

# Dalbury Lees Parish Council Annual Report for 2019 / 2020

This report has been displayed on Village Noticeboards and on the Parish Council website. This is in lieu of the regular Annual Parish Council meeting in May which has had to be cancelled for obvious reasons.

## New Developments

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on life in the world. The Parish Council has been providing **information to Parishioners** to encourage them to make sure that their neighbours are receiving the support they may need. In addition, access to local services / food deliveries has been regularly circulated by email. The email circulation list covers over 90% of the dwellings in the Parish. Feedback has been universally positive

The installation of the **defibrillator** in the telephone box was completed and public training courses delivered on how to use it by Sarah and Steve. The defibrillator was recently taken by the Police for potential use but in the end was not needed. It is now returned and its functionality checked.

A number of **Poppies** were purchased in the autumn for display on lampposts / telegraph poles to help commemorate national remembrance events.

The Village Green **Noticeboard** had its back and legs repainted by Phil.

Clearance of undergrowth to provide **easier access to some rights of way** has been done and a support rails over the small bridge near the Sewage Work have been replaced.

**Street lighting** issues reported by Parishioners and Council – now resolved.

The Council decided to **purchase of shelter** from the previous tenants of grazing field to make it available for future tenants. The grazing field has now been relent to new tenants.

Through Steve, a first **cut and grass collection** has been commissioned and carried out on the village Green. Steve and Jim have volunteered to keep the grass around the allotments in check. No news from SDDC regarding an improvement to the current grass cutting service. The hedge around the allotments has also been cut thanks to Jim Archer.

**Footpath issues** occasionally arise and are reported to the footpath officer by both Parishioners and Council.

The **Planning Applications** reviewed / approved by SDDC included The Willows, Cherry Tree Farm, a house next to Grange View. The Parish Council has made sure that potentially impacted neighbours are aware of such applications and has itself commented as appropriate.

## Update on ongoing issues

It has been noted that there is occasional **dog fouling** on the main thorough fairs in Lees and in surrounding fields. Would all dog owners please act responsibly?

Concern has been raised about **speeding** motorists in Lees. Steps have been taken to report some known offenders and further steps are under consideration.

Steps continue to be taken to formalise the **ownership and management of the Allotment Field** as a whole – a complex task which started in 1993.

The perennial issue of **potholes** continues unabated but significant work was recently done – more to do however and this has been reported by Phil to Derbyshire County Council highways. Parishioners can do likewise – the best method is to take a photograph with a smart phone and sent the resulting picture to DCC (see Parish Council website for link).

Sadly, part of the **chain around the village Green** has been stolen. Wire cutters have been used. Steve and Jim have researched its replacement and this work has now been completed together with the replacement of broken hooks.

The **Snow Patrol** again did not have enough community volunteers step forward to register it under the County Council Winter Service Scheme. Fortunately, we had a mild winter. The salt and related materials acquired three years ago to help keep the pavement in Lees ice free is in storage at the village hall for future use.

By mailshot the Parish Council has asked the Parish if there is interest in re-launching a **Neighbourhood watch scheme** – a few replies have been forthcoming but not enough to implement the scheme. Further input from interested parishioners is encouraged.

The **30mph delimited sign** was reported as broken last year by several people. It remains to be replaced.

The **wedding venue** at Grangefields Farm started to be developed with changes to the entrance off Long Lane.

## **Parish Councillor Matters**

Dalbury Lees Parish Council ideally needs 5 councillors to operate and has limped along with only four (or less!) councillors for much of the last four years. There had been two calls for prospective Councillors to step forward and, sadly, no one did. Just before the next meeting, to be run by and populated by South Derbyshire District Councillors three people stepped forward. They were Phil, Steve and Jim. A call was put out for an additional two applicants. Another four people did so and the initial three councillors selected two more – Sarah and Colin.

There has been 5 Parish Council meetings since the last Annual Parish Meeting in June 2019. The Parish Council has reviewed and updated its financial risk assessment, standing orders, asset register. As the year has progressed a list of activities the Council does on a regular basis is being accumulated to remind the council regarding what needs to be done when of its repeating actions. As required by the Transparency Code the Council maintained its website, latterly and largely through the efforts of Margaret Fox (our Parish Council clerk) taking over the reins from Phil, enabling interested parties to keep abreast on Parish Council affairs and access information on the services provided by the Parish, South Derbyshire District and Derbyshire County Councils.

A big thanks is due to our clerk, Margaret Fox, for helping the Parish Council manage its business in the right way over the last four years and to our two South Derbyshire District Councillors, Lisa Brown and David Muller, together with our Derbyshire County Councillor, Julie Patten, for advising and supporting the Parish Council in local Government matters.

Thank you

Phil, Steve, Jim, Colin and Sarah