

THE PARISH OF BARWELL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

5th April 2024 @ 7.00pm

Held at The Parish Office, 10 High Street, Barwell LE9 8DQ

In attendance:-

Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Russ Roberts

Borough Councillor Mrs Hazel Smith

County Councillor Mr Ross Hills

Clerk – Mrs Denise Deighton

3 parishioners

1. The chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting
2. The Chairman gave a verbal report to the meeting as follows:

A new year starts full of new opportunities with a reflection on our year passed.

With the arrival of 2023 saw a new era after the passing of her Majesty the Monarch Queen Elizabeth II in 2022 and the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May 2023.

2023 for the Country and the Parish has been a tough year for many with Covid still apparent and the cost-of-living crisis that followed.

The Parish spent a lot of 2023 catching up with the Post Covid backlog of Jobs and replacement equipment in the parks. Also, our staff have completed several repairs to play areas highlighted by our ROSPA inspections with still a few needing post winter refreshments.

One of our big jobs for the year going forwards (2024) will be the refurbishment of the pumping station which needs works on the station's electrical cabinet and repairs to the sump.

The Parish has completed addressing invasive plants on Barwell Park however, there is ongoing work addressing the annual invasive plants.

This year the Council has for the 6th year running we have obtained free trees for planting in Barwell parks reaching a total of about 1,800 saplings to date.

Other work the Council have carried out include attending and supporting residents in opposing developers appeals to build on our valuable Green Wedge. The Council has been represented at Parish Forums, a meeting with our MP, the Rural Conference and attended Police Surgeries, also welcomed a new Member of our Ground Care Team. Supported Residents throughout the winter in various flooding events around the village in particular the residents of Hinckley Road which has seen extensive flooding this year and last year.

Welcoming residents to events such as the Remembrance Day Parade 12th November, Christmas lights 25th November, Easter Extravaganza 30th March. Looking forwards to Barwell by The Sea – 13th July, Band in the Park – 8th September, Halloween Disco 26th October and of course the 2024 Christmas lights.

The Council has supported various local groups with our grant scheme. We have worked with groups such as The Barwell Bloomers which help raise the villages outlook all year round, The Nutty Knitters, Befrienders, The Earl Shilton & Barwell Lions, and the local British Legion Group who help at some of our events such as Christmas Parcel delivery, Remembrance Sunday, and Tree Planting.

Many thanks to them all for their help in making these events successful.

As this Council term of office draws to a close, I would like to give a big thank you to our Office Staff Denise and Sue, Our Groundskeepers Kevin and Andrew, Cleaners

Steve, Gail, and Julie whom without their support and work the Parish would not be what it is. Steve now also helps with the grounds care making a dramatic difference to the workload

3. County Councillor Mr Ross Hills gave a verbal report as follows

- Congratulations to the Parish Council for their successful Easter Eggstravaganzer event on 30th March 2024
- Problem parking is a key issue in Barwell
- The Winter has been extremely wet causing havoc in areas such as Hinckley Road and Kirkby Road with flooding
- Good news regarding funding to help sort the flooding issues
- A reduction in Bus Services especially the loss of the number 1 and 2 buses but with a 97% drop in use it is understandable that the company had to stop them
- County Council have got £7m funding to improve the bus services
- One Stop Shop for children with Special needs at the local school with mother and toddler groups etc
- Cllr Hazel Smith and I did a Christmas Event to help families in need
- Barwell Recycling centre has undergone a refurbishment and now switched to summer opening times and has a Swap Shop area which people can swap items for upcycling
- County Council financial situation continues to be a challenge and are for the first time in deficit hence the requirement to shut some recycling centre, but Barwell is well used and is not being considered for closure
- There are some road upgrades in the area and footpaths have been resurfaced in Kirkby Road and others are on the watch list
- County Council are likely to receive a quarter of a million pounds from the failed HS2 scheme to be used for additional bus shelters, renew potholes with parishioners being asked what they feel is needed in the area
- Barwell SUE is still ongoing with Highways impact in the area and County Council have requested more time to consider the problems raised. Two members of the consortium have already pulled out

- Top Range Motors continues to be an eye sore in the village and although it is showing as sold there is no information on what the site will eventually be

4. Borough Councillor Mrs Hazel Smith gave a verbal report as follows:

- I was re-elected in 2023 and have been busy in the area reporting problems to Cllr Ross Hills on Highways
- Dealing with Fly tipping in the area and Anti-social behaviour particularly in Bradgate Road and Elwell Avenue
- Weather has been causing flooding in area of Barwell and have been involved in that
- Attended the Easter Eggstravaganzer event which was a tremendous success despite the wet conditions on Radford Park
- Also worked alongside Cllr Ross Hills with the Christmas parcel for families in need
- Had a successful Halloween disco for the local children. Also attended Barwell Christmas Lights Switch on in November 2023
- Being busy helping in the local area and would like to see something done with Top Range Motors site and improvement to drainage in Barwell

5. Questions raise by Parishioners: -

None

Chairman thanked everyone who attend and closed the meeting at 7:30pm

Chairman's Signature.....