



Draft minutes are subject to approval at the next Annual Parish Meeting

**Draft Minutes of the Ecclesfield Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday
9 May 2024 at the Ecclesfield Parish Council Offices at 7.15pm**

Councillors Present. Susan Davidson (Chairman), Andy Bainbridge, Dr John Bowden, Victoria Bowden, Denise Fearnley, John Housley, Adam Hurst, Alan Hooper, Michael Levery, Michael Morrissey, Robert Reiss, Thomas Sturgess and Alan Woodcock

Andrew Towlerton, Parish Clerk, and Laura Tickle, Financial and Administration Officer were also in attendance.

Members of the Public. Six members of the public were in attendance

2024/1 (FC)

Item 1: To receive apologies for absence

The Clerk reported that he received one from Councillor Kate Guest, which was noted.

2024/2 (FC)

Item 2: To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 12 May 2023

These were considered.

Proposed by Councillor John Housley, seconded by Councillor Thomas Sturgess and
RESOLVED: That the minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 May 2023 be approved.

2024/3 (FC)

Item 3. To consider any matters arising out of the previous minutes

It was considered that there were none, which were not already covered on the agenda.

2024/4 (FC)

Item 4: The Chairman's report

Councillor Susan Davidson, the Chairman of the Council for 2023/2024, provided a verbal report on progress on the many achievements of the Council over the last financial year. These included:

- The Council continues to go from strength to strength, with our last audit describing it as operating to a high standard.
- We were proud to celebrate the King Charles III's Coronation. This included a very successful 'big lunch' family fun day held at Mortomley Park at which over 400 people attended.
- Local churches and schools, the Chapeltown Branch of the Royal British Legion and the Parish Council came together to mark Remembrance Day.
- We continue to support the great work of local groups and individuals. We are pleased to support our numerous community groups and organisations and in the last year we have provided over thirty thousand pounds in grants and gifts. This includes a large grant of 10 thousand pounds to Thorncliffe Tennis Club who told us, that the money has essentially saved the club. We have also made several Chairman's Awards to recognise groups and individuals that have gone above and beyond in serving the local community.
- There has been a focus on improving the environment and playing our part in responding to the climate change emergency. The Council has organised two community clean-up days and an annual gardening competition as well as distributed over 100 trees - just to name a few good examples.
- We continue to invest in our green spaces. This includes supporting the provision of new play equipment such as that at McKenzie Park (the first inclusive roundabout in Sheffield) as well as upgrading benches and notice boards, including the provision of new ones.
- There has been a particular focus on supporting the most vulnerable in the community with over 100 winter warm packs distributed as well as food hampers and meals, for example.
- We have also help give away hundreds of items of uniform through the School Uniform Swap Shop scheme, saving parents hundreds of pounds and helping the environment.
- The Parish Council introduced a very popular school holiday programme, which saw over 100 children from across the Parish attend for free.
- Working closely with the police continues to be a priority, with the Council supporting activities such as the police Wednesday walkabouts and supporting other activities aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The Neighbourhood Plan continues to progress, which once approved will give us a greater say over the future development of the Parish, including planning applications.
- We continue to progress partnership working, including the Ecclesfield and District Archive project which held a very successful Parish Families Exhibition including family tree research. It also successfully completed a well-received heritage document and associated walk and video outlining the history of the Parish.

She also gave thanks to everyone for their continued help and support to me, the Parish Council and the Parish of Ecclesfield. I would especially like to thank EPC staff and my fellow councillors for their help and support.

2024/6 (FC)

Item 5: Update on Grenoside Exhibition Account Charity

Councillor Alan Hooper led on this. He outlined the main achievements of the Charity over the last year including the various projects and individuals that had benefited from its support. He stated that the Charity had received to date one application for support for the 2024/2025 financial year. He made reference to the continued good progress in taking forward the land issue at Lump Lane, Grenoside and thanked Councillor Susan Davidson for her sterling efforts in this regard.

2024/6 (FC)

Item 6: Items raised by parishioners

Several issues were raised by parishioners.

Several raised concerns about the lack of sporting and recreational facilities in Thorncliffe, especially in the Ironstone Estate and the negative impact this was having on living in the local area particularly for children and young people. Reference was made to an area of under used green space, which was presently fenced off, which they considered would make an ideal location and space for a park with pitch and play ground or similar. It was understood that the land may be under the control of Sheffield City Council. Councillor Alan Hooper, in his capacity as Chairman of the North Sheffield LAC and City Councillor for Thorncliffe, offered to look into who owned the site and depending on the outcome of this to meet with the residents on site, together with Sheffield City Councils Park's Manager. This was welcomed. It was asked whether the parish councillors for Thorncliffe would be invited to this meeting, which Councillor Alan Hooper said they would.

Mention was made to the recent knife attack in Mortomley Park, High Green and the uncertainty and distress it was causing in the local area. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council was also shocked to hear about it. It was explained that while this was mainly a policing matter, this did not mean that the Parish Council did not have a part to play in responding to the incident. It was suggested that a public meeting with the local police might be a good idea. The Parish Council agreed to progress this.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.