

Dalbury Lees Parish Council Annual Report for 2018 / 2019

As advised steps are being taken to formalise the ownership and management of the Allotment Field as a whole – a complex task which started in 1993. This work has not yet completed with various options under active investigation. Two years ago, a defibrillator was procured for the Parish by Ruth. The current plan is to install it in the telephone box on the Village Green. Unfortunately, the device procured requires a power supply to keep it warm and ready for use. Commitment has been obtained from BT to ensure that the power supply to the telephone box continues for the next 7 years at least. The estimated cost of the unmetered power supply is a lot less than £100 per annum. The Snow Patrol again did not have enough community volunteers step forward to register it under the County Council Winter Service Scheme. The salt and related materials acquired two years ago to help keep the pavement in Lees ice free is has been used by the only two remaining volunteers. (Stephen Trowbridge and Phil.) and also around the Village Hall site. In September 2017 Ruth presented information obtained from Chesterfield Police regarding Neighbourhood Watch schemes. By mailshot the Parish Council has asked the Parish if there is interest in re-launching a scheme – a few replies have been forthcoming. The provisioning of dog poo bins around the Village Green was investigated but the problem has now dissipated so none were installed. Thanks are due to The Cow for offering to sponsor one.

Gerry and Colin have been managing the maintenance which has been carried out regarding grass cutting at both the Village Green and the allotments. Weed killer was applied to the Village Green around the signpost in late 2018 by Colin. No news from SDDC regarding an improvement to the current grass cutting service. The Cow pub kindly replaced the broken Village Green post opposite the pub. The gutters on the main road in Lees were sprayed with weed killer by SDDC in 2018 and this has served to suppress weed growth. As suggested by Ruth, Phil has managed the updating of the village map – amazing how many changes have occurred since the original in 2012. Colin has organising work to cut back vegetation at the entrance to several rights of way in the Parish. The hedge around the allotments has also been cut thanks to Jim Archer. The Village Green notice board had continued to deteriorate and Phil has now fitted a sheet of Marine plywood to the rear to arrest the decay. The telephone box was damaged and a pane of broken glass and several interior fittings have been replaced by Phil. The telephone box has now been repainted – Phil managed this work. Pot holes remain a perennial problem. Via the SDDC website it is possible to register a need for such maintenance as done by Phil.

The Planning Applications reviewed / approved by SDDC included extension at Moston, infill dwellings (1) south of Grange View and north of the School House (2), Twigwidge, Top Farm Dalbury (upgrade and 3 dwellings), The Willows (extension). The Parish Council has made sure that potentially impacted neighbours are aware of such applications.

On the administration front there has been 6 Parish Council meetings since the last Annual Parish Meeting. A limited number of parishioners attended last year's Annual Parish Meeting on 14 May one of the items being the presentation and question and answer session by Hardyal Dhindsa, Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner. 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.

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. It had been hoped that more parishioners would feel able to put their names forward in the recent (two) elections. To date none have. Any interested parties are welcome to contact any of the previous Parish Councillors or the clerk if they would like to know more about what is entailed.

2015-19 Dalbury Lees Parish Councillors:- Phil Coultas, Gerry Williams, Ruth Slack, Colin Timmins