

SILVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL



News / Report

March 2015

Dear Resident,

The Parish Council is very much aware that the last edition of the Village Newsletter was early in 2014 and that many of you have been making enquiries as to when the next edition was likely to be. Due to the difficulties being experienced by the Council in connection with the position and duties of the Clerk, the Village newsletter and its distribution had to be placed on hold for the remainder of 2014.

I'm very pleased to report that issues surrounding the position of Clerk have now been resolved and that since July 2014 the post has been filled.

The name and contact details of the Clerk are: -

Mrs Pauline Whalley
25 Marsh Avenue
Wolstanton
Newcastle,
Staffs.
ST5 8BB
Email: - silverdaleparish@hotmail.com
Mobile: - 07710559572

However, the decision has been taken by Council that the Village Newsletter in its current format and quarterly production and distribution should be withdrawn.

Instead, the Council has committed to providing a more modern and informative website to provide all news, information and local advertising that it will include all that was in the village newsletter and more! The website is currently under construction.

But, the direct contact and communication from the Parish Council to all residents is still considered as important particularly for those residents who may not have access to the internet. Therefore at the Council meeting in February 2015 it was put by the Chair that a direct line of communication should still be provided to residents by means of a written "News / report". It was also put that in order to ensure the engagement of all residents with the activities of the Parish Council, the news / report should be produced at least annually. (With an option to produce others as may be required.)

This is the 1st edition of the News / Report communication

Its format is simple and straightforward and includes the major topics that the Parish Council has been involved with or has acted upon or is still involved with going forward. Where appropriate, each carries the name of a Councillor or Councillors primarily involved with the topic and a brief account is given for your information.

Throughout the newsletter references are made to:-

SPC	=	Silverdale Parish Council
SCC	=	Staffordshire County Council
NBC	=	Newcastle Borough Council

It is hoped that you find this newsletter both useful and informative

M A Nadin - Chair Silverdale Parish Council
Dr T O'Neill - Vice Chair Silverdale Parish Council

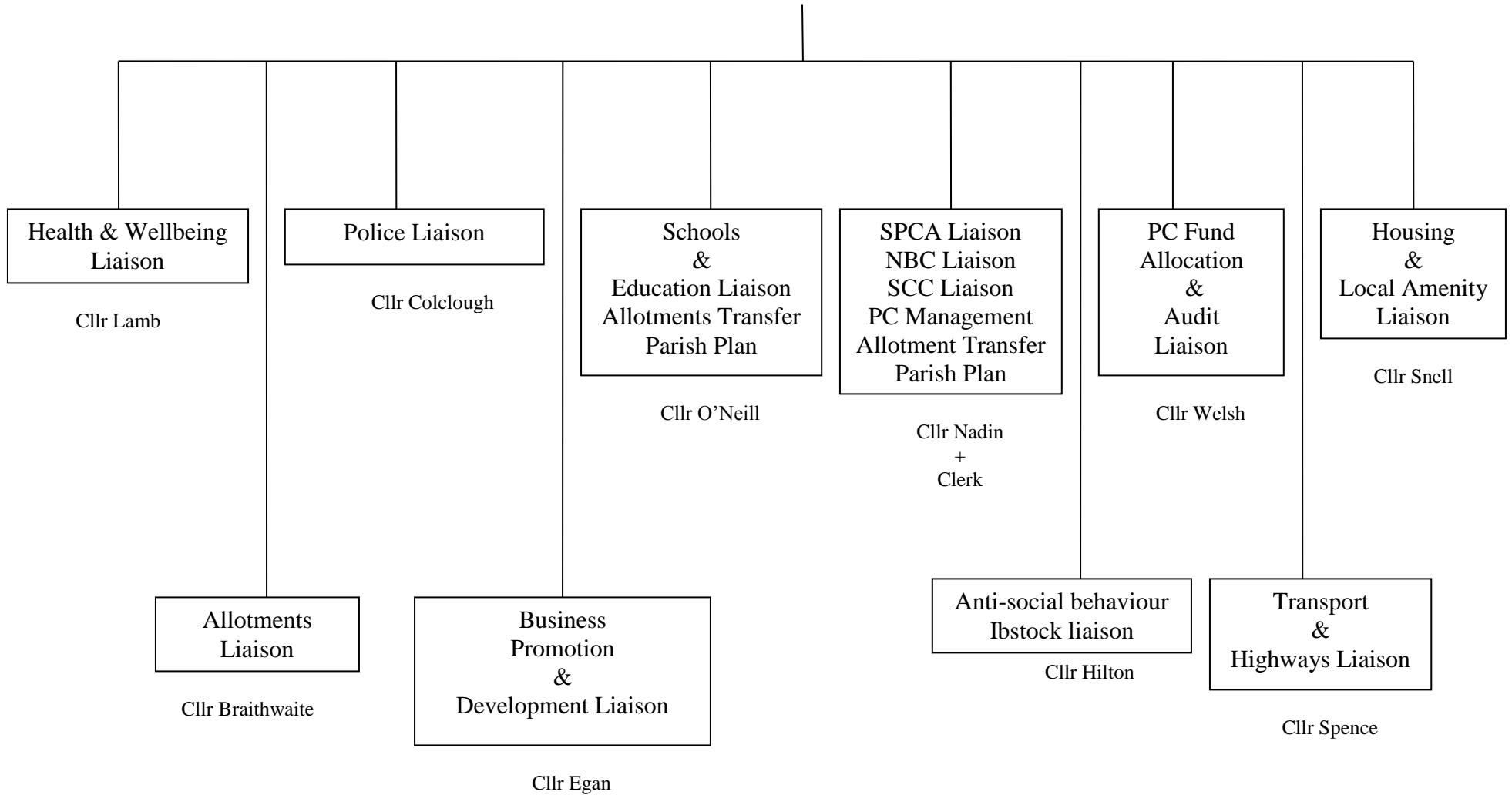
Contents

1. Assigned Responsibilities – Parish Councillors.
2. Allotments
3. Bus Stops – Shelters
4. Casey Lane – Flooding
5. Golf Course
6. Hanging baskets – Parade
7. Library
8. Mining Monument
9. Miners Wheel
10. New seat - Parade
11. Parish Council – By-Election
12. Parish Council – May Election
13. Parish Council – Website
14. Parish Council – Councillors Attendance at Meetings
15. Silverdale Speed Watch Initiative

1. Assigned Responsibilities

SILVERDALE PARISH COUNCIL

February 2015



From January 2013 the Parish Councillors for Silverdale were allocated defined roles of community topics with the expectation that each will take the leading role in the topic allocated to the individual Councillor. This was a new approach taken by the Council and is still very much in its stages of infancy. However, success expectations are high with the gaining of knowledge and experience and it also provides a clear definition to the residents of Silverdale in your knowing what each Councillor deals with, should you have any issues related to a community topic.

2. Allotments. – (PC Sub-committee Councillors Braithwaite, O'Neill, Nadin) / Parish Council

Throughout the UK, Parish Councils hold the legal responsibility to provide land for the purposes of allotments for residents who live within the defined area of the Parish boundary. When formed in 2002, this responsibility should have transferred from Newcastle Borough Council (NBC) to Silverdale Parish Council (SPC) for both the Acre and Park Road allotment sites. This did not happen and for the last 2 years we have been working with NBC to resolve and legally facilitate this transfer.

By means of a formal leasing arrangement the Park Road allotment site was successfully transferred from NBC to SPC in April 2014. Consequently, SPC has successfully sub-leased the allotment site directly to the Park Road Allotment Association.

This is the first and only site in the borough of Newcastle under Lyme to be totally “self governed and managed” directly by the holders of the on site allotments.

Discussions are still on-going between SPC and NBC regarding the Acre allotment site. But it is hoped that the same arrangement can be applied with the Acre Allotment Association very soon.

For further Allotment site information, contact should be made directly to: -

Park Road Allotment Association - Mrs Tina Burgess
Email:- silverdaleparkroadallotments@gmail.com

Acre Allotment Association – Mrs Christine Mrozicki
Tele: - 07721987009
Mr Christopher Hassall
Tele: - 07990880765

3. Bus Stop (Shelters) – Councillors Braithwaite/Nadin/Parish Council

Councillor Braithwaite was approached by a resident of Silverdale regarding the possibility of having a bus stop shelter along Scot Hay road adjacent to the Heritage Park housing estate. She put this to Council and it agreed with the proposal. A new shelter was purchased, installed and is now owned by SPC. Following this, the idea to provide additional shelters was discussed with a view to improve existing facilities and encourage the use of public transport to and from the centre of Silverdale. In addition, it was agreed that it would smarten public locations that were untidy, shabby looking and damaged.

Therefore, additional improvements were considered and to date, we have arranged or are arranging to have: -

- a) The shelter outside the Library repaired by Staffordshire County Council at zero £ cost.
- b) Replaced the damaged and unsightly shelter at Halfway Place. (Ownership was transferred from NBC to SPC)
- c) Currently installing a new shelter at Halfway Place.
- d) Planning to replace the damaged and unsightly shelter in Bath Road Parksite. (Ownership will transfer from NBC to SPC should this take place.)

The intention is to continue and improve the existing transport facilities within the parish of Silverdale and to encourage the resident's use of the same.

4. Casey Lane – Councillor Nadin/Parish Council

I was contacted by a resident of Casey Lane whom had serious concerns about flooding issues of the area following heavy downpours. She had previously made repeated attempts with the local authorities to have the problem resolved, without success. Her concerns were witnessed first hand and the flooding problem was serious from both an acute and chronic perspective. Residents of both Casey Lane and Sneyd Terrace were directly affected.

The cause of the problem was obvious. The stream was blocked in a number of different locations due to the indiscriminate abandonment of rubbish thrown into it and the obvious lack of care, attention and maintenance being given to the water course.

Despite intensive searches of land ownership, the responsibility for the water course and discussions with SCC Environmental Health, NBC Environmental Health & Aspire Housing, an owner of the land or those responsible for the care and maintenance of the water course could not be determined.

It was put to SPC that the stream should be emptied of its rubbish, the surrounding area cleared and the water course flow be fully restored to facilitate its full flowing capacity. The proposal was agreed.

The work was allocated to a local contractor from Silverdale and I'm very pleased to report that following an excellent job completed, the stream is now able to flow freely and the risk of localised flooding to the area minimised.

5. Keele Golf Course – Parish Council

The long term future of the Golf course is unknown and SPC is aware that it is of concern to many residents of Silverdale. We also share their concerns of the unknown!

The lack of consultation by the local authorities with SPC has been addressed following a letter received from a resident of Silverdale.

A formal letter detailing our dissatisfaction was sent and registered to the Chief Executive at NBC on the 21st November 2014. The letter included a reminder that, although named as "Keele Golf Course", virtually all of the golf course land area sits in the parish of Silverdale.

Following several requests, SPC has eventually received an acknowledgment of our letter and we have been informed that we will be consulted with formally at all future stages of the "Local Plan" and that the first of these stages is likely to be in the latter part of this year.

6. Hanging Baskets (Parade) – Councillor Braithwaite/Parish Council

SPC has for many years provided hanging baskets in the Parade area of the village, adding brightness and a spectacle of colour to the area during the summer months.

In 2014 it was decided to source the baskets from an alternative, but still a local, supplier. The costs were substantially reduced in comparison to our previous supplier and it is hoped that we will provide the same for this year.

7. Library - Councillor's O'Neill/Nadin

The reasons and the decisions taken by SCC regarding all Libraries across the County are well publicised and documented. SCC seems to have given its assurance that it will continue to provide a Library service to all Libraries in the County of Staffordshire but, it will be unable to continue to support some Libraries in their present format. It is understood that Silverdale Library falls into this category.

The opportunity was taken to consult with SCC during their consultation stage period during the latter part of 2014.

No commitments were given or any decisions taken at this consultation meeting.

The situation appears to be extremely "fluid" and all future correspondence and developments are being observed with interest.

8. Mining Monument - Councillor Welsh/Parish Council

Following a letter of concern received from a former resident of Silverdale and founder member responsible for the conception, design and erection of the Mining monument at the lower entrance to Silverdale.

SPC has undertaken a project to seek the cleaning and refurbishment of the monument that is showing signs of weather erosion and damage. Quotes have been received to complete the works but the figure is too high for SPC to support it fully.

Therefore it is the intention of SPC to explore and seek additional grant/ funding from other sources as are available in order to restore the monument.

9. Miners Wheel – Councillor Hilton/Parish Council

Attempts have been made by other organisations to have the Miners wheel, once standing at the main entrance to Silverdale Colliery, relocated following the completion of the housing development known as Heritage Park. Various suggestions and grant/funding applications were considered but to no avail. SPC has only recently become involved and the other organisations associated initially with the project have now withdrawn.

It is the intention of SPC to have the wheel relocated, hopefully in a position not too far in distance from where it once stood. Discussions have been held with the developer of the site who has assured SPC that they will support the project.

It is hoped that a decision can be made in the not too distant future.

10. New seat (Parade) – Councillor Braithwaite/Parish Council.

Councillor Braithwaite was approached by a resident regarding the possibility of having a seat placed onto the bottom Parade area to allow residents to sit and enjoy the area at and around the post office. It was put to Council and agreed.

The new seat was purchased from a local street furniture manufacturer in Chesterton and fitted using the services offered to us by NBC.

We hope that you all enjoy it and make full use of the seat.

11. Parish Council By-election.

A vacancy on the Parish Council arose in the Silverdale/Parkside ward due to the untimely death of Councillor George Cairns, a resident of Silverdale since early childhood who, for many years served the community as both as a Borough Councillor and Parish Councillor.

If a vacancy occurs in a Parish Council there are legal rules in place that have to be followed. First the vacancy has to be advertised following which a parish Council has the power to co-opt a Councillor from the candidates who expressed an interest and who applied for the vacancy.

However, if 10 residents of the parish write to the Local Returning Officer of the Local Authority and request that a By-election be called, then one has to be held. The only exception to this is if a vacancy occurs within 6 months of a general election date.

On this and the only occasion this has happened for Silverdale Parish, the call for a By-election was registered with the Local Returning Officer.

Therefore the By-election process was engaged by the NBC.

Unlike Parish Council elections held at the same time as a General Election, the financial cost associated to any By-election process is with and has to be met, in full, by the Parish Council

The By-election took place on the 15th January 2015 and Mr Christopher Spence was duly elected.

The details of the By-election are as follows: -

Surname	Name	Votes
Huckfield	Derrick	44
Spence (Labour Party Candidate)	Christopher Kennet	100

The number of polling cards sent = 1273

Postal votes = 72

Polling station votes = 74

Spoilt papers = 2

Turnout = 11.46%

Cost of By-election to the Parish Council = £2902:69

12 May Elections.

On May 7th the Country goes to the polls for the UK General Election. At the same time Silverdale Parish Council elections are being held. This is the opportunity for **YOU** as a resident of Silverdale Parish to apply and become a Parish Councillor for the next 4 years. The Parish Council needs members whom have a genuine interest for the area in which we all live and an interest in those whom we all live with.

Silverdale Parish Council was officially formed in May 2002 on a mandate on being a Non-Political organisation with its primary focus and interest in being for the benefit of all who live and work in the parish of Silverdale.

The Localism Act 2011 has enormous implications for us all and, as yet, SPC has yet to fully understand the implications of this important piece of legislation.

For further information on becoming a Parish Councillor or to enquire on how to apply for a candidate application pack, please contact the Parish Clerk.

13. Parish Council Website – Councillor Egan/Parish Council

Councillor Egan put it to Council that SPC needed to update its current website facility and engage into a more modern approach on how it's used, resourced and managed. Other Parish Council website were used as models and following discussions over a number of meetings it was agreed that a website "revamping" was appropriate.

We are currently in the process of updating and re-configuring our website and it is hoped that it will be with us all very soon.

14. Parish Councillor Meeting Attendance. – Councillor Nadin/Parish Council

Great importance is placed regarding the attendance of elected Councillors at Parish Council meetings and the formal record of each Councillor's attendance at monthly meetings is given below.....

Councillor Attendance 2012

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Cairns	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	83.33%
Colclough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	91.67%
Egan	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	50.00%
Hilton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100.00%
Lamb	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	75.00%
Lawton	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	x	x	33.33%
Nadin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	91.67%
O'Neill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100.00%
Snell	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	58.33%
Welsh					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	87.50%
	7	6	7	8	9	6	8	9	5	9	9	6	

(Councillor Welsh co-opted at May meeting)

Councillor Attendance 2013

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Braithwaite								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100.00%
Cairns	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	91.67%
Colclough	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	91.67%
Egan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	91.67%
Hilton	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	91.67%
Lamb	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	83.33%
Lawton													0.00%
Nadin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100.00%
O'Neill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	83.33%
Snell	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	50.00%
Welsh	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	83.33%

(Councillor Braithwaite co-opted at July meeting)

7 8 9 7 8 8 9 8 9 8 8 8

Councillor Attendance 2014

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Braithwaite	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	91.67%
Cairns	✓												8.33%
Colclough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100.00%
Egan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	66.67%
Hilton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100.00%
Nadin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	91.67%
O'Neill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100.00%
Snell	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	50.00%
Lamb	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	83.33%
Welsh	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	66.67%
	10	9	8	7	7	9	7	8	8	5	6	7	

Councillor Attendance 2015

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Braithwaite	✓	✓											100.00%
Colclough	✓	✓											100.00%
Egan	x	✓											50.00%
Hilton	✓	✓											100.00%
Nadin	✓	✓											100.00%
O'Neill	✓	x											50.00%
Snell	x	x											0.00%
Spence		✓											100.00%
Lamb	x	✓											50.00%
Welsh	✓	✓											100.00%

Spence  By-elected 15.01.15

15. Silverdale Speed Watch Group. – Councillor Colclough/Parish Council

In January 2014, it was put to Council that a speed gun be purchased on behalf of the Silverdale Speed watch Group in order for them to tackle the problem of vehicle's speeding throughout the Silverdale area. The initiative was fully endorsed and supported by Staffordshire Police and a number of residents volunteered to undergo the necessary training in order to apply the initiative.

Since its formation, difficulties have meant that the initiative has not developed to its full potential and volunteers are urgently required to continue with it. Full training is provided.

If you are able to give some of your time to support this group, contact should first be made to the Silverdale Speed Watch Group co-ordinator: -

Mrs Amelia Rout Tel: - 07432291659
(NBC Councillor)