

Rolleston on Dove Parish Council

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Summer 2024

Rollestonian of the Year Award 2023

At the March Parish Council meeting Tim Salmon was voted the 2023 Rollestonian of the Year. From the nominations received from members of the village, Tim was selected as the person most meeting the award criteria. As well as congratulating Tim, the Parish Council wish to thank everyone who put forward nominations, many of whom would have been worthy winners. Please bear them in mind next year when the time comes to nominate again. Tim's significant ongoing contribution to the village through his tireless and supportive work with the "Friends of Brook Hollows" conservation group and as Chairman of the Rolleston Civic Trust over the last few years cannot be overstated. The award was presented at the April Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday 22nd April.

Flooding

The Parish Council remains well aware that flooding remains the most serious threat to property and villagers' wellbeing. We continue to work closely with the Environment Agency and Staffordshire County Council to try to reduce the risk level. As advised in a recent letter to residents, our MP Kate Kniveton was approached to arrange a meeting for residents with the relevant government bodies, and we are awaiting confirmation of the date and time for this. If you wish to attend, please contact the MP to confirm your attendance (if you have not already done so). The Parish Council invested in additional "Caution Road Ahead Flooded" road signs, traffic cones and sand for sandbags which are stored at various locations in the village to help those residents in need at times of flooding. For details of these please visit the interactive map on the Parish Council website

<https://rollestonondovepc.co.uk/our-village/interactive-village-map>

In addition, Staffordshire County Council have been asked to clear blocked drains reported to them which has been happening at various locations around the village such as along Church Road. Flooding is an agenda item at every Parish Council meeting and Councillors welcome comments, ideas and thoughts from all residents on this matter.

Project Updates

Elizabeth Avenue Play area improvements and play equipment review

Repairs to various items of the play area equipment, as well as re-levelling of the existing paving slabs and laying of additional ones at the gate entrance into the play area, are still awaiting suitable weather conditions to be completed. The overgrown grass along the edges of the tarmac path leading to the school entrance will be removed, taking the path back to its original width, to provide easier access to the school entrance and to try to prevent the pooling of water along the path. The Parish Council has also agreed that a full review of the play equipment should be done, given that most of this has been there for many years. A Working Party has started to look at what might be replaced or updated and to gather thoughts and possible costings for consideration. Residents' ideas and views on this are most welcome.

Rolleston Station

The Rolleston Station Heritage Group supported by the Parish Council and our three Borough Councillors, are delighted to have been awarded a full grant from East Staffordshire's Ward Enhancement Programme. This grant, together with a donation from a local resident, will fund the renovation of this historic and unique old cattle dock wall on the Station. This is in a rather sorry condition at present and will be rebuilt and repaired to return it to its former glory. This project will be the final area of the Station to be restored.

S106 Meadow View Play area completion

The remaining works to the Meadow View play area have been completed, including painting, repairs and installation of a new bench and bin. The contractor is awaiting suitable weather conditions to install the drain to ease the currently very muddy entrance from Forest School Street. Next projects being considered for this area include installing 2 further benches inside the

play area near the toddler equipment and extending the stoned path from Forest School Street for ease of access.

Diamond Jubilee Orchard

The Jubilee Orchard, (owned by the Parish Council and managed by the Parish Council and a group of volunteers), has been transformed by the recent improvements. A big thank you to the volunteers who have turned out to dig, weed and prune at the monthly working parties. The new edging around the beds and moving of the fruit bushes to the banks will certainly make these easier to maintain. A sharing shelf has been installed on the gate for produce from the Orchard, and excess produce from gardeners and allotment holders, to be placed here as a gift for residents to use. This has so far received several generous donations of spare plants, vegetable seeds and bulbs that have been greatly welcomed. If you could spare some time and would be willing to help, the next working party meets on **Saturday 11th May starting at 10am for a couple of hours.** For further information please contact Mike Robson on (01283 480599) or any Parish Councillor.

Sport England funding

The Parish Council met with East Staffordshire Borough Council and Sport England to discuss a proposal to place a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Craythorne field. This hardcore, soft tarmac area would allow tennis, netball, basketball, cricket and football to be played as well as providing a surface for yoga, tai chi and other gentle exercises. The outcome of that very positive meeting was that planning consultants have now been engaged to help the Parish Council complete our application to try to secure the funding for this from Sport England (this is as compensation for the loss of the Forest of Needwood playing fields).

Tafflands Woods and Play Area improvements

The very popular slide mound is due to have new surfacing installed at the top and along the path up the mound to the slide, replacing the existing play bark later this year. Further tree and path maintenance is to be assessed and hopefully will take place later this year (after the end of the nesting bird season and dependent on weather!).

Bus Shelter located at the top of Knowles Hill

This existing old and rather dilapidated bus shelter is in need of major repairs or replacement. Your opinions on this subject are invited as it is uncertain how many residents use this bus stop, and whether it would be cost effective to replace it, as there are two other covered bus stops in close proximity.

Public footpaths and stiles

Rolleston has a number of very popular and well used footpaths. If you notice any areas, including stiles, on public footpaths that require maintenance, please report these to the Parish Council Clerk. Recent work on these has included repairs to the Jinny Trail steps and handrails, and wobbly stile treads, as well as stoning the very muddy part of the Jinny Trail around the boundary gate with Stretton. Each stile and gate will shortly have a number disc on it so that it will be easier to report any issues found. The steps on the Jinny Nature Trail (located part way along on both sides) are in great need of replacement, as it is many years since these were installed, and the Parish Council is aiming to undertake that project later this year. Footpath walks leaflets are available from the Clerk and may also be found at <https://rollestonondovepc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Village-walks.pdf>

Parish Council meetings

Meetings start at **7.00pm** and are held at Old Grammar School Room. Everyone is welcome to attend. The agenda for each meeting can be found on the Parish Council's website, Facebook page and on noticeboards the week before the meeting is held. Should you wish to ask the Parish Council any questions or raise any points with us, 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting are set aside for you to do so. The full list of councillors and contact details can be found on the Parish Council's website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 13th May 7.00pm – Annual Parish Council Meeting

Monday 10th June 7.00pm – Parish Council Meeting

Monday 8th July 7.00pm – Parish Council Meeting



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