Driver behaviour is unlikely to change.

In light of this the Council discussed making a renewed request for a 20mph speed limit in the village.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will reply making this request. Due to its impact on the safe use of the Playground this request will be copied to “Leisure Services” if a contact address is provided.

### **03-26-16 Councillor security.**

Following recent publicity, security issues for Councillors were discussed. No actions were identified.

### 03-26-17 Trees.

A map of Council land had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Councillors were asked to identify trees where an arborist's advice might be sought on care and maintenance. Six trees were identified whose size was considered a potential future problem.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will attempt to obtain indicative costs for an expert opinion.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will investigate responsibility for trees bordering the driveway entering Parsons Croft car park.

### 03-26-18 Pavilion changing rooms.

A request has been received for the changing rooms to be made useable for the coming cricket season.

This requires local patching and sealing of asbestos panelling. Model risk assessments and method statements for this work are published by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE).

These suggest that it may be possible for the work to be carried out by an unlicensed (for asbestos) contractor. Due to equipment and insurance requirements, it seems unlikely that this work could be carried out by volunteers.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will attempt to obtain indicative costs for this work.

Once the costs are known, sources of funding, including possible donations and grants will be considered at a future meeting.

### 03-26-19 Correspondence and communication.

1. Resident. 50% progress with pledges for Ultrafast Broadband service.
2. DCC. Community news. X 2
3. DCC. Bus Service Improvement Plan.
4. DCC. Close Bradbourne Road Parwich for BT Cable repairs.
5. DCC. Parish & Town Council Liaison Forum.
6. DDDC. Council home energy efficiency grants.
7. DDDC. Safe Places Scheme.
8. DDDC. Monitoring of Public Spaces Protection Order.
9. DALC. Employment Law Update.
10. DALC. Consultation - venues 100+ capacity - Martyn's law
11. DALC. Forum.
12. Rural Services Network. Bulletin. x 5
13. Rural Services Network. Funding digest.
14. Rural Action Derbyshire. Centenary Celebration! POSTPONED
15. PDNPA. Parishes Bulletin.
16. PDNPA. Flood damage repairs at Castleton Visitor Centre.
17. PDNPA. Celebrating volunteers in the Peak District National Park.
18. Derbyshire Police Commissioner. ANPR Pilot Scheme.
19. Derbyshire Police Commissioner. Contact poster.
20. Derbyshire Police Commissioner. ANPR survey.
21. Derbyshire Police Commissioner. Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan.
22. Gallagher. Community Event Guide.
23. Cuttlefish Multimedia. Welcome pack.

24. Cuttlefish Multimedia. Newsletter.
25. Parish Online. Newsletter.
26. ACRE. Village Halls Week.
27. Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service. Parish Council Notice Boards.
28. Openreach Full Fibre Broadband.

### **03-26-20 Items for the next agenda.**

1. Bank Reconciliation of year end accounts.
2. Format of Parish Annual meeting.

A telephone request had been received by the Clerk for the angle of the floodlighting on the tennis courts to be lowered to prevent it shining through a resident's windows.

**Resolved:** As no other complaints had been received the Council chose not to place this on a future agenda.

A request had been received for a representative of Openreach to speak to the Council about Ultrafast Broadband.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will advise that there is an opportunity for Public Speaking at the start of every meeting. A decision on whether to place the item on a future agenda for further discussion will be taken in light of any presentation made.

### **03-26-21 Date of next meeting.**

To be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Hall.

The meeting was closed at 09:40 pm.

A Martin  
Clerk to Parwich Parish Council  
27 March 2024