

**IDRIDGEHAY & ALTON AND ASHLEYHAY
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 8th May 2024 / 7:00 PM
St James The Great Church - Idridgehay**

Parishioners Present:

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| - Chairman of the Parish Jane Smith | - Philip Brooks |
| - Mike Westbrooke | - Carl Hempshall |
| - Eric Matkin | - Matthew Evans [Clerk] |
| - Dudley Ibbett | |

IAAP - 1

Chairman's Welcome

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to our Annual Parish Meeting

The Council is comprised of seven members, two representing Ashleyhay (Dudley Ibbett and myself, Jane Smith) and five members for Idridgehay & Alton (Philip Brooks, Carl Hempshall, Eric Matkin, Michael Westbrooke and until recently, Robert Tatler). All existing councillors were elected unopposed in 2023 and, sad to say, there is currently a vacancy for Idridgehay & Alton following Robert's passing away in March. The Council meets bi-monthly here in St. James' Church, usually on the second Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, July, September and November. Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe, with fifteen minutes available for public speaking at the start of each meeting. We also receive reports from our local District and County Councillor, David Taylor and following a recent merger of the Alport and South West Parishes Wards, we now also have District Councillor Jane Orton working to maintain and improve local matters. Many thanks to them both for their sustained efforts on behalf of their communities.

I would like to pay tribute to Robert Tatler who sadly passed away recently and will be much missed. Robert joined The Council in July 2012 and was Chairman from 2014. In addition to his good work for The Parish Council, Robert was also involved in the lengthy process of our Neighbourhood Development Plan, which was passed in 2014. Robert was active in the local community and generously hosted the Annual Village Fete in his beautiful garden at Townhead Farm, together with a group of hard working volunteers. The Fete is always successful both socially and in raising funds for good causes. Robert's wish was for the Village Fete to continue to be held at Townhead Farm, at least for this summer, and it will take place this year on Sunday, July 14th.

Planning matters are always on the agenda. The parish clerk receives notice of new planning applications from Amber Valley Borough Council (AVBC) and the parish council then considers each case on its merits. This is done following the guidance and policies of The Local Plan and those of our Neighbourhood Development Plan; we strive to maintain and uphold the integrity of the Special Landscape Area, which covers a large part of the parishes, and the Conservation Area in Idridgehay. The council aims to support appropriate development that does not have an adverse impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties, nor the intrinsic beauty of the surrounding countryside, some of the highest quality landscape outside of the Peak District National Park. The council, where agreed, will submit appropriate comments to AVBC.

One interesting planning matter was that of the Knockerdown Inn at Carsington in the jurisdiction of Derbyshire Dales District Council. The pub, having been closed for a while, was bought by a company that applied, in 2022 and 2023, for major landscaping alterations, vast extension of the parking areas to accommodate "caffeine and machine" events, outdoor floodlighting and music. The Parish Council, as a neighbouring parish, commented against each proposed



development on the grounds of it being unsustainable development in the countryside, it would have an adverse impact on neighbouring properties and the surrounding countryside including light and noise pollution and would greatly increase the traffic in the area. The proposals were very strongly objected to locally and both were refused. I am pleased to see that the pub has been acquired by the Hopton Estate and re-opened as a pub.

Speeding has long been an issue in Ildridgehay. The parish council's efforts to mitigate this by requesting the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) were blocked by Derbyshire County Council Highways department as being inappropriate, for various reasons. Some councillors set up a Community Speedwatch scheme, aided by volunteers from the village to gather data on speeding vehicles. The (then) Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Angelique Foster, launched a campaign with grants available to parish and town councils who were willing to install SIDs. We took it on; it was not quick or easy, involving a planning application, site meetings with representatives of companies selling the devices, comparing estimates, some local consultation and lots of administration. Robert took up the reins and worked tirelessly to push our application forward. Eventually, two SIDs were installed in late 2023 funded by the Parish Council and the grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner. Feedback from locals is that the devices are having a positive effect.

St James' churchyard was officially closed in 2023 and the Parish Council passed on the burden to maintain it to AVBC, which has since, albeit with some delay, confirmed acceptance of the responsibility.

The Snow Warden scheme is still benefitting the parishes with a quantity of free salt each winter and many thanks are due to our volunteer snow wardens, Hazel and Michael Haslam.

Thanks also to Councillor Ibbett and our Clerk, Matthew Evans for working together to maintain, update and edit the website. As Robert said last year, Matthew is an excellent clerk, keeping the council records in good order and keeping us on the straight and narrow regarding protocol and legality. I'm pleased to say he is very soon to start a course for the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) qualification which will be funded by the Parish Council but Matthew will be doing this in his own time. I'm sure he will sail through it.

We are fortunate that the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council have a very good working relationship, organising events for the benefit of the whole community, aided by hardworking volunteers, without whom it would not be possible.

I will end with the vision for the future written into our Neighbourhood Development Plan.

"Ildridgehay & Alton and Ashleyhay will continue to be a thriving and attractive rural area. Its special landscape, flora, fauna and traditional architecture will have been protected and enhanced and will continue to be valued by residents, visitors and business. It will have a lively, mixed age community providing people with a high quality place to live and work."

IAAP – 2 To receive apologies of absence:

No apologies of absence were received.

IAAP – 3 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 10th May 2022

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were proposed by Cllr. Hemphshall and seconded by Cllr. Westbrooke and agreed upon unanimously.

IAAP – 4**Items raised by Parishioners**

Cllr. Westbrooke raised an issue on behalf of a member of the public concerning Amber Valley Borough Council's intention to cut down a tree at the bottom end of Johnson's Lane.

In addition, Cllr. Westbrooke further raised a member of the public's concern of the spread of Himalayan Balsam in the River Ecclesbourne.

Chairman:

Signature: _____

DRAFT