

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE OLD GRAMMAR SCHOOL ROOM, CHURCH ROAD, ROLLESTON ON DOVE
ON TUESDAY 21 MAY 2019 COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present

Councillor S McManus (in the Chair)
Councillors E McManus, Sanderson, Stewart and Wyatt
M Badcock
P Barnett, Rolleston Civic Trust
B Gooding
J Phillips, RoDSEC
Brierley family)
Butler family)
Glasby family) BKV Poster competition winners
Morris family)
Peck family)
Zaitseva family)

Councillor McManus welcomed everyone to the meeting and proceeded to distribute the certificates and art set prizes to the winners of the BKV Poster competition:

Under 5's	Claudia Brierley)	
	Ray Foster*)	Joint winners
	Thomas Morris)	
5-7 years	Connie Glasby	
8-11 years	Alice Peck	
12-16 years	Amber Butler	
Judges Special Award	Eva Zaitseva	

Councillor McManus said that all the posters had been displayed on the new noticeboard at the school and some had been displayed on the Meadow View noticeboard. The posters will have been seen by the BKV judges when they visited the village. He said that electronic copies of the posters had been taken and these will be used as images for publicising the 2020 BKV competition. He thanked Karin Kay, Tom Martin and John Phillips who had judged the competition.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2018 were taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor McManus said that the Rollestonian of the Year award would be presented at the July parish council meeting (voting would be done at the June parish council meeting) – this had been delayed this year due to the local elections in May. As requested at the 2018 meeting, the Honours Board had been installed in the Old Grammar School Room.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF PARISH ACTIVITIES

Reviewing a year of activities from the Parish Council (PC) reminds you of the incredible number of activities that take place within such a small village and yet again the thanks of the PC goes out to all those volunteers in the various organisations that make it all happen. Without their tireless work and dedication to making things happen the village would be a very different place to live.

For the PC it has been another year of progress, some frustrations and change. November saw a change of Clerk with Jane Bucknall leaving to take on a new role and Mary Danby being appointed to the role. Our thanks go to Jane for her work over previous years and also to Mary for taking up the post with such enthusiasm and already making her mark. May brought the end of Jason Wyatt's term as chair, being replaced by Steve McManus with Clare Stewart as vice chair. Again, a huge vote of thanks to Jason for the

last 2 years of leading the PC through a challenging time in many respects but also one where we have moved forward significantly as a PC. May also saw the local elections and with it the retirement from the PC of James Toon after 14 years of service. James will be sorely missed by all on the Council although he assures us that he will still be around and may be persuaded to join us for a drink on occasion. Thank you, James!

Planning

The revised Neighbourhood Development Plan has once again taken a significant amount of time over the year and we are hopeful that it now nears a conclusion. We await the results of the independent examiner who will review the plan, along with all feedback and make a final decision. This is a very important piece of work for the village and offers us some protection over planning matters that may impact us. I hope to be reporting this time next year that the plan has finally been 'made'.

The proposed College Fields development is another saga that has run throughout the year. Although we await the official outcome of the village green application, at the time of writing it does seem that the construction of the site will commence sometime in the summer. This marks the end of many years of fighting the plans on many fronts and will come as a bitter blow to many. We now need to ensure that the construction creates as little disruption as possible to everyone in the village, particularly those residents directly impacted.

Highlights

The year has seen a number of highlights across many areas including:

- Replacement of a large number of road signs around the village
- New and replacement benches on Elizabeth Avenue
- New benches both inside and outside the Jubilee Orchard, both by generous donation
- A replacement spinner on Elizabeth Avenue thanks to a very generous donation
- Replacement planters on the Spread Eagle island
- The archiving of the old village website and the launch of a new one
- Archiving of village records in the county records office dating back to 1896
- A new PC noticeboard located within the school site
- Securing the funding for the re-generation of Brook Hollows
- Installation of the circular bench around the Millennium Oak on The Croft, with thanks to the Civic Trust for the donation

We have also entered the Best Kept Village for the first time in many years and await the outcome of the first round of judging. The results of the children's poster competition have been displayed around the village and prizes awarded at the Parish meeting. Again, a big thank you to all the volunteers, not only those that turned out on the 3 clean-up days but all of those who contribute in their own way. Litter picking, maintaining the Burnside and village entry planters and Spread Eagle island garden are just some of the activities that help to maintain the appearance of the village. Particular thanks go to Janet Sanderson and her small team of helpers who, after many years of maintaining the Burnside planters, has decided to step down. This work will now be carried out by contractors.

Other notable highlights include the incredible Rolleston Remembers campaign in November, culminating in the poppy cascade and a standing room only service to mark the 100 year anniversary of the end of the Great War. Many thanks to RoDSEC as the driving force behind this fitting tribute.

The Jubilee Orchard continues to develop and is looking better than ever this year. Thanks for all the donations and help, in particular to Cllr Mike Robson for leading this. The Station Heritage Group have also continued their outstanding work in maintaining and further improving the Jinnie trail, in particular the station end.



In loving memory of Ann Haywood



In loving memory of Maisie and Geoffrey Birch

Challenges and looking to the future

The year has also brought a number of challenges and areas that will be taken forward into our plans for the coming year. The railings along Brookside and Burnside are deteriorating at an alarming rate. The PC has been working continually to establish the ownership of these railings and to obtain commitment to repair and replace. This will be an ongoing issue that we will not relinquish.

Along similar lines the car park, railings and changing hut on the Craythorne playing fields are in similar need of repair and upgrade. A project has started to address this and will be reported back though the year.

Although footpaths and stiles around the village are predominantly on private land the PC is actively working on an approach that would see many stiles replaced or repaired to enable these much used trails to be enjoyed into the future.

The elections in May saw only 7 people put themselves forward to become Councillors. Whilst understandable in many ways, this does put additional pressure on those few individuals to deliver services to the village. We will be looking to add to those numbers by co-option but also looking at a different way to get people involved. A new Environment committee will be established which will look to recruit people from all areas of the village and will have a specific focus on all aspects of the environment that we live in including:

- The Jubilee Orchard
- Best Kept Village
- Litter and dog fouling
- Footpaths and stiles
- General upkeep of the village
- Close links to the contractors employed by the council
- Links to other groups such as Station heritage, St Mary's church, Civic Trust, etc

With budgets across all forms of public spending becoming ever more challenged the pressure to 'do it yourself' will increase. Whilst this may not sit well with everyone it is a reality that we are facing, and we have to face into it or see a general deterioration in the standards that we all want to maintain. If you would like to join this group or get more information, please contact the Clerk.

4. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Toon was not present at the meeting and a report was therefore not presented.

5. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor White was unable to attend the meeting, but he had submitted the following report:

The County Council has had another immensely challenging year due to further reductions in central government funding and the growing demand for both adult social care and children's services, which now

account for two-thirds of the county council's expenditure. Overall this reduction in funding and increase in demand meant that the county council has had to find an additional £35 million in cost savings for the 2019/20 financial year.

As many people know, one of the options for savings was the removal of funding for school crossings patrols. I am glad to say that following a lot of hard work, the threat to school crossing patrols has been removed and there are no plans to review funding of this service again.

Despite the funding challenges, the county council continues to invest in our area. In the last year we have seen the opening of the state of the art £30m John Taylor Free School in Tatenhill and £6m Henhurst Ridge Primary and a little further afield the new Lichfield Library has won national plaudits for its sensitive restoration and reuse of a disused church in the city centre.

Over the summer we will see major road programmes in our area with the complete reconstruction of the Five Lanes End roundabout and the full resurfacing of Shobnall Road and the lower section of Forest Road. The resurfacing of Beacon Road and Marston Lane will also go ahead but we are awaiting dates for other utilities work to be completed on these roads before dates are finalised as the last thing anyone wants is for the roads to be dug up immediately after they have been resurfaced.

All of this investment, together with the 30 million hours of care per annum the county council delivers is made possible through the careful management of your tax money. I intend to continue to ensure every penny is well spent and focused on the areas of greatest need.

6. REPORTS OF VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

6.1 St Mary's PCC

The PCC has continued to hold regular meetings throughout the year, to discuss the Finances and the Fabric of both the Church and the OGSR. Whilst there hasn't been a large project, such as the updating of the Lighting system, as in the previous year, to consider, several other issues have been – or are being – addressed which will greatly improve the image and working of the Church.

Aesthetically, the Perspex in the outside Notice Board has been replaced and the War Memorial Boards in the Lych Gate have been renovated. The state of the paths leading up from the Lych Gate and the ramp to the main door have been causing concern for a long time. Work on these, together with the underlying drain problems, is due to begin shortly.

The brick, boundary wall which borders the Churchyard and the Croft is also in a poor state of repair, particularly at the end nearest to the Church. It is hoped to have a buttress built at this end, to protect it from collapsing. At the far end, bordering onto the Croft, several trees and bushes have grown into the wall and these have been cut back. In addition, there were some large trees near the jitty, between the Church and the Spread Eagle which were blocking out a lot of light as well as growing into the wall. These have been felled. Work on the steps under the Lych Gate should begin shortly. The top step is to be moved back and appropriate handrails fitted.

This year also saw the production of Christmas cards produced by members of the PCC. These listed the various Services taking place over the Christmas period and were delivered to every household in the Village.

There are also the day-to-day expenses which need to be paid –utilities, insurances and the Parish Share. The PCC needs to decide how best to use the Finances effectively and they continue to offer their thanks to the many people who organize Fund Raising Events in order to raise money for St Mary's Church. They also wish to thank everyone who supports these events, for without these many of the accomplishments would not be possible.

6.2 Rolleston Civic Trust

The Civic Trust AGM was held on Wednesday 20th March and the following were elected as The Committee for the year 2019 to 2020.

Chairman: Peter Barnett
Vice Chairman: No Volunteer
Secretary: Anne Overton
Treasurer: Mike Hill
Hon Auditor: David Phillips

Committee: Sue Fraser, Roger Gawthorpe, Phil Irwin and Linda Martin

The Audited Accounts were tabled and showed a balance of £7331.26. The accounts were accepted by all present.

Meetings Programme

Our programme began in April with a talk by Brian Morris, The Magic Lantern Man and in May Paul Newman gave us Blessed Assurance.

June saw a change to our usual format, and we decided to hold a ticket only event providing a more humorous speaker followed by a buffet supper, the speaker was David Tideswell, the bird man, who led us through the trials of raising a blue tit family. The talk was very well received and the supper a great success. We have decided to repeat the format this year.

After our summer break September saw Steve Bull recalling the history of The Burton and Ashby Tramway. He had some wonderful slides showing the tramway from its celebrated opening through to its end, including a major disaster on the way. There was a lot of interest in this talk.

In October Graham Nutt was scheduled to talk about The Magic Attic, but as Graham is sadly very ill, John Redfern gave the talk on his behalf, and gave us all a full insight into this valuable local asset.

In November Malcolm Goode finished his series of talks about Burton in World War 1, entitled Burton at War in 1918. This series of talks has led us through all the hard times suffered by Burton folk and its soldiers throughout the war years and has been much appreciated.

We followed tradition by inviting Richard Stone to start our series of talks in 2019, and as usual he gave us a very illuminating hour relating the history of map making.

In February we had a subtle change in our usual format of talks by people relating to events they had researched, to a talk by someone who had actually played a part in those events. Jim Sweeny told us of his part in My Falklands, from how he first heard he was to go to battle, how he got there, what happened when he did, and his thoughts, fears, horrors and relief when it was all over. A very emotional talk.

We ended our year at the AGM with Louise Morris who is intent on Transforming the Trent Valley. We can only hope that she also intends to transform Rolleston as well.

Events

Our plant swap was again held on the 13th May and raised £188.50 for St Mary's; this was down from last year but still raised a goodly sum.

Village Projects

Burnside Troughs

We again had a wonderful display throughout the year, especially with Rolleston in Red, but sadly Janet decided that she must relinquish her role in maintaining the troughs. She will be greatly missed, but things must move on, and all the members of the Civic Trust and The Parish Council are most grateful to her, and her small team of helpers, for their efforts in the past. This is not the end of the troughs as The Parish Council and The Civic Trust will continue to support this much appreciated village asset.

The Croft Bench

During the year The Civic Trust approached The PC with a proposal to donate a circular teak bench to be placed round the Millennium Oak on the croft, and after consideration of the details and specification, they gave their approval. If you now visit The Croft you can rest your weary bones on the latest village bench.

Brook Hollows

Lottery Funding has finally been granted for the scheme to transform the Trent Valley and Rolleston features in that application. We must now await the presentation of the final scheme to see how we will benefit and what works will come to Rolleston. A lot of work is yet to be done.

Rollestonian

Our Editor, Lesley Bayston, and our Advertising manager, Anne Overton, have continued their Stirling work in producing our village magazine. We did incur some problems with our distribution network this year, but hopefully this is now resolved as Clare Norman has taken over the vital role of co-ordination of the supply chain. The Civic Trust is very grateful for all the efforts of our delivery team over the years. There are too many to name them all, but you know who you are, and we are extremely grateful for your continued support.

Neighbourhood Plan

The work in preparing our new Neighbourhood Plan is finally complete and the document has been submitted to ESBC for independent inspection, and, if and when accepted, for referendum by the whole village. There have been some delays in its production, and some unexpected twists and turns along the way, but under the Chairmanship of Lisa Claber, The Parish Council and The Working Group finally achieved the task. It has not been easy as it was essential that our plan was robust and contained all the aims needed to protect and enhance the development of Rolleston as a thriving village, and also to contain all the necessary policies to deliver those aims.

Committee and Membership

I must report that we have been suffering from falling membership numbers for some years. This must be addressed.

It cannot be solved by the Committee alone; it is up to all members to make what we do known to friends and acquaintances who are not members and encourage them to join. It is also up to all members to ensure the Committee thrives and there is continuity looking forward. It will not work if you rely on the same people every year to hold office and run the Civic Trust. To do that is to ensure slow decline to an inevitable end. We must address this problem in 2019/20.

Mr Barnett spoke on the main points from the report and made a plea for people to get involved with the Civic Trust, taking positions on the Committee etc, if people do not come forward the Civic Trust it will fade away.

Councillor McManus said that it maybe that we need to think differently on how groups are publicised, i.e. make use of the Facebook. A parish leaflet was suggested which would tell people about the available groups rather than the parish council-based material. Mr Barnett said that the Civic Trust are actively looking at Facebook but the local businesses like the Rollestonian. Councillor McManus said that there is a need to tell people things via all methods of communication.

6.3 Rolleston WI

Rolleston W.I. has been part of Rolleston village since 1935 and has maintained a strong membership over the years. We now have 64 members. Our President is Verity Conner and she is ably assisted by 11 committee members. We meet on the first Monday of the month at the John of Rolleston School, Chapel Lane.

We try to maintain W.I. traditions by singing Jerusalem at every meeting and concluding with the National Anthem.

This year we have had many interesting speakers such as the A-Z Tour of Calke Abbey by Dot Morson, Sarah Mellor on the Staffordshire Victim Gateway and Barbara Andrews talking about her Suffragette Grandmother.

Our meetings are both educational and social. We have done quizzes, sung carols and discussed topical resolutions. Our competitions for knitting, scrabble and craft work are widely supported. We have planned many interesting visits this year and are grateful for the ladies who offer to drive and give lifts. Musicals are always popular, and we have seen Matilda and Calendar Girls. We spent a weekend away in Leeds, visited an NGS Garden and had supper in Sharpe's Pottery Museum in Swadlincote.

Our speakers have often sparked interest in local landmarks and have inspired visits to Casterne Hall, Ilam and Calke Abbey.

Our Christmas Programme was superb with "Neverland" at Tissington Hall, Pipes in the Peake at Thorpe and the Illuminated Arboretum at Alrewas. We also had an interesting tour of Royal Crown Derby.

There are many things going on in Rolleston which we support by volunteering as stewards, making cakes and selling raffle tickets. We hired a large marquee for the Proms at the Scout HQ and have made cakes for the Scout Carnival. We sponsored a planter, tended a small flower bed in the school grounds and helped the Pre-School raise money at a coffee morning in January. An inspired group of ladies met to make posies which were distributed around the village.

Our Literary Lunch in March with guest author Stephen Booth was a great event, supported by friends and family.

W.I. ladies are always open to new ideas. We have a weekly art group and also made Christmas gifts at a craft evening led by Joy Killick.

It has been a busy year for the Staffordshire Federation with events marking their Centenary. Our A Team won the County Quiz competition again, Marina Greensmith won the County Poetry Competition and Elaine Toon made the Centenary Cake for the Spring Council Meeting. Helen Barnett, a committee member, also runs our Forest and Vale Group Meetings and Verity is now on the Board of Trustees. Two members are on the sub-committee. We have had a busy and successful year and can only hope that next year brings renewed success.

6.4 1st Rolleston Scout Group

Graham Jacks reported:

Every year I look back and think of everything that the group has achieved, and I am amazed. I saw a comment recently in social media that villages (such as ours) have little to offer the youth. Scouting does not tick all the boxes, but we have over 250 young people through our doors at the HQ engaged in all sorts of activities and I am so proud to head the team.

Rolleston has again the largest Scout group in Burton and it is about the 5th largest in Staffordshire, but it's never about the numbers. The quality of the programme over the last year has been fantastic. From all the camps and trips, the week in week out programme. This has got to be good otherwise the youngsters would leave.

If I included all the activities each section has done, then I am afraid we would need our own meeting but here's a limited few. Over 1000 nights of camping, group camp for over 200 members, over 800 badges awarded, camps held all over the UK, visit to the Space centre, climbing trip for all the beavers, I'm a Scout get me out of her camp (yes with live bug eating trials), the burning of a Viking long ship on group camp with over 300 in attendance and four leaders getting awards in recognition for outstanding commitment to Scouting.

I am as ever proud of the group, but the true heroes are the leaders and the non-uniform team that make it all happen. The events that we produce now are on a professional level, and without them all working as a team and giving up their time then it just wouldn't happen.

Our event calendar grew last year with the introduction of our Last Night of the Proms event and I am happy to announce it will return later this year. We have also added a Movie night to the programme for 2019 with showings of the Greatest Showman and Bohemian Rhapsody in June - be prepared to sing.

As a Scout Group we are always looking for ways to improve and with the concrete now set on the event stage we are planning another build. This will be at the rear and side of the HQ to create a new large meeting room, event toilets, more storage areas and a permanent canopy on the back of the HQ to replace the current marquee. We have been granted a Pre-App planning application by ESBC and they have no objections. We are now in a phase of group consultations and if all goes to plan we intend to build in September 2020. The main reason for the extension is in two parts. Firstly, we are Full. The HQ is in use Monday to Friday with Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Rainbows and Brownies and this is fantastic. The unfortunate part is that we are now turning young people away as we can't accommodate them. We are in the process of recruiting to open a new scout troop next year and to re-open the third Beaver colony.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the Village and the Parish Council for Supporting the Scout Group in all its endeavours, I am now working on 2020 to top this year.

6.5 RoDSEC

John Phillips presented a comprehensive report which gave details of the many activities undertaken over the previous year. This included three top quality entertainments in its winter programme, Carols around the Christmas tree, the sustained act of remembrance which saw the village gradually growing red and culminating in the Peace Festival which will take place on 29 June 2019. Mr Phillips thanked the RoDSEC members and committee, Rolleston Club, St Mary's PCC and the parish council for its support.

Councillor McManus said that a big thank you must be given to John Phillips who is the driving force of the RoDSEC.

6.6 Allotments Society

Tom Martin said that they had a very successful year within its confines and had a steadily growing waiting list. He said that it should be in the parish council's long-term plan that another site may be necessary in the future.

7. VOTE OF THANKS

Tom Martin thanked the parish council for the support it gives to the village.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

Signed

Date