



IBSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

Nov 2019

CHAIRMAN'S GREETINGS

Hello,

A massive thank you to all the parishioners who got in touch to praise us on our decision to produce a quarterly newsletter. If there is anything you want included, let us know.

It has been a busy three months in Ibstock, since our last newsletter with some fantastic events taking place. The Annual Country Fair, The Horticultural and Craft Show, The Poppyfields Music Festival, as well as many Shows, Coffee Mornings, Tea Parties, Concerts, and Film showings. On behalf of the council, I would like to thank the organisers and the numerous teams of helpers who put these events on. It takes a lot of behind the scenes planning and they strive to ensure there is a huge variety of events to suit everyone and to bring people into the village. Despite meticulous planning, risk assessments and hours of paperwork, there will always be complaints. That's the nature of being a human. Thankfully it's only a very small handful, and as we have said before, you'll never please everyone all of the time, but we do at least try!

As this is the last newsletter before Christmas, may I take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Yours Stuart (Chairman 2019-2020)

LITTER

As a council (after Traffic/parking issues) Litter is one of the biggest complaints that we receive. So what more can we do?

It is one of the higher cost centres of the parish councils annual budget. We employ staff to litter pick and empty bins on our areas, We have to pay the district council to empty the lamp post bins on the streets, we have to pay to remove fly tips or large items that are dumped, (not forgetting you as a home owner pay to have your weekly kerb side collections via your council tax.

There are four bins on the Leicester Road play area, yet our park keeper still spends hours, three times a week picking up litter that has been dropped. The other parks have similar issues. We are aware of volunteers who also litter pick from time to time and for that we are extremely grateful. Do we need more bins or just better education and respect? If you have any ideas how to tackle this, or what to try, please drop us a line.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE



Sunday 10th November 2019

War Memorial, Central Avenue,
Ibstock

Time : 10.30am

Everyone welcome.

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

www.ibstockparishcouncil.org.uk

Please contact :

Nicola Land— PARISH CLERK

Tel :- 07855 565936

Email: Ibstock@ymail.co.uk

WHO ARE WE?

Following on from our advert to fill the councillor vacancy, we were delighted with the response. The council had a very difficult job selecting just one, but we welcome Mrs Claire Taylor to join us. As with all decisions, councillors are given one vote, and majority decides. If the vote is tied, the Chairman has a casting vote. Councillors may not always agree to the result, depending on how they voted, but that is democracy, and they are all bound by the final decision.

Your current councillors are

Councillor Stuart Farmer– Chairman

Councillor Nigel Sparrow - Vice Chairman

Councillor Peter Cawte

Councillor Arthur Granger

Councillor Barbara Granger

Councillor Ronald Taberner

Councillor Richard Barratt

Councillor Roy Whitby

Councillor Brian Cockett

Councillor Anna Morgan

Councillor Shaun Finney

Councillor Christine Platts

Councillor Claire Taylor



You are welcome to ask any councillor to put an item on the agenda for discussion and decision. No councillor has the power to make decisions alone. It has to be raised on the Agenda, discussed in the public meeting, and a majority decision reached.

DOG FOULING

The council are now working closely with the enforcement team of NWLDC. We have publicised the PSPO order that was put in place, on our website in the local community magazine and had signage made for the play areas and public places to ensure everyone was aware of the new rules regarding dogs. Unfortunately these have been ignored, signs have been ripped down and still people take dogs on childrens play areas. Fines will be issued to anyone who continues to ignore the PSPO (Public Space Protection Order). CCTV is in operation and will be used to identify offenders and evidence for prosecution.

The sports pitches at the rear of the Miners Welfare Club is also being used by people to exercise their dogs. It is covered in dog mess as mindless idiots think they cannot be seen so don't bother picking up, or some stand at the gate and let their dog off the lead, so have no idea where their dog has deposited its mess as they cannot even see their dog.....

CCTV is also being used in this area. If this continues the area will be locked and no longer available for the children to play as it is a major health and safety risk. Will it take one of our children to be blinded or worse, before people take notice and listen?

To clarify dogs are allowed to walk through the cemetery, but **MUST** be on a short lead at all times and kept to the footpath. Complaints have been received as people have been seen walking through, allowing dogs to run loose urinating (or worse) around the graves. This is very distressing for people. We do not want to have to ban dogs but if people cannot show the respect deserved in this area, we will have no option.

As the nights are getting darker, we will no doubt be flooded with complaints about dog fouling on the footpaths (especially the jittys near the school). We will use covert CCTV cameras and ensure that offenders are caught and fined. If you see anything, please don't hesitate to report it to us, or direct to NWLDC via the '**report it**' webpage. www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/report

COUNCIL FINANCE

Below is our Financial Accounts for the period 1st April 2019 - 30 September 2019. We will be agreeing our budget in November 2019 for the year 1st April 2020 to 31 March 2021. We endeavour to keep the increase to the homeowner as low as possible, but as with everything our costs increase annually, along with our wish list and services provided to the parish. We will publish our 2020/2021 budget in the next newsletter. We will try and obtain grant funding to assist us with our projects, as we did with the cemetery chapel and the old skate park. If you see any areas that you think we could improve, any services that you think we could provide, ideas that we could investigate, or any grant funding avenues that you think would help us, please contact our clerk.

Ibstock Parish Council

1st April 2019 - 30 Sept 2019

INCOME

Precept	101299.75	
Allotment Income	20.00	
Vat refunds	0.00	
Burials/Cemetery Fees	3410.27	
MUGA Hire/pitch hire	610.00	
Grants Other	14280.00	
		119620.02

EXPENDITURE

Staff Salary	10982.46	
Utilities/maintenance	19278.35	
Grounds Maint	17504.06	
Mowing	16061.00	
Rental of Land (play area/Allotment)	210.74	
Assets	6000.00	
Subscription	1764.02	
adverts	225.00	
Insurance	3107.88	
Councillor Exp	3775.84	
prof fee / Other	1565.83	
		80475.12
Profit /(Loss) for year	39144.90	

TREES AND OVERHANGING BRANCHES

During the months of September to March our contractors will be undertaking works to trees and hedges. Due to the DEFRA guidelines, we are unable to do works during the April to August months as it may disturb nesting birds and carries a hefty fine.

The Contractors will only carry out works on the trees and hedges that are under parish council ownership. Our contractors will do surveys and works commence to remove damage or diseased limbs, to encourage healthy growth, or for safety reasons (ie height or width clearance). We are unable to cut down trees just because of lack of light, or for personal requests. If branches are overhanging your property, you are legally entitled to cut them off yourself. Our contractors cannot enter your property boundary to do so.

COUNCILLOR PARKER

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Dennis Parker. Our heartfelt thanks for all he did for our community.

Rip Dennis

It was an absolute pleasure to work with you.



FLOWERS AND FUMING!!!

A huge thankyou to our contractors who do an amazing job, with the planters, flower beds, hanging baskets, grass cutting and hedges. They really do us proud and we are regularly complimented on them. We had the usual village idiots who choose to pull out odd plants and discard them, and managed to push planters off the railings. Did you see anything? Was it your child/friend/neighbour? We hope not, Not only is it vandalism, but also a waste of much needed funds which get diverted away from other things, sorting it out and replanting..

We are very disappointed to have received notification from Leicestershire County Council regarding our Hanging baskets and Christmas Lights. They are demanding that the Parish council have the lamp posts stress tested at a cost of £38-48 per lamp post, otherwise they will remove the displays. That is an additional cost of around £5000, on top of the contractors costs of planting, watering etc. The parish council have protested, at this extortionate cost, when we are only trying to improve the look of the village, and celebrate the Christmas season but its not negotiable. We either pay up or they remove and charge us anyway.

Also on the note of contractors (and staff), they follow the instructions, as agreed by the council. In the last couple of months both contractors and members of our staff have been verbally attacked by members of the public, whilst carrying out their duties. If you don't agree with a decision the council have made, put your concerns and suggestions to rectify in writing and it can be addressed at the public meeting, in a professional manner. Shouting and screaming at our staff or contractors, is not acceptable, and will not be tolerated.

BATTRAM ACCESS CENTRE

As you may be aware, the Parish Council have been resolving issues with Battram Access Centre. The community building was built on Parish Council land around 20 years ago, when the previous building was damaged by fire. In August 2018, the Parish Council had to take over the building as the remaining trustees of the charity that were running the centre resigned. It had not been used for several months and was generally lacking interest from user groups.

The Parish Council have been going through lengthy legal processes to sort the outstanding bills, terminate leases and obtain legal ownership. It is understood the charity has been dissolved. We have been approached by a local group who would like to utilise the building on a weekly/regular basis. We are in the process of negotiating user agreements with them.

MULTI USE GAMES AREA

The Artificial football pitch at the rear of the Miners Welfare site, is available to hire at a cost of £10 per hour. Fully floodlit. Regular bookings or one offs available. Please contact the clerk for availability and a booking form.

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 November 6th 2019

Wednesday 8th January 2020

Wednesday December 4th 2019

Wednesday 5th February 2020