

**2014/15 EVERDON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
held at Everdon Village Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 7:30 pm

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

1. The chairman welcomed everyone present and thanked them for attending the Annual Parish Meeting. He noted apologies received from County councillor Robin Brown who was unable to attend due to a prior engagement and the guest speaker, Special Constable Recruitment Officer, Andy Watson due to last minute changes in his schedule. The Chairman promised to provide a short update on the role (see 4 below).
2. The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 were approved and will be placed on the website. The Chairman advised the meeting that draft minutes of this meeting will be placed on the website as soon as they were ready.
3. The Chairman of Everdon Parish Council reported as follows on the activities of the Parish Council:
  - The Parish Council meets monthly except for August. Community involvement is encouraged and agendas of forthcoming meetings are placed on the website and notice board 3 clear days prior to meetings. He thanked fellow councillors who were newly elected in 2014 for attending all the training required to prepare themselves for their new roles;
  - The general ethos of the Parish Council is to look after village assets by enhancing and protecting them;
  - Planning is another responsibility which the Council takes seriously. The Parish Council does not have decision-making powers in this regard but its' comments are taken into account and, if case officers disagree, the application is referred to the planning committee for a decision. The Chairman invited residents to attend the Council's meeting when their applications are due to be considered if they wanted to discuss or bring anything to Council's attention before a decision is taken;
  - The excellent quality of mowing by our new contractor was evident. Cuttings are being removed and weeds will also be sprayed. The village has never looked tidier;
  - The Council, in conjunction with Daventry District Council (DDC), has undertaken a dog poo spraying initiative to highlight the problem and to remind the small minority of people guilty of not picking up after their dogs, to do so;
  - PCSO Jane Coaley was unable to attend the meeting but reported that the crime rate in Everdon was very low and of a petty, rather than serious nature. During the past year, two bikes were stolen; one theft occurred from an unsecured vehicle and two vehicles were broken into and items taken. The Chairman requested residents to be vigilant and to take registration numbers of strange vehicles so that, if anything happens, details are available. He also asked everyone to look out for vulnerable members of the community;
  - The Parish Council has lobbied the County Council and our County Councillor, together with our MP and BT and the rollout of superfast broadband to the village is earmarked for the first quarter of 2016 when minimum speeds 25Mb will be readily available, this means that Everdon will receive this facility, nearly two years ahead of schedule.
  - The next election will be in 2018 and it is likely that there will be a few councillor vacancies. If anyone wants to know more about the role please speak to the Chairman who would be happy to tell you what is involved.
4. The Chairman briefed residents on the duties of special volunteer constables, saying that the role was very similar to the old parish constables. They are looking for reasonably fit resident volunteers who have 16 hours/month to commit to the role of Special Constable. They will be provided with police uniforms and equipment; will have similar powers to a regular constable and will receive full training. Patrols are done on foot to create a visible presence in villages, as prevention is the key. The purpose of the role is not to replace police officers but to supplement their services. The Chairman invited residents to contact him for more information, or visit their website <http://www.northantspolicespecials.co.uk/>

5. To receive the following further reports :

County Councillor The full report is available on the Council's website [www.everdonpc.co.uk](http://www.everdonpc.co.uk)

- Cllr. Robin Brown reported that the funding for the Outdoor Learning Centre is secure and that he is pleased that he was glad to assist Everdon with grants to light up the War Memorial and to provide a defibrillator;
- Northamptonshire hosted the start and first two stages of the 5-stage "Friends Life" Women's Cycling Tour's in 2014 and will be hosting the 3rd stage of the 2015 tour on 19th June from Oundle to Kettering;
- February 2015 saw the launch our "Race to the Top" strategy to raise educational attainment in our schools, aimed at making Northamptonshire one of the highest performing counties for education by 2020 by encouraging schools to strive for excellence;
- In December 2014, as a cost-saving measure, the leaders of Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils made an alliance, to work together with the three Local Enterprise Partnerships, (LEPS), to focus on their common economies of innovation, science, technology and creative industries.
- The County Council is in the middle of the largest infrastructural investment programme in its 125 year history. In the last five years we have spent over half a billion pounds. During the next five years we will be investing a further £600 million upgrading and building new schools, roads and Superfast broadband, including the A45 Daventry Link Road.
- The pressures on Strategic Local Authority services are immense. Our new strategic direction means that by 2020 we will see a far smaller retained organisation, the right-sourcing and commissioning of services from a new set of accountable organisations and social enterprises which may be owned, managed and run by current council staff. We will be using the Community and Voluntary Sector more in delivering vital local services and most importantly giving our service users more choice and control in the services that they use. More information is available on the County Council's website <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Council/performance/Pages/plans.aspx>

District Councillors' Report

Cllr Kevin Perry represented the three district councillors and reported that his health had been poor in the last year which is why we've not seen much of him. He reported that he serves on the Scrutiny and Improvement Committee which he enjoys. He also reported as follows:

- DDC's funding were reduced by 15% in the last year, forcing them to find innovative ways to supplement their income in order to protect services e.g. the income from Daventry/Rugby Crematorium;
- In 2014/15, Community grants amounting to £85,000, had been fully subscribed. He invited community groups to make use of this grant;
- DDC have paid in £200,000 towards provision of broadband in the district;
- The planned work to conservation areas, e.g. the local canals has come to a halt due to the influx of planning applications and a review is much needed.
- DDC increased the council tax by 1.99%, just short of the 2% which would have meant a referendum;
- There are safety concerns about the volume of traffic on the A5 running through the Daventry district;
- DDC Housing goes from strength to strength.

6. The following matters were raised by Parishioners in the open forum:

- Strimming of the brambles around one of the salt bins will be carried out as necessary by the new mowing contractor.
- The issue of inconsiderate parking of vehicles and coaches in the vicinity of Everdon Outdoor Learning Centre (OLC) was raised. This will be raised as an agenda item at the next Parish Council meeting and a solution will be sought with OLC. Parking on the verges surrounding the village green is still an issue. The Green has been re-seeded to repair the damage caused during building works at the OLC and restore it to its' previous standard. The parking of coaches on site, all day will also be raised with the OLC.
- The mowing contractor will also be spraying the weeds on the verges.

The meeting closed at 8:10pm, whereafter light refreshments were enjoyed.