

## **Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Litton Village Hall – 6.30pm – 7pm**

**Present:** Councillors Saxby (Chair), Brunt, Gregory & Rooke  
Clerk G Turner

There were 4 members of the public present.

Councillor Saxby opened the meeting by welcoming residents and outlining the Parish Council's responsibilities.

- Looking after the Cemetery and Garden of Remembrance
- The mowing of the Village Greens, Playground & Memorial Playing Field
- Maintenance of the trees on the Village Greens and the Cemetery
- Maintenance of the Playground and Memorial Playing Field
- General maintenance of Parish Council assets and grounds, i.e. tubs, seating and flowerbeds
- Reviewing Planning Applications in the parish
- Liaising with other authorities and organisations

The Clerk then gave an overview of the income and recurrent expenditure for 2024/25. It was noted that there was an overspend during 2024/25 of £5,586 due to the volume of tree works required following the tree survey. Added to this the open spaces contracts had to be renegotiated after the expiry of a 3 year fixed period.

The Clerk went on to explain that this overspend was funded by the Council's ring fenced reserves for tree maintenance and the cemetery. This highlights the need to monitor the reserves and keep them topped up. The general reserve is set at 40% of recurrent expenditure.

Councillor Saxby outlined what the Council had achieved over the last year:

- Established the Wilding area at the Cemetery. It was agreed this had been successful, although Councillor Gregory raised a concern that it may not work so well this summer due to the current exceptionally dry spell.
- Commissioned a survey of all the trees in the parish and five unsafe/struggling trees at the cemetery have been removed or made safe. All recommendations in the tree survey have now been carried out.
- Following the annual ROSPA report raising concerns over the safety of the infant swings they were removed and subsequently replaced. The roundabout was also refurbished on the advice of the ROSPA inspector. These projects were funded by Derbyshire Environmental Trust.
- At the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting residents asked that the circular bench around the tree near the school in Litton, which had been removed due to its poor condition, be reinstated. A grant was obtained from Derbyshire Environmental Trust, for a new recycled plastic circular seat for the tree, which is maintenance free and should last longer than the original seat. Thanks to Friends of Litton Village volunteers for installing the bench.

- Residents asked for a new noticeboard at Cressbrook Mill, which was purchased by the Council and installed by a volunteer. Repairs to the existing noticeboard at Cressbrook were also undertaken.
- The renovation of Cressbrook War Memorial has started. A couple of conifer trees have been removed and the handyperson has cleared an area around the memorial of ivy. Councillor Brunt stated that Cressbrook residents were grateful to the Parish Council for taking on ownership and starting to improve the site. It was noted that the Cressbrook Community Group have donated £700 towards the restoration and planting around the site.

The Chair then outlined what is currently planned for 2025/26.

- Ongoing development and management for Cressbrook War Memorial plot. The Parish Council is currently gaining quotes for work and will then be looking to see whether funding can be found.
- Removal of a tree at the Cemetery which could compromise the wall. This work has in fact already been carried out in the last couple of weeks.
- Some of the walls at the Playground and Memorial Playing Field are in a poor state and this is being monitored to ensure that they remain stable. In the meantime, funding will be sought to help with the cost of the repairs.

### **Comments from Residents**

It was noted how much the residents appreciate the long hours that Steve and Rosemary put in to creating the flower displays in the tubs in Litton Village and also tending the Village Hall grounds. They really enhance the beauty of the village and the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee express their sincere thanks to Rosemary and Steve.

It was suggested that a grant may be possible for the repairs to the walls through the National Playing Field Association and the Clerk will look into this.

One of the residents thanked Councillors for all their continued hard work in the parish over the last 12 months.

Finally, it was mentioned that there is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council which can be filled by co-option and anyone interested should contact the Clerk on [littonparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:littonparishcouncil@gmail.com).