**Bestwood Village**

**Annual Parish Meeting**

Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 6.30pm

At St Mark’s Church Bestwood Village

Minutes

Present;

Councillors J Ashworth, I Hart, R Davidson, R White, J Noone, C Brown, L Newcombe

Minute taker; Louise Turgoose, Clerk and RFO

County Councillor; C Barnfather

Members of the public

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| 1 | Silence to remember those that have passed  ***Observed*** |
| 2 | To receive and accept the minutes of meeting held March 2023  ***Accepted (IH/RD)*** |
| 3 | Report from the Chairman  ***It’s been a busy and somewhat different 12 months for your parish council. As regards the ‘busy’, I’ll come to that shortly. But the ‘different’ has been because 4 of our 7 councillors as well as our clerk are new to us and though we have been fortunate to recruit an experienced clerk in Louise, none of our 4 new councillors, Claire, Laura, Rob and Jon, have served on a parish council before. However, what they might lack in council experience is more than made up for in their abilities and enthusiasm for the role.***  ***When we all first got together last year, the one thing we all have identified and indeed have a passion for is to try to get closer to and improve communications with you our parishioners, after all, that’s why we do this – to listen and really hear what we can do to help make life in this village just a little bit better. So, in an effort make these things happen we have done several things:***  ***∙We have reinstated our newsletter giving you information about what we have just done or are doing at the moment. The latest edition has been posted through your door some weeks ago, as well as being on line through Facebook and our website;***  ***∙We have used the Facebook Community Page to update you on current concerns such as flooding on Moor Road and issues with the Severn Trent Pipeline work;***  ***∙We have updated our website to include a raft of information and reference material, including copies of past agendas and minutes of meetings;***  ***∙We posted a Christmas card with snippets of information from the council through every door in the village***  ***∙And finally, we have embarked on a comprehensive consultation exercise with everyone who lives in the village to identify where we can best spend existing substantial funds presently held by Gedling BC as a result of statutory contributions paid by housing developers.***  ***Parish councils are the lowest tier of government and in certainly in our case, other than our clerk, we are all volunteers, willingly giving up our time to try to help the community. Our powers to actually do things are fairly limited and in many cases, if there is a problem which affects residents, all we can do is lobby the responsible body – usually here it is Gedling BC or Nottinghamshire CC. Believe me, we do try very hard to get a resolution on matters, even if it means repeatedly asking the same question over and over again until we get an answer.***  ***But there are things we can do; here are some examples from the last 12 months:***  ***∙Replaced the old and damaged goal frames on The Square with new, more appropriately-sized goals with nets ∙Replaced the old wooden planters near the school entrance with three new, more durable planters***  ***∙Had the litter/dog poo bin replaced and relocated from its position at the end of Keepers Close and installed a new bench dedicated to her late Majesty***  ***∙Given several thousand pounds in grants to local organisations, including Bestwood Colliery FC in connection with coaching for youngsters, Friends of the Country Park for help in putting on the Darling Buds of May event and Hawthorne School PTA for the provision of additional play equipment.***  ***∙Provided support for the Christmas Fair held at the Welfare in the form of chocolate selection boxes and mince pies***  ***∙Improved and increased the coverage of Christmas lights on Moor Road and Park Road***  ***As I mentioned previously, though we have limited powers to directly affect many important aspects of services and our environment, we can strive to put pressure on those bodies who have. Current matters which we appreciate are of general concern include:***  ***∙Flooding on Moor Road, both at Goosedale and in the dip just beyond Mill Lane. We have written at length to NCC about these matters, have requested that we are informed of additional works being undertaken to address the issues and have an effective communication link in Cllr. Barnfather to update us on progress***  ***∙Works associated with the new Severn Trent pipeline and in particular the planned 3 week closure of Moor Road in August. Again, we have written to Severn Trent with our concerns as well as attending their open event several weeks ago in order to put questions directly to those involved.***  ***∙Although not within our parish, the planned work to replace the existing mini roundabout with traffic lights at Moor Bridge, will have a direct influence on village residents travelling through that area in the future. We have concerns particularly regarding the creation of bus lanes which we believe will have an unnecessarily negative effect on road congestion and once more have written to the planners accordingly.***  ***On all three of these matters we will be closely monitoring the situation as well as ensuring we have responses to our approaches and we promise that information will be shared with the village as we are able to do so.***  ***Finally, I wish to say a little bit about the village-wide consultation which is currently underway, particularly why we feel it is necessary. All households should have received a hard copy of the questionnaire which is also available for completion on-line. We very much need resident’s views on what we already have here, but also what we need going forward.***  ***It is vital that as many people as possible voice their views as the information we gather will both inform us as to how we can use the funds currently available, but also provide ammunition to enable us to raise more funds for projects which might be identified through the consultation which is taking place. We will be organising an open event in late Summer, early Autumn to share with you all the results and let you know just how we plan to proceed with the information gathered.***  ***Ok, so that’s as much as I wish to say at this juncture, on behalf of us all, thank you for coming this evening and please remember we are all here to serve the parish just as well as we are able, so please talk to us.*** |
| 4 | Parish business – members of the public are invited to address the Council on any matters within its jurisdiction  ***Resident raised queries regarding Severn Trent pipeline and stated that they have had no reply from Severn Trent. Clerk advised that the PC has received a response and read this out to the meeting. This was also forwarded to the resident.***  ***Resident asked the Parish Council to request documents on residents behalf.***  ***Councillor CBarnfather advised that this closure has been investigated by the Highways Team and it seems that there is no alternative to this closure.***  ***Councillor Barnfather thanked the Parish Council for being a hands on and constructive team. He highlighted that parish councillors are the lowest level of government and also volunteer***  ***Resident praised the Parish Council for their work over the past year and thanked them for working hard for their continued work.*** |
| 5 | Date of next meeting  ***13th May 2025*** |