

2019 EVERDON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held at Everdon Village Hall on Monday 15 April 2019 at 7:15pm

Full reports for items 3 & 4 are available on request, or by visiting the Parish Council website www.everdonpc.co.uk

26 Residents attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council and notes were taken by the Parish Clerk.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.
2. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 9th April 2018 were approved and will be displayed on the notice board and website.
3. In his report, the Chairman outlined the role of the Parish Council and summarised the issues which had been dealt with over the last year, e.g. progress with regard to the proposed acquisition of the Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC), parking issues in the village and the quality of the new mowing contractor's work. A resident commented that the grass on the bank in Newnham Road had been cut too short, and the Clerk was requested to bring this to the contractor's attention.
4. The following reports were received from the County and District Councillors.

Summary of the County Councillor's Report

Cllr Brown reported that he no longer acts as a member of the executive of the elected administration, but that he now attends Full Council meetings (normally 6 per year) plus Overview & Scrutiny meetings, as a back bench councillor.

The Auditors stopped the use of Capital Assets & Section 106 monies earmarked to balance the previous year's budget and in consequence a deficit of £35+ million was carried forward to this year. The administration then made changes to the budget under the new Chief Executive.

However in November, Central Government allowed the administration to use up to £70m from Capital assets to balance last year's budget and create a £20m general reserve, thus ensuring such areas as Winter Gritting were reinstated, where deemed necessary.

The legal process published by the County Council with regard to the move to Unitary Government, passed at an emergency meeting on the 28th February 2019, questioned (as yet unanswered) the steep rise in costs of the changeover from £15 million to £44 million.

Cllr Brown reported that he had spent more time with the Parishes of Everdon and Woodford Halse, as both have a NCC service that has been under threat of closure. In Everdon the Outdoor Learning Centre (a non-statutory service) and in Woodford Halse, a small library which is now being taken over by the Parish Council.

Lastly, Cllr Brown expressed his satisfaction that Byfield Parish Council is now represented on the committee responsible to deal with the HS2/A361 issues locally.

District Councillors' Report

The District Councillors' report contained updates on the following issues:

1) New Daventry Development Link Road

It is just over four and a half months since the New Link Road was opened and from day one, the Link road has proven to be a success, diverting a lot of traffic and traffic noise away from Flore and it is also a great time saver. Traffic calming measures are now being investigated by Flore and Weedon.

2) Recycling of Compost

Despite introducing a charge for compost bins, the uptake was good and concerns about extra fly-tipping proved to be unfounded. Residents using the compost service were reminded to renew their contract with Norse/DDC for 2019/2020 at a cost of £36 for the year at www.daventrydc.gov/gardenwaste.

3) Cinema Complex, Mulberry Place, Daventry

Proposals are well under way for the cinema complex, restaurants and cafes. It is hoped that work will start in July, Free parking in adjacent car parks will provide approximately 300 free car parking spaces.

4) Proposed New West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority

Potentially this coming year will be the last for Daventry District Council as Northampton Borough, Daventry District and South Northants will become one of two unitary councils, and will be known as 'West Northamptonshire'.

Confirmation from the Secretary of State that he will be placing the order for the new authorities to be formed from May 2020 is being awaited. At this stage it is not known whether Brexit will delay this very important decision.

5. Parishioners open discussion forum

The following matters were raised by residents:

Progress with regard to the acquisition of the OLC since the February meeting

In response to questions from residents, the Chairman referred them to the April newsletter detailing progress, available on the Council's website www.everdonpc.co.uk. In short, since the first update in February, the Parish Council had been gathering information in respect of the likely costs of carrying out the necessary due diligence work associated with the possible acquisition of the Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC). Whilst responses from various professionals had been slow in being received, these were now beginning to arrive, including a quote from a building surveyor of £900 + VAT, with more quotes to follow. The Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council would not take any further action or make any commitments, until the Council was in possession of the full facts and could share these with Parishioners at a community meeting.

Large signs at Everdon Stubbs, owned by the Woodland Trust

The Parish Council was asked to investigate these obtrusive signs.

Overhanging Tree Branches in various locations within the Parish

The Council was asked to investigate these possible dangerous overhanging branches

The meeting concluded at 8pm with light refreshments being served.