

DUDDON AND BURTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2023 – March 2024

Contact detailsC/O Clerk to the Parish Council ... Trudy Ryall-Harvey

Parish Councillors as at March 2024

Geoffrey Goulbourne (Chair)
Clive Cummins
Anthony Green
Martin Lightfoot
Katie Warburton

Structure, Governance and Management

As per Parish Council (PC) Standing Orders

Governance

1. The Parish Council (PC) employs a Clerk who is also the Responsible Finance Officer.
2. All Parish Councillors identify in advance any pecuniary interests, outside body's involvement and family or personal interests they or their partners might have and sign a declaration of interest form when elected to the Council. In addition, each parish councillor is expected to abide by the Cheshire West and Chester's Code of Conduct and declare any other potential conflicts of interest with their PC duties at the start of each PC meeting.

Objectives

As per Standing Orders but in summary to represent and act to address the interests of the community and its local residents

Main Points of Note in 2023/24

1. The PC has five Parish Councillor seats, and currently five Parish Councillors at the end of the year.
2. The parish of Duddon and Burton has approximately 227 households and 427 elector's.
3. Three Planning applications were considered and no-objections to these consultations placed by the council to Cheshire West and Chester Council.
4. The PC continues to utilise its website to provide access to PC papers and distribute information of potential public interest.
5. The PC continue to work with Cheshire West and Chester's Wildflower Team on year two of the wildflower planting on corner of Willington Lane and Back Lane. The PC was disappointed with the results this year, however Cheshire West and Cheshire reported that they were impressed as they say 23 out of 28 different wildflowers planted showing on this site.

6. The PC continue to report to CWaC any issues, these include potholes and footpaths requiring cleaning amongst other issues.
7. Following the PC successfully submitting a Grant Application in 2023 for Neighbourhood Pride monies, the PC worked with Cheshire West and Chester Council to clean the footpath along the A51 from Okell's Nursery to the Primary School.
8. The Parish Council have also undertaken two workshops this year following support received from United Utilities, first workshops was with the help of years 5&6 of Duddon St Peter's Primary School to create Willow Remembrance Poppies and the second workshop with the help of residents to create Festive Wreaths for Duddon. The PC wishes to thanks all of those who participated in these workshops for their help and assistance.



Financial Performance

The Parish Council's Budget for 2023-24 was set at £13,003 with a Precept for the year of £8,405 which was an increase of 5%, increasing the funding from CWaC and thus indirectly from residents.

For 2023-24, the PC operating costs and projects have mostly in-line with the budget.

The Precept for 2024-25 has been set at £8,825 which is a 5% increase on the previous year.

Council Attendance 2023-24

Duddon and Burton Parish Council held 6 Parish Council meetings between May 2023 and April 2024.

All Parish Councillors attended each council meeting.

CW&C Councillor Tom Cooper attended two of the Council meetings having sent his apologies for the May, September, November & March meetings.

CWaC Councillor Edward Lush attended one meeting sending his apologies for May, July, September, November & January meetings.

The PCSO attended three of the Parish Council meetings, providing the Parish Council with an update of issues arising in the area and giving them the opportunity to highlight concerns.

Over the year Public Participation at the Parish Council meetings has ranged from zero to 6 members of the public depending on the subject matter on the agenda. The Parish Council always welcome

members of the public to attend the Parish Council meeting and there is a maximum of 20 minutes set aside on the agenda for Public Participation at each meeting.

The Chair wishes to pass on his thanks to all of the Parish Councillors who give their time and energy free of charge to assist in Parish Council matters.

This report is signed and dated following a meeting of the Parish Council where the report was approved by all present.

Signed on behalf of the Parish Council

Geoffrey Goulbourne (Chair)