

## **ROWSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Sarah Porter

Phone: 01629 732365

Email: [rowsleyparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:rowsleyparishcouncil@gmail.com)

Web: [www.rowsleyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.rowsleyparishcouncil.co.uk)

### **PARISH MEETING NOTES**

**For the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the Village Hall, Rowsley at 7.30pm**

1. Attendees:

Cllr Kath Potter, Cllr Steve Bones, Cllr Victoria Friend, Cllr Robert Hockley, Cllr Richard Bean, Cllr Jo Wild and Caroline Poole.

Cllr Potter welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Clerk explained that this year she had tried to invite all the organisations listed last year. She hopes that as time goes on more will be encouraged to attend.

2. Updates:

- Parish Council – Cllr Potter had sent out the following report:

I would like to express my appreciation to all Parish Councillors bringing us through yet another difficult year as explained below.

Huge thanks go to our dedicated, thorough work of our parish Clerk Sarah Porter. Her expertise in all matters relating to Parish Council life is second to none and for which we are extremely grateful. Her dedication is a great asset in enabling the Parish Council to fulfil its objectives and demands.

We as a Parish Council are still reaping the benefits of John Hart's 15 years of long service to the community and will do so for many years to come with improved contracts and income from the Car Boot sales and an ideal car park situated in the Recreation ground. He appears to be enjoying life in Bakewell but we were saddened to hear of the death of Eddie Oldfield, our odd job's man, he was a most valuable asset to the Council.

We are very fortunate that Cllr Steve Bones has taken over much of John's responsibilities and is a great asset to Rowsley Parish Council keeping an eye on all matters relating to Church Lane, such as the Community garden and helped by Cllr Friend, the allotments. Despite all our efforts the problems with water on this lane have not been resolved to our satisfaction. Richard Bean has been a most supportive Vice Chair and also looks after the Industrial Estate area. Robert Hockley, our newest parish councillor is a great asset, using his professional expertise in advising and repairing anything to do with stone masonry, just what we need in an area associated with quarrying and stone walls. Vicky Friend always keeps us on our toes. She has done a magnificent job in the creation of Rowsley Parish Council's website but now because of more demands placed upon Parish Councils the website is run by outside expertise and we, as a Parish Council, are delighted with the service we receive and which is within our financial means. Vicky should also be congratulated on being instrumental in the Village Hall gaining Lottery finance to update the Village Hall and WI room. This was a mammoth task and we all benefit from this successful outcome since the Village Hall is used by numerous organisations & events including usage by the Parish Council which adds to the enjoyment for residents and outside bodies. We, as a Parish Council, are appreciative of Bernie Roome's suggestion that the fixture of defibrillators within the village would have a huge benefit in case of an emergency, however we hope all residents will stay well and not in need of them. Again, Vicky has helped in the process of one being allowed on the village hall. Our clerk has also had a mammoth task in securing the apparatus and finding suitable places to fix them. Another fixture overseen by Vicky is the second disabled access to the village hall as part of the lottery request.

We are sorry to lose Cllr Polly Haylock who has been a member of the council for many years. Her long service has been much appreciated. We are also grateful to Mike Burnett for his tireless work in keeping our hedgerows in such a pristine state. I don't think the Rec has looked in better shape again another of John Hart's contacts. Our District Councillor Jo Wild is also our DCC Councillor and with numerous parish councils and meetings this puts difficulty on attendance at council meetings.

The Parish Council all take turns in surveying the monthly check on the Children's Play Area and the Rec. If anyone sees anything amiss please contact the clerk as we have had usage by a group who didn't seek permission from the Parish Council before making use of these facilities. Whilst we are pleased to assist with most requests we have to remember that the upkeep comes from the precept which is from the pockets of Rowsley's residents. Vandalism still takes place on the rec with the destruction of fencing in certain areas.

We are far from happy that traffic congestion at Rowsley, especially Chatsworth Road, does not appear to feature highly on DCC's Highway Section, hence our request to bring in the Derbyshire Police Commissioner to the March Parish Council meeting. Having written copious comments, we hope he will be able to improve life for residents on Chatsworth Road. He was also made aware of the traffic problems regarding roll on roll off articulated lorries ignoring the 39ft 4" length restriction on School Lane.

Again, we try to keep our precept low and help towards this aim comes from the Car Boot sales. We are in the process of creating a new entrance so that the Children's play area will be unaffected when sales occur. Permission has been sought by the clerk and work should start soon.

You will be aware that the RHS is to take place at Chatsworth in June.

We ask everyone to note any problems and submit immediately to the Parish Council because the Highways appeared not to do its duty and basically saw no problem so we need evidence of what untoward behaviour etc. residents suffer. This apparent negation of duty and care is unbelievable given that most weekends when Chatsworth is open and especially when events take place the residents of Chatsworth Road are subjected to unacceptable highway problems. Whilst the Parish Council have been consultees to both DDC and the National Park's many planning applications, the long, overdue and protracted determination of New Pilhough/ Stanton Moor Quarry has finally been allowed (and not to everyone's liking). Given the application number for Stanton Moor Quarry was 11/98 i.e. 11 – November, 98 – year 1998 one asks is this a record for prevarication and procrastination?

We will continue to give the best possible value for money, keeping costs to a minimum whilst caring for the needs of the parish and we would value public attendance at our meetings so keeping us on our toes.

- Primary School – Caroline Poole, the Headteacher, explained that she is an Executive Head for both Stanton in the Peak and Rowsley Primary Schools. She doesn't teach in either school and this has been filled with other teachers. Numbers look like they are falling at Rowsley. Currently there are 61 in school and can take a maximum of 84. They have had 2 unfortunate Ofsted reports and are due another imminently so hope this will be a better report. Their self-assessment shows them as 'Good'. It is sad that the preschool in the Village Hall has closed but there is now a before and after school clubs including children's yoga. Support in promoting the school would be welcomed. Caroline also suggested that Parish Council would be welcome to visit the school.
- Village Hall - Rowsley Village Hall has gone from strength to strength in the last year. In August 2016, it was announced that we had been successful in our lottery grant application and were awarded over £73,000 for an extensive project to refurbish the hall and then introduce new subsidised classes and activities. The project is called Rowsley Community Matters and aims to appeal to the whole community. The refurbishment element of the project took place in December and January and the village hall now has a new central heating system, a much-needed storage cupboard in the kitchen, a disabled toilet and disabled access ramp, as well as upgraded loft insulation. The new heating system, which can be controlled remotely, will hopefully dramatically reduce running costs and help to ensure the sustainability of the hall into the future.  
The second phase of the project concerns the introduction of the new classes and activities in the hall. Three new classes were introduced in February; Yoga, Limited Mobility Fitness - a chair-based exercise and a Fitness and Conditioning Class. All these classes take place during the working day, so a Saturday morning Pilates class will also start in late April. There are also two new classes for children starting after school in late April - Dance Fusion and Children's Yoga. All the classes are subsidised by the lottery grant and will not cost more than £3 per session for the three-year life of the project, which is an extremely competitive rate compared to similar activities held in other venues. The next plan is to launch a regular weekend coffee morning, which will hopefully bring more people within the local community into the village hall.  
The hall continues to be well used by the school, local sports clubs and community groups and is still available for hire by members of the local community for private and charitable events at very competitive rates. We have launched a new website - [www.rowsleyvillagehall.com](http://www.rowsleyvillagehall.com), which contains further information about hiring the hall, what's on in the hall and details of the groups that currently use the hall on a regular basis. Rowsley Village Hall is run by the

Management Committee, which meets four times a year and is made up of representative of the local user groups. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow committee members for volunteering their time to help in the efficient running of the hall.

- Caudwell's Mill – Richard Eastwood hoped to attend but had a family emergency and so sent through the following report:  
We expect that most parishioners are familiar with Caudwell's Mill. It is Grade 2\* Listed because it contains the only full range of roller milling equipment over 100 years old in the UK, and perhaps in the world. The Mill is open to the public every day excepting Christmas and New Year's Days. It contains a shop selling the highest quality of a range of flours which are also delivered wholesale. Unfortunately, the Mill equipment can no longer produce flour to modern standards, and its Listed status means that it cannot be modified to do so. The Trust employs 9 people [4 ½ full-time-equivalent] and holds the premises under a long lease from Lord Edward Manners. The café and shops in the yard are sub-let to a single tenant.  
Since 2015 we have been operating a refurbished 100-year-old turbine to generate hydro-electricity 24 hours a day. In 2016, we generated sufficient electricity to serve the needs of about 2/3 of domestic use in Rowsley.  
The Trust reinvests all of its surplus income in the site. Its accounts are publicly available on The Charity Commission web site. We are aware that much now needs to be done to refurbish and better display machinery and improve facilities on site. We are in the final stages of preparation of a site master plan for which grant aid will be sought. This will be discussed with the Parish in due course.  
The Trust has a small garden of historic grain varieties. Students from Rowsley P S take part in planting, harvesting, and grinding the grain.  
The Trusts car park is open for public use between 6pm and 9am. There is no objection to its informal use by people dropping-off and collecting school students. We are aware of potential nuisance to the village by visitors parking on the street. Unfortunately, many guides for walkers/cyclists advise that our car park is to be used, despite the fact that it is clearly signed as for visitor use only. It is widely so used despite signage that it is for mill visitors only. We can do little here and suffer clogging of our car park to our disadvantage.  
The Trust is governed by a Trustee Council of Management, commonly meeting in Matlock 4 times a year. There is a defined position as Trustee for a representative of Rowsley PC. This is currently vacant. It is not necessary for a nominee to be a Member of the PC. We would welcome any resident of Rowsley putting themselves forward to fill the vacancy, or indeed offering assistance in any capacity. All of our trustees, volunteers and staff have strong local links, none are currently residents of Rowsley.
- Parish Magazine - Until 2017 St. Katherine's Church & Rowsley Village Parish Magazine was a subscription only publication, with a dwindling circulation of about 74. In February, the Parish Council agreed to contribute to the printing and distribution costs so that we could turn it into the village-wide free magazine with a focus on community news and events. In the future advertising will also be managed by the Parish Council Clerk. The first issue of the new Rowsley Village Magazine was successfully circulated to every house in the village in March. Contents now includes Church Matters, Village Hall Matters, Parish Council Matters, School Matters and Other Matters. There will be ten issues of the magazine each year, with double issues in August/September and December/January. Anyone can submit content to the editor and all contributions are welcome

### 3. Suggestions for next year

Village of the year – There is a Channel 4 show looking for a rural village to be crowned village of 2017. There was a discussion about trying to put Rowsley forward. The criteria are appearance, history and heritage, village events, activities and visitor experience.

### 4. There was no Any Other Business

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 - Held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall