

## **ROWSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Sarah Porter

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### **PARISH MEETING NOTES**

**For the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 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 Jason Atkin and Mary Pope. Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Bean, Cllr Jo Wild, PC Anthony Boswell, Kat Jacquin and Caroline Poole.

Cllr Potter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Updates:

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

We are extremely grateful to our clerk, Sarah Porter for everything she does both in parish matters and for the residents of Rowsley. Without her valued and conscientious input we would be lost. A measure of her dedication & input is seen in that after a council meeting by the same night I have the minutes to check before I retire to bed. Nothing is too much trouble for Sarah and we hope she is with us for many years to come. It must be said we certainly value her expertise, dedication and thoroughness in all matters relating to parish council life and work. A great asset in helping the Parish Council fulfil its objectives. I continue to say of her Procrastination is the thief of time but this adage could NEVER be applied to Sarah so punctilious and thorough is she in observing all deadlines.

We continue to reap the benefits of John Hart's input on the PC. In his 15 years of attendance he was extremely innovative and because of his input we have continued to maintain a healthy financial position. Every PC needs a John Hart. We were saddened to hear of Hilda Mellor's illness and passing away in February. Hilda was another resident on the Parish Council with genuine concern for the village. I was saddened when her concern to ensure greater safety when entering Rowsley from Bakewell by placing the speed sign further away towards Bakewell was dismissed by DCC Highways. This is a dangerous corner and to have heeded Hilda's advice would have made for a safer entrance into the village of Rowsley.

Now to the present PC members. I am truly grateful to Richard Bean who is a very able and supportive Vice Chair. We are both extremely grateful to Vicky Friend who has helped in so many ways. Vicky was the guiding light who developed our website but given all the extra initiatives this put a heavy work load onto her, hence we use an outside source to oversee the Council website. We hope residents keep in touch with us via the website and are also most welcome to attend Parish Council meetings usually the 4th Monday of the month. We don't hold meetings during August and December. We are so grateful to Steve Bones who has brought great business expertise to the PC and taken over from John Hart regarding the car boot sales. The entrance of which is being improved. We would have preferred another entrance further along the lane but given the problems we have encountered with travellers entering the site there seems to be a reluctance to make a further entrance. Robert Hockley is a real asset and using his expertise in the construction industry he has enabled stone walling jobs within the PC's remit to be carried out to the highest standard without costing vast sums of money. His work has also made the stone wall boundaries safe. He is also happy to take on specific tasks to help with the smooth running of the PC.....and now we are 6 as Lauren Wilson has recently joined us. For those of you who attended the Christmas Carol/music evening, this was organised by Lauren and which was a huge success, so much so Lauren again is already organising a similar Christmas Concert for 2018. We hope to see more residents at the next one.

Jo Wild who is our District Councillor and which puts difficulty on attendance at our council meetings with so many parishes one can only stretch oneself so far but I'm sure if you have a problem Jo is available to contact. Jason Atkin is our DCC Councillor who also has many meetings to attend. We also reap the benefits of Dominic Pathe who does many odd jobs for us and superbly well. His help saves us a lot of money. Our appreciation and thanks also goes to Philip Moseley for the huge superb impact he has made for all the ground maintenance,

also it needs to be noted that Rowsley 86 Committee has been involved with work on the recreation ground and Mike Snow from the car boot sales who have installed the matting. Many of you will have seen the vandalism in the Children's play area which has been repaired thanks to Dominic who seems to be able to turn his hand to anything.

Vandalism still takes place with the children's play area and fencing. The restoration to comply with strict inspections is money we shouldn't have to spend and if anyone observes vandalism taking place please could you inform the clerk immediately on 01629732365. We have kept our precept as low as possible for many years but if this behaviour continues we may have to increase it. We continue to give the best possible value for money, keeping costs to a minimum whilst caring for the needs of the parish. The restoration of the Village hall, although there is a committee, Vicky Friend has devoted hours and hours of her time to secure lottery funding to bring this building up to date. We are truly grateful to all those who have devoted their time and energy on the restoration of this building. A further problem we experience is that the Peak Park boundary runs through Rowsley thus we have to comply with two lots of Authority documents to oversee. We therefore deal with planning applications from these two bodies and documents also from both sources which creates a heavy workload for Councillors and the Clerk.

I am saddened that little thought is given to the residents of Rowsley concerning big events at Chatsworth, not least the RHS. The PC is lobbying to change that and has already agreed a system for better communication over Chatsworth events. This won't stop some of the issues but hopefully forewarned is forearmed. The PC has put forward some suggestions regarding the impact on events to the infrastructure of Rowsley and the impact to businesses and residents. The Parish Council would value your ideas on how things could be improved so we can lobby both Chatsworth and DCC.

- Primary School – Caroline Poole, the Headteacher, was unable to attend but is grateful for the support given regarding the use of the Village Hall.
  - Village Hall – The Hall continues to be renovated. The school can no longer afford to use the Village Hall. Initially, this was due to happen this term, however the Village Hall Committee has agreed to use the Hall for the rest of the term to reduce disruption for this academic year. The Parish Council is looking to make a donation to enable the school to continue using the Hall in a reduced format for next academic year.
  - Caudwell's Mill – Is still looking for more people to join their Committee.
  - Woodland – Cllr Kath Potter has offered 3 fields to the Woodland Trust to plant up for woodland. One has been. Last week, she discovered that on Stanton Moor that there is a rare bee living, the Bilberry Bumble Bee. This was discovered by an ecologist from the Bumble Bee Society.
3. Suggestions for next year  
Cllr Atkin was asked if he heard of anything which may be relevant. He will see. He does have funds available to support specific projects.
4. There was no Any Other Business  
Cllr Potter has found a set of bowls on the Recreation Ground. It was felt this has been left by a customer at the car boot.

#### DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 - Held at 7.30pm in the Village Hall