

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE WITH THORPE CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
7th May 2024 @ 7pm
In the Clifton Campville village hall

Present: Cllr Green (chairman), Cllr E Leedham, Cllr R Leedham, Cllr Amsden, Cllr Tongue, Cllr Bostock, Cllr Bennion, Cllr Nicholls. Cllr Alan White SCC
Sue Hughes (Clerk).

Also, present: Gill Bird – St Andrews Church. David Lodge – Millennium Green/Village Hall.
3 members of the public.

1. **Approval of minutes** of Annual Parish meeting on 9th May 2023 were made.
These were taken as read and signed as a true copy.

2. **Chairmans report for 2023/2024**

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all Councillors for their time and effort serving the Parish throughout the year, which doesn't always get the recognition it deserves.

I can vouch for all councillors here today that we always strive to serve our parishioners to the best of our abilities wherever possible, and always strive to do what is best for our villages even in the face of adversity giving up our own personal time to do so.

It's been a busy 12 months for the Parish Council, In the last 12 months we have.

- Refurbished the parish council notice board.
- Maintained the hedges that were overgrowing the parish council bench near to the school.
- Purchased new speed detection devices for Clifton Campville and Haunton funded by the parish council in an attempt to address the speeding issues identified by the residents.
- Speed detection devices were installed by Parish counsellors themselves.
- Allocated councillor names to each of the parish council responsibilities in an attempt to manage our responsibilities better.
- Councillors have reported back on there respective allocated responsibility at each meeting.
- Contributed fund to help maintain the village church.
- Contributed fund to help with the millennium green
- Repurposed the allotments to make them available to residents, funded by the parish council.
- Identified further village furniture improvement/refurbishments required with a plan to address each item in order to make our villages a nicer place to live.

- Organised and accommodated free defibrillator training via have a heart for all interested villagers.
- We have reported and managed to have several potholes repaired via the highways agency responsible.
- Identified how to report any highway concerns including potholes and cascaded several times via social media to the Mease Valley and Clifton Campville pages.
- Leased with the local constabulary when crimes have been identified to help
 - push an increased police visibility around our villages.
- Carried out a successful yearly litter pick event.
- Been a talent judge at the local school.
- Plus, many more and too many others to mention.

We have welcomed 2 new fantastic members into our parish council team who have brought with them a wealth of life experiences and can-do attitudes who have already had many positive inputs and have contributed their own time to making our villages a better place to live.

Moving forward, the parish council will continue to serve the community at the expense of their own time and effort ensuring our villages are a great place to live. We will endeavour to improve the look of our villages by maintaining the furniture keeping up with the parish council's responsibilities, and we will continue to support all parishioners wherever possible.

I would like once again to thank the councillors for their continued effort and support. I would also like to congratulate Cllr Edward Leadham on the birth of his 1st son and on behalf of the parish council wish him and his new family an extremely happy future.

3. Reports from Community Groups/Organisations

- a. The Clerk read out the following from Rachel Mills (Executive Headteacher of St Andrew's and Mary Howard)

Thank you for the invite to your Parish Council meeting. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend so have sent this report in order to update you about St. Andrew's C of E primary school.

For those of you who do not know me, I am Rachel Mills and I have been Executive Headteacher of St. Andrew's, and Mary Howard in Edingale since 17th April 2023. Previously, I was Headteacher of The Howard in Elford for five years so I understand the importance, pressures and benefits of small village schools. I am passionate about small schools and know how important it is to work with the local community in order for our younger generations to thrive.

The school currently has 51 children and 9 members of staff. Our pupil admission numbers (PAN) are 9 children per year group. As we have children from Reception to Year 6, we can accommodate 63 children in total so at this point we are undersubscribed.

We are set to welcome five new children into our Reception intake in September 2024 and six Year 6's will move on to their chosen High School, which is predominantly Rawlett.

Going forward, we need to raise the profile of St. Andrew's and make sure that we are the first choice of parents in the village and the local area.

At St. Andrew's, our children get an exceptional school experience with high expectations and small class sizes, in a nurturing and calm environment. Our children are happy and feel cared for and do well in all areas of the curriculum. We are on our journey to develop outdoor learning and Forest School for all children, so that we utilise our beautiful surroundings and help our children grow and flourish and find affinity with nature and the environment.

We have strong links with the church and are extremely lucky to have the support of Rev. John Grice and Sarah Ennis, who play an integral part in our school. They have fully supported our new vision and our values which we launched in September 2024. The parable of the mustard seed inspires us that even from very small beginnings, something amazing can grow. At St. Andrew's we are aspirational for the future of all our pupils and adults, in that they will learn how to grow and flourish as healthy and fulfilled individuals who are passionate about life and learning.

Our core value is Koinonia, which comes from the Greek word meaning community or fellowship that involves deep, close-knit participation amongst its people. Koinonia is underpinned by our chosen values of Love, Wisdom and Perseverance to which our children and staff live out each and every day.

In April 2024, we joined the Staffordshire Schools Multi Academy Trust (TSSMAT), which now has six small schools, five of which are also Church of England. They include Mary Howard in Edingale; The Howard, Elford; Richard Crosse, Kings Bromley; St. Mary's, Colton; and Anson in Great Hayward. We believe that being part of this MAT will enhance our provision and provide invaluable support. The CEO is Mrs Charlene Gethin, mostly accompanied by her little pug, Ralph.

b. Gill Bird representative from St Andrews Church and read the following.

From Sarah Ennis (Churchwarden) April 2024:

The Parish contains two churches. St Andrew's Church is the Parish Church situated in the village of Clifton Campville in the County of Staffordshire and St Matthew's Church, designated as a Chapel of Ease, is situated in the village of Chilcote in the County of NW Leicestershire. The Parish is part of the Mease Valley group of churches, a United Benefice with Elford, Edingale and Harlaston, grouped with Wigginton within the Diocese of Lichfield. The Ministry team are Rev John Grice (Rector & Asst. Area Dean, Rev Nicola Busby (p/t OLM with responsibility for Edingale) and our Reader – Mrs Jacqueline Tyler (responsible for Elford) have continued to work tirelessly across the Mease Valley Benefice and have dealt with the differing demands of the five churches and their associated villages.

Structure, Governance and Management.

There is a combined Electoral roll for St Andrew's and St Matthew's and each has a Churchwarden. For the first time in many years we were able to pay our Common Fund (Parish Share) in full thanks to the Parish Assessors who looked kindly upon the demands of supporting a Grade 1 listed Church and defrayed our historical arrears providing we pay in full for 2023/4 and 2024/5.

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the PCC Powers Measure and is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission. All PCC members/Trustees are now subject to DBS checks. Sub-committees of the PCC are:

☒ Standing Committee – to deal with day to day matters and make recommendations to the PCC- The Rector and Churchwardens.

☒ Events Committee – to provide a programme of non-worship events that will benefit the community and also raise funds. It was due to some Herculean efforts by this Committee and support from the PCC that we managed to raise a gratifyingly large amount in the 2023/4 period.

☒ Stewardship Committee – This will reconvene in 2024 in order to look at the long term demands of maintaining our Income levels.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the Parish are to promote the Gospel and doctrines of the Church of England. The PCC maintains good relationships with the Roman Catholic Church of Saints Michael and James in Haunton and the Village Hall and Millenium Green Committees.

Young people and children School worship has continued to take place on a weekly basis conducted by Rev Grice and hymn practices are also now held weekly in St Andrew's by Sarah Ennis, Churchwarden.

The new Headteacher at St Andrew's (and Mary Howard school), Miss Rachel Mills is a very staunch supporter of the links between to Church and the School.

Performance and Community Involvement

There are 42 people on the Parish electoral roll. A pattern of Services across the Mease Valley parish includes joint Mease Valley Holy Communion Services held at the different Churches. Staffing does not allow for a Service in each Church every week.

The PCC has worked in co-operation with the Village Hall Committee and Millennium Green Committee on several events such as the Country Fair, Christ Cracker/Christmas Draw.

The Parish Council continues to support the Church financially assisting with the maintenance of the Churchyard and also paid £340 for the Church Clock repairs. The number of volunteers who assist with maintaining the fabric and look of both St Andrew's and St Matthew's Church by cleaning, flower-arranging, brass polishing, cleaning of gutters and drains etc. has sadly dwindled. Church news is regularly included on the Village social media sites and in the Mease Valley Magazine. Food Bank collections have taken place regularly at St. Matthews and at St Andrew's Harvest Festival.

Buildings and Churchyard St Andrew's Churchyard has the mowing work carried out by a contractor and the Parish Council contributed £2500 towards the annual cost of £3807. Some graves are maintained by relatives. A dangerous Scots Pine was felled and some work has been carried out to make safe another fir tree damaged by the wind. Two of the lights along the Church path blew down in winter gales and we will need to undertake work to repair/ replace them and to check the electrics over the summer. The path to the Millenium Green is now seriously in need of maintenance as increased footfall and wet weather have caused the original gravel to disappear below soil level and it is often very muddy. Ideally, if finances allowed, we would carry out work to improve the finish as a Health and Safety issue/Work was finally carried out to repair/replace the tiles on the Chantry chapel and Nave roofs and to clear the gutters and down pipes but recent storms have blown down more tiles which now need work. Currently it has not been possible to undertake the programme of work necessary to the Tower mullions, the windows around the Church which need work and the electrics. Due to some generous donations and bequests there is some 'seed capital' available but a major fundraising campaign will be needed before any further work can commence. St Matthew's churchyard is maintained by a rota of village volunteers and the trees next to the gate which were causing damage have been felled, with permission, opening up the vista to and from the Church. The heating has also received some attention.

Health and Safety and Safeguarding

Risk assessments have been made of all potential hazards and are held in each Church together with appropriate safety equipment. The annual lightning conductor, fire extinguisher checks and gravestone inspections at St Andrew's are up to date.

Each church has a published protection policy for Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults which is on display and indicates what action should be taken and the name of the Parish, Deanery and Diocesan Safeguarding Officers.

- c. David Lodge representative from Millennium Green/Village Hall thanked the Parish Council for the support it gives to the Village Hall and the Millennium Green. The hall is well attended and everyone appreciates the Green. It was reported that the insurance has gone up 35.2% and if upheld will cost £1423.28 to insure the Millennium Green so it is hoped that the Parish Council will continue to help and support.

The meeting concluded @ 7:20pm

Next Annual Parish Meeting is 13th May 2025