

# **ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL**

**[www.ashover-pc.gov.uk](http://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk)**



## **NEWSLETTER 4 - 2020/2021 **SPRING****

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### **Fun in the snow**



#### **Snow fun (yes it is!)**

Having highlighted, in another recent article, how fortunate we are to have such a fantastic selection of beautiful walking trails around the parish the snow reminds us of another great attribute we have – the slopes around the village!

The recent snowfall has created some excellent conditions for sledging on both sides of the valley and its been great to see so many families shaking off Covid blues and having some fun.

Apart from sledging there have been some very impressive snow-person creations. Indeed, one such was of a former resident – Maud, the donkey! Our picture shows Elspeth, the creator, and ‘Maud’! "

### **Working to Address Climate Change – update:**

In 2020 Ashover PC declared a Climate Emergency and is working in partnership with North East Derbyshire District Council and 2 other nearby parish councils to develop and implement a plan of action.

The scientific community agrees – climate change is happening, and we are the dominant cause. As a result of human activity, the earth is approximately 1°C hotter than pre-industrial times. This has already caused profound alterations to our climate including rising global sea

levels and melting sea ice. We are seeing more frequent extreme weather events. In fact, the 20 warmest years on record have occurred in the past 22 years.

Moreover, we are committed to further unavoidable climate change from this past rise in temperature, including further sea level rises for centuries to come. Millions of people will likely be displaced as sea levels continue to rise.

It's not all bad news though; scientists believe that if we can limit the rise in average global temperatures to less than 1.5°C we can avoid the worst impacts of climate change. This could prevent the extinction of corals, limit the percentage of the population that is displaced, and reduce the number of people that will experience water scarcity. If the current warming trends continue, we are on course to reach warming of 1.5°C around 2040.

Recently, there has been an increased sense of urgency in talks surrounding climate change as more people and government officials begin to recognise the gravity of the crisis. The frequency of protest and marches demanding action against climate change has increased significantly.

The council plans to set up a Climate Change Working Group with volunteers from the community. If you are interested in joining the group, please let the Parish Clerk know [parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk)

So what can we all do as individuals? Some things are easier than others. A good starting point might be to work out our own carbon footprint. Here is a link for an easy calculator. <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/> . Others can be found through an internet search. Once complete, it will show where you have the biggest impact on carbon emissions.

So how can we make a difference? Here are a few examples:

- Eat with the seasons
- Buy local produce that is grown in the UK
- Make travelling carbon-clever, e.g. walk if possible, cut down the number of journeys in a car
- Reduce emissions at home – switch off appliances when not in use; turn off lights when not in the room; use energy efficient light bulbs

Look out for more tips in the next newsletter.

## **Litter!**



Unfortunately, the beauty of our surroundings is often blighted by carelessly discarded litter and every year local campaigns spring up to try and tackle it.

We've noticed that some of the hot-spots are lay-bys around the parish. This may be due to motorists parking up to eat takeaway food or setting off on a local walk. Either way it can lead to discarded litter.

To try and improve the situation we're organising the installation of signage at six locations while monitoring the litter problem at a further three. Essentially, the wording of signage is aimed at reminding people that we all share this lovely environment and encourage (shame) them into taking litter home with them. We recognise this is unlikely to have dramatic results but it is part of a collective effort to try and encourage considerate behaviour.

We've also notified the police of problem locations and asked them to include visits during their patrols.

It's clear from local social media, notably the Facebook page, Ashover Vil, that the scourge of litter is very much a concern of local people. Not only that but individuals quietly take it

upon themselves to do something about it and spend some time picking up litter close to where they live or walk.

Following a sharing of local experiences on Ashover Vil a momentum has built up to organise a communal litter-pick, once Covid restrictions allow. The parish council are funding the purchase of litter picking kit (grabs, bags etc) and local volunteers have kindly stepped forward to organise and communicate the arrangements. Details will be announced over the next month or two.

### **Jim's Field – making impressive progress**

In previous articles we've given updates on the progress Alton volunteers have made in turning a bequest originally from Jim Mart into a wonderful wild-life haven which all can share.

In December last year, Linda and Bill Stephenson brought up some small specimens of Downy Birch and Oak trees for planting, which were supplemented by two further Oaks, two Damsons and a Hazel. The location chosen was an area to the North West of the site behind the equestrian building and Hope Bower and Julian Cole joined in with the planting. More trees for the same area will arrive from the Woodland Trust next spring.

Another project, recently begun, is the re-building of dry-stone walling along the boundaries. The team have been fortunate in enlisting help from Graham Jones who's gained a lot of walling experience as a volunteer with the Eastern Moors Partnership in the Peak District. The first priorities are the east wall on Quarry Lane followed by the north wall next to the riding school paddock.



Mike Howells, John Camp, Roger Kenny and Chris Fewtrell have been working alongside Graham and our picture shows John, Graham and Mike working on the east wall."

### **Upcoming parish meetings**

Apart from monthly meetings, presently in a Zoom format, the parish council has two formal annual meetings. These are a legal requirement and the dates and what the meetings are about are as follows:

**Annual Parish Meeting** 6pm Tuesday 20 April 2021 via Zoom.

Owing to Covid related restrictions the 2020 meeting didn't go ahead. Usually, the agenda tends to be pretty light – signing off the Minutes of the previous meeting, a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council (this time for the period 2020/2021) and after review of Financial Statements there's an open forum when residents are free to raise matters concerning the parish.

Usually the meeting only takes 15 – 30 minutes and tends to precede the ordinary monthly parish council meeting.

**Annual Council Meeting** 6.30pm Tuesday 04 May 2021 via Zoom

This meeting has quite a full agenda because basically it includes a re-set of parish councillor roles. As a first step, a Chairman of the Parish Council is elected through a vote by councillors and in turn this is followed by election of the Vice Chairman, the Finance Committee, the Councillor Auditor and the Burial Board.

Election of other working groups follow, then there's an opportunity for parish councillors to step up and take on roles working with outside bodies. The extensive range of activities

includes Affordable housing, Cemetery, Climate Change, Neighbourhood Plan, Primary School and Youth projects. Full details of the current allocation of roles to councillors can be found on the parish council web-site within the Minutes for the meeting on 19 May 2020. You'll also find reference to Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Plans/Policies/Statements, all demonstrating the good governance we work under.  
<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/uploads/approved-minutes-acm-2020.pdf>

## **Planning**

It's probably fair to say that Planning can come across as something of a dry subject, but it does play an important part in maintaining consistent standards and giving a framework for seeking permission to carry out work at home. Typically, planning applications cover extensions, garages, porches, new agricultural buildings, tree preservation orders etc. Each week, the parish council receives a list of applications for the parish and this is published with the agenda of monthly meetings, posted on the main notice board and on the parish council web-site.

If you're the author of a particular application or you live close to the subject of an application submitted by a neighbour which gives you cause for concern, then you are encouraged to join the parish council to make your views known. You can do this in person or in writing when the application is due to be considered by the parish council. However, you must also always submit any comments on an application directly to the Planning Authority, which is North East Derbyshire District Council. At the moment, a personal appearance will mean dialling in to a Zoom call, a straightforward, easy process where you'll be given a 3 minutes slot to make your comments. Log in details are given on the Agenda for the meeting.

## **Census – 21 MARCH 2021**

Households across Derbyshire are being asked to take part in Census 2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

## **ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **COUNCILLORS**

- **William Armitage** (01246)590486  
Green Bank,Hockley Lane,Ashover S45 0ER
- **Helen Boffy** (07515 280707)  
Langford House Narrowleys Lane Ashover S45 0AU
- **Steve Dronfield** (01246) 590721  
Willow Tree Farm, Hunger Hill Lane, Stonedge S45 0LP
- **Nigel Early** (01246) 590738  
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Rosemary Early** (01246) 590738  
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Richard Fidler** (01246) 590155 (**Vice-Chairman**)  
Porthlea, Alton Lane, Littlemoor S45 0BE
- **Lucy Hunter-Bott** 07976 733607  
Marshbrook, Butts Road, Ashover S45 0HW
- **Chris Miller** (01246) 590253  
Hill House, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BU
- **Mike Thomas** (01246) 591733  
Touchstone Chapel Hill Ashover S45 0AT
- **Ed Willmot** (01246) 590260 (**Chairman**)  
The Pines, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BZ

### **Parish Clerk**

- Parish Clerk/Burial Clerk: Sara Atkinson  
Tel (01246) 863018  
E-Mail parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk  
Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BA

### **District and County Councillors**

- **North East Derbyshire District Councillor - William Armitage** (01246)590486  
Green Bank,Hockley Lane,Ashover S45 0ER
- **Derbyshire County Councillor – Barry Lewis** (01773) 830871  
2 King George St, Wessington S55 6DZ

### **USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS**

**Derbyshire County Council** – 01629 580000 or 01629 533190

**North East Derbyshire District Council** - 01246 231111

**Police – NON-URGENT** calls to report crime, anti-social behaviour, non-violent crime or general information: 101

**Please note:** You **MUST** continue to use 999 where a crime is in progress, for serious crime or where violence is being used.

**Citizens Advice Bureau** – Providing consumer advice, free of charge, on a range of issues or complaints. Website: [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) Tel. 08454 040506