

IBSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

Issue 1

Aug 2019

CHAIRMANS GREETINGS

Hello, and welcome to the first of a quarterly newsletter from the Parish Council. This is a first for us, a newsletter dedicated to council matters. We have so many things happening in our parish, and feel that the website isn't easily accessible to all our residents. As we represent each and every parishioner, we are trying to reach out and include as many people as possible.

We will endeavour to bring you the latest council news, updates on projects, details of our finances, and as much information that we can. We are keen to ensure that we represent you, and therefore it is important that we actively communicate with you and you communicate with us. You can only do that if you know what is happening.

Over the coming months we will undertake community consultations on projects. We are hoping by having a dedicated newsletter you will be aware of these matters all along, respond and your feedback can be included in our decisions.

We will work together, to deliver viable sustainable projects, and continue to improve our community.

Yours Stuart (Chairman 2019-2020)

PARKING PROBLEMS

Parking is not something the parish council can control, however we can try and raise awareness, and hopefully make people think. It is something that we regularly get complaints about, and most people experience on a daily basis. We appreciate parking spaces are at a premium. The old roads were not designed for a large volume of cars, many properties don't have off road parking, and properties have more cars per household than off road parking allows. Cars are being parked on bends, on double yellow lines and even on the pavement.

Rule 145 of the Highway Code states: "You MUST NOT drive on or over a pavement, footpath or bridleway except to gain lawful access to property, or in the case of an emergency. In addition to being a nuisance, parking on the pavement can be incredibly dangerous for pedestrians, especially people with pushchairs, people with sight loss or vulnerable individuals. We are very concerned on streets like Copson Street, Grange Road and Curzon Street as in the event of an emergency vehicle trying to gain access, valuable time could be lost.... That vehicle could be coming to you or your relations....

PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE..



ALLOTMENTS

Grow your own fresh fruits and vegetables. Plots are currently available on Station Road, and Pretoria Road.



Cost £15 per year from 1st Jan 2020.

Contact the clerk for more information or to arrange to have a look.

Monthly meeting agendas and meeting minutes can be found on our website.

www.ibstockparishcouncil.org.uk

Please contact :

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FLY TIPPING

Our parish is currently suffering a spike in incidents of fly tipping. The definition of fly tipping is 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a licence to accept it'.

Putting unwanted items outside your house to be taken by a scrap metal collector is illegal. The person removing it must hold a waste carrier licence. You are at risk of being fined, if you have no evidence of who collected it and whether it was disposed of correctly by a registered waste carrier.

When the recycling bins are full in the High Street car park, please do not leave your bags alongside the recycling banks. This is also classed as fly tipping, There are CCTV cameras and you could end up being prosecuted. Use an alternative facility (Coop car park, Coalville tip, Morrisons car park)

The Parish council have (since 1st April 2019) incurred £240 in costs for having mattresses, and scrap metal (bikes, pushchairs etc) removed from its play areas. The items have been left outside properties but 'walked' to our play areas where they get damaged and vandalised. People could be seriously hurt by bits of metal getting into the blades of the grass cutting equipment or a child falling on bits of discarded metal and waste.

If you see a fly tip please use the North West Leicestershire District Council 'report it' webpage

www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/report

Or call

01530 454545

CEMETERY CHAPEL

The council were successful in securing a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund, thanks to a poem written by the parish clerk. She was awarded £10,000 which is being used towards the cost of refurbishing the chapel. It was built in the late 1800s but sadly closed over 25 years ago. As part of Ibstocks history, the council felt it was beneficial to have it repaired and then open for use.

The external building was fine, and previously the roof was repaired making it water tight. At the beginning of June 2019, work commenced including removal of the old plaster, installation of new electrics, including heating and lighting, repairing cracks, replastering the internal walls, and the removal of the old toilets, and replacing with disabled friendly toilets, a ramp for access and a small kitchen area to make hot drinks.

If funding allows we would hope to also repair the damaged stained glass in the windows, and repair/replace the wooden doors. It can then be open and used as a greeting room before and after funerals.

Ibstock in bloom have very kindly offered to fund some new planters and benches for the front of the chapel on completion.

We apologise for the inconvenience the works may be causing, especially with the closure of the toilets but we envisage the project being complete by Christmas.

We would like to maybe have a wall mural or a book of remembrance but that will follow as a future project once the building and electrical works have been completed..



COUNCIL FINANCE

Each year the council financial activities are audited by an Internal auditor and external auditor as well as being scrutinised by councillors every month. This is a legal requirement of the Local Governance Act 1972. Our internal Audit was completed by Anna Ball—Sence Accounting (Thankyou!) and has now gone off for external audit to Pkf Littlejohn, along with all other Local councils . Any comments they raise will be published 30 Sept 2019, with their report.

Despite public belief, we don't have a bottomless purse. We have our annual precept (a portion of council tax paid by you) any income from our allotments and cemeteries, and any grant funding that we can manage to obtain. We then have to use this income to juggle the outgoings! We closely watch our spend against budget. We therefore have to carefully consider when we have damaged equipment or unplanned expenditure, as we have to use funds from another budgeted cost centre, reducing that planned spend.

Below is our Financial Accounts for year ending 31st March 2019. It looks as if we have made a profit, but this is not the case,. We have several projects that we have started, but we have to carry the funds over until completion!

INCOME

Precept	£	204474.25	
Allotment Income	£	752.50	
Vat refunds		0.00	
Burials	£	6622.93	
MUGA Hire/Pitch hire	£	2502.90	
Grants Other	£	5851.10	
			220203.68

EXPENDITURE

Clerk /Staff Salary	£	35,935.53	
Utilities, repairs and Maintenance	£	33,859.30	
Grounds Maintenance	£	31,306.08	
Mowing	£	26060.00	
Rental of Land (Play area/Allotment)	£	381.07	
Assets	£	14,560.00	
Old Skate Park project (1st instalment)	£	10,000.00	
Subscriptions	£	782.33	
Advertising	£	527.00	
Insurance	£	4,040.75	
Councillor Allowances	£	7,070.51	
Professional Fee /Solicitors	£	3,471.79	
Profit /(Loss) for year	£	52,209.32	£ 167,994.36

PARISH COUNCIL WORLD

Every four years, 13 representatives are elected to represent the people of this parish, they work with various external sources including District Councils, County Councils, local police, schools, make decisions to try and develop and improve Ibstock.

A council has to work within its legal boundaries. The parish council are unable to rectify every problem themselves, but they can try and source the right person, to get matters resolved or work with other sectors to try and raise awareness of a matter and find a solution. For example the traders on the High Street are struggling with footfall, but shoppers are complaining there is nowhere to park, to use the shops, as the High Street car parks are always full. The parish council are working with the district council to discuss and make suggestions to try and help ease the situation and find a working resolution.

We consult on planning applications in our parish, paying particular attention to ones which will have an impact on our community. We know the day to day implications an application may have, or the disruption it may cause, the safety concerns that no amount of looking at a google map could possibly show. We make those personal representations to the district council planners for their consideration, before they permit or refuse an application.

MINERS WELFARE SITE

The parish council made the decision to close the social club permanently after it was broken into and vandalised. We tried to source repairs but the quotations far outweighed the budget, and was deemed uneconomical. It was agreed to look into other avenues.

The Council have instructed a business consultant, who is undertaking steps and forming a feasibility study and ultimately a community consultation. He has been looking into the history of the site, the current site usage and users along with current costs. He has considered amenities provided in the surrounding villages and towns of Coalville, Ashby and Hinckley.

The Council have unanimously agreed from the outset that whatever replaces the social club will be an asset to the community, and what the community want but it will have to be sustainable. It is therefore vitally important the parishioners respond to the questionnaires sent out later this year.

OLD SKATE PARK MELBOURNE ROAD

Unfortunately our contractors are running behind schedule. This project was due to complete 31 March 2019. It has over run, but bear with us, it should be completed very soon. Well worth the wait!

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council meetings take place once a month, at the Scout Hut, Melbourne Road, Ibstock commencing at 7pm. Come along and join us. Have your say or just sit and watch.

Together we can make a difference.....

Wednesday Sept 4th 2019,

Wednesday November 6th 2019

Wednesday October 2nd 2019,

Wednesday December 4th 2019