

Rolleston Parish Council Annual Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14th May 2018 in The Greenaway, Rolleston

Present: Cllr Tim Harries (In the Chair)
Cllr Tony Hillary
Cllr Christine Salter
Cllr Lucy Sole
Cllr Sandie Pearson

Members of the Public: 7

Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the past 12 months had been one of quiet but effective performance from the Parish Council.

The village budget precept had again been maintained at the same level as the previous year, and services had again been delivered within budget, with the surplus which had been built-up over many years again carried forward intact.

This strong financial position had enabled the Parish Council to move beyond its day-to-day operational remit to start to seek new initiatives to address the wider issues of improving safety on our roads and in our community, alongside structured plans to make the village an even more pleasant place in which to live and work.

The Parish Council had continued to forge even stronger working relationships with the other important village organisations and amenities, some of whose own reports will be heard later in the Parish Meeting.

The Chairman extended his thanks to his fellow Councillors for their continued commitment and support, and expressed particular gratitude to Steve Johnson who had retired from the Parish Council during the year after many years' service.

The Chairman welcomed Sandie Pearson to her first meeting as a co-opted member of the Parish Council and expressed confidence that she would continue to be a valued asset to the village in her new role.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all of those parishioners who took time to attend meetings of the Parish Council and make active contributions to the discussions, all of which were gratefully received.

Friends of Rolleston/The Junction

Over the last 12 months the Rolleston Junction has produced 4 quarterly editions of 32 pages in full colour. The Junction is intended to strengthen the community spirit in the village by focusing on people and events.

We write about interesting people, both young and old. We cover successful events in the village, be it the Fuddle, tours up the bell tower, fund raising evenings in the Village Hall. We look for stories about people young and old who are achievers and support them with photos.

The village has four main ways of communicating – The Junction, The Junction village email list, the Rolleston Village web site and the notice board. In addition Thea is also developing a village Facebook page. Communication is all important; it's a means of bringing people together strengthening the community. People who play together stay together!

The Junction team now consists of Thea Chabaan (operations), Carole Chandler and Tony (news hounds and article writers) and Dan Blanshard our talented graphic designer who works his magic and produces an amazing product.

I'd like to thank them for their hard work and commitment. We also thank Gill Rowles, Marg Finch and Nick Pearson for their contribution during the year.

Think of the Junction a Rolleston's answer to the Hello magazine! Just like Hello its all about people but in addition it keeps everybody informed and enthusiastic about this friendly and caring community we are part of.

Village Hall

The Hall has had a successful year, with a fair number of village events. Bookings have been maintained and with a great help from the Village Lotto run by Sandy Pearson, the income from which helps to sustain the Hall. The events have included a Christmas Fuddle, which was well received by all attending and a credit to those involved with it's organisation. Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch, Camel Racing a curry night, and a whole series of Village Ventures.

The Wednesday coffee morning (and monthly lunch) continues to be well supported, and provides a great service for mainly the more mature villagers. Thanks are due to Amanda Beswick, Beryl Northcote and other helpers for their work.

The Committee has worked hard to keep the Hall going and Peter having indicated at the start of the year that he was standing down from his full role by September 2018 is pleased to announce that Lisa Osborn has taken on the Bookings role. With the Hall now being cleaned weekly by Hayley this has reduced the need for ad hoc cleaning and it will help if each lettee ensures the bins are emptied after their sessions and ready for the next users.

Mark Saunders, Steve Johnson, Julian Richardson, Julian Ellis, all fill demanding committee roles and the Finances are ably looked after by Emma Harries, including negotiating the cost of the electric and gas.

At the recent AGM Laura Bosworth has joined the Committee and like a breath of fresh air has already organised and run the Easter Egg Hunt and has many more plans for the future to involve all the villagers, including a Village Fun Day. Laura has also been instrumental in issuing the recent questionnaire asking for information from the village of what they would like from the Hall and for the benefit of the village.

As ever we cannot survive and run an efficient organisation without help from other volunteers and these include David Sole, Dave Baldock, Michael Taylor, Steve Rowles, Arne Colman and Abs Chabaan. We should also not forget the input of Steve and Alison from the Cross Keys Upton in providing and manning the Bar.

This year we have replaced the outside lights with LED to improve the efficiency of the lights and also economy.

Holy Trinity Church

Rolleston church continues to offer a service to every parishioner, whether they attend church or not. This available from the Vicar and churchwardens who hope to offer as much support and assistance as they can, in as many areas as they can in time of problem, bereavement, illness and also of celebration.

The church holds services on each Sunday at 10.30am, with the third and fifth Sundays of the month being the only one where the main service may be held elsewhere in the benefice, which covers the villages of Hoveringham, Thurgarton, Halloughton, Bleasby, Fiskerton, Morton, Upton and Rolleston. The extended benefice was inaugurated during the last year by the Bishop, who attended a special

service in Thurgarton Priory Church, and the churches are working well together in a spirit of collaboration.

Many villagers attend our Christmas Eve service and other Christmas services. However regular attendance is not strong, there being many distractions elsewhere on Sundays. However, we always welcome everybody and are delighted to greet villagers and visitors whenever they care to attend a service.

We very much appreciate the donations from parishioners on an ongoing basis through standing orders, which helps sustain the work and particularly the buildings. Despite parts of the buildings being over 1000 years old, is in good structural condition, although we have a five-yearly building inspection this year and hope there will be no unexpected serious issues uncovered.

We owe thanks to the Parish Council for their assistance in keeping the graveyard tidy through their contribution towards grass cutting costs.

A graveyard extension is in the planning stage, and if successful will provide burial spaces for the next 200 years or so. All residents of the parish are entitled to a burial space if available, but we are critically short of space at the moment and have to check the ground for unmarked graves, of which there are many, before suggesting a burial site. A few years ago we developed a much better area for cremated remains and associated memorials.

There will be a flower festival held over the next Bank Holiday in May, and a Harvest supper and festival in October.

Open Session

Concern was expressed that the Parish Council should not allocate any money towards Village Signs. The Council were advised that Nottinghamshire Archives would take any Parish Council material to be safely stored.